

Support for Working Families

2020
BUDGET
FACT
SHEET



SUPPORT FOR WORKING FAMILIES

The Budget helps working families find a path toward a better future by supporting their efforts to balance work and family responsibilities, providing more opportunities to develop their skills, and reshaping welfare programs to emphasize work for those who are able.

Supporting Working Families with Paid Family Leave and Child Care

The Budget helps families balance work and home responsibilities by providing access to paid family leave nationwide and investing in child care.

- *Providing Access to Paid Family Leave for All New Parents.* The Budget includes a proposal to provide at least six weeks of paid family leave to new mothers and fathers, including adoptive parents, so all families can afford to take time to recover from childbirth and bond with a new child.
- *Investing in Child Care.* Recognizing the importance of child care in helping families work, go to school, and enroll in training, the Budget provides a one-time, mandatory investment of \$1 billion for a competitive fund aimed at supporting underserved populations and stimulating employer investments in child care for working families. This would be accomplished by removing unnecessary regulations, such as zoning requirements, and encouraging business consortia to establish child care facilities for their employees.
- *Empowering Families to Choose the Best Education for their Children.* The Budget proposes a Federal tax credit of up to \$5 billion annually for donations to scholarship programs for families of elementary and secondary students. Families could use scholarships on a range of State-authorized educational activities such as afterschool tutoring, private school tuition or special education services.

Building a Stronger Workforce

The Budget takes steps to ensure that Americans can receive the high-quality education and training they need to obtain a job and advance in their careers.

- *Expanding Pell Grant Eligibility for Short-Term Programs.* The Budget proposes to expand Pell Grant recipients' eligibility to include high-quality short-term programs, with sufficient guardrails in place to balance students' needs with protecting taxpayers' interests.
- *Holding Institutions of Higher Education Accountable for Results.* The Budget proposes to require colleges and universities to share a portion of the financial responsibility associated with Federal student loans to encourage them to improve performance.
- *Investing in Evidence-based Models.* The Budget funds evidence-based workforce development models, maintaining support for apprenticeship and increasing funding for Reemployment Services and Eligibility Assessments, which are a proven way to get unemployment insurance beneficiaries back to work more quickly and at higher wages.
- *Providing Flexibility for State and Local Workforce Development Spending.* The Budget allows States and localities to provide training and employment services more efficiently by allowing additional flexibility in how they spend their workforce development dollars.
- *Consolidating and Reorganizing Federal Workforce Programs.* In its *Delivering Government Solutions in the 21st Century* plan, the Administration proposed Government-wide workforce development program consolidation, streamlining separate programs in order to increase efficiencies and better serve American

workers. The Budget takes steps in this direction by eliminating programs that are ineffective, unproven, or duplicative.

Making Welfare Work

The Budget proposes to break the cycle of poverty that traps millions of Americans by reforming welfare programs in ways that promote work as the best pathway out of poverty and encourages State innovation while holding States accountable for achieving results. The Budget also proposes a bold new approach to nutrition assistance.

- *Reimagining the Safety Net.* The Budget proposes a new flexibility for States by establishing Opportunity and Economic Mobility Demonstrations that streamline funding from multiple public assistance programs and tailor services to the specific needs of constituents. These projects will be rigorously evaluated to measure how well States are achieving employment and self-sufficiency outcomes.
- *Reforming Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).* The Budget proposes to strengthen TANF's focus on promoting work for the most vulnerable populations by requiring States to spend at least 30 percent of funds on education and training activities and work supports and requiring that all expenditures be targeted to families with income below 200 percent of the federal poverty line. The Budget also makes comprehensive changes to the work participation measure to strengthen State accountability and effectiveness. Finally, the Budget reduces the TANF block grant—consistent with the proposal to eliminate the Social Services Block Grant—and eliminates the poorly targeted TANF Contingency Fund.
- *Reforming the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).* The Budget proposes to strengthen work requirements to help all able-bodied adults participating in SNAP enter the job market and work toward self-sufficiency. The Budget also promotes the use of data and technology to improve program integrity and encourages State investments in evidence-based activities to help participants obtain and maintain employment. Finally, the Budget proposes to combine the traditional retail-based SNAP electronic benefit with the direct provision of nutritious and 100 percent American-grown USDA Foods to participating households. This cost-effective proposal maintains our commitment to helping needy families avoid hunger while generating substantial savings to the taxpayer and allowing innovative partnerships with the private sector.
- *Implementing Uniform Work Requirements across Welfare Programs.* The Budget improves consistency between work requirements in federally funded public assistance programs, including TANF cash assistance, SNAP, Medicaid, and rental assistance, by requiring that able-bodied, working-age individuals find employment, train for work, or do community service in order to receive welfare benefits. This would enhance service coordination, improve the financial well-being of those receiving assistance, and ensure these public assistance programs are reserved for the most vulnerable populations.