

## Year-End Budget Negotiations Talking Points<sup>1</sup> October 2015

### Background

- After averting a shutdown in October, Congress has until December 11, 2015 to finalize the budget for Fiscal Year 2016 and negotiate a deal that includes funding for early childhood education.
- Earlier this year, still operating under sequester, the House and Senate distributed sums of money to each of the appropriations subcommittees that were far less than in previous years. For example, the amount the House Labor-HHS-Education Subcommittee received was \$153.1 billion, which is \$3.7 billion less than last year's amount. As a result, the Congress is working with limited flexibility regarding funding increases for ECE programs. (For more information on how the budget and appropriations process works, click [here](#)).
- The NDD (Non-Defense Discretionary) Coalition, along with the Administration and others, is leading the effort to raise the caps on discretionary spending that are preventing additional funds from being allocated to the programs we all care about.
- If Congress and the Administration can reach an agreement to raise the caps – as they did for FY 2014 and FY 2015 – there would be more funding available for important programs such as CCDBG, Head Start, Title I, IDEA and other early learning supports.<sup>2</sup>
- This next round of negotiations is an important opportunity that we can't miss. But we have to break through the noise (related to the House speakership, the debt ceiling and the 2016 presidential campaigns), join the campaign to break the caps and showcase what additional funding could mean for our children, families and educators.

### Talking Points

- Over the coming weeks and months Congress has the important task of finalizing the budget for 2016. Important in this process is providing an opportunity to raise the budget caps for discretionary spending and increase funding for early learning programs in particular.
- We have witnessed unprecedented bipartisan support for expanding early learning opportunities for children birth through age 5, both on Capitol Hill and in our own states and communities. Chairman Cole of the House Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Subcommittee himself has indicated an interest in having additional funds to direct towards these programs.
  - o *Include examples related to early learning / state pre-K /child care in your state*

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<sup>1</sup> Developed by National Women's Law Center and First Five Years Fund; adapted by NAEYC.

<sup>2</sup> "The sequestration relief provided in the 2013 Bipartisan Budget Agreement only covered two years, 2014 and 2015, leaving sequestration's full effects in place for 2016. The non-defense cap for 2016 is only \$1.1 billion, or .2 percent, higher than the 2015 enacted level—but \$9 billion lower than the 2015 level when accounting for inflation (and still farther below when increases in costs beyond inflation for veterans' medical care are taken into account). In fact, the 2016 cap would result in spending on these non-defense programs equaling the lowest level in the last five decades, when measured relative to the size of the economy." –Center on Budget & Policy Priorities

- The evidence is clear that investing in early learning and early childhood educators helps our children, families, communities and economy. Economists, business leaders, law enforcement officials, military leaders, researchers, policymakers across the political spectrum and others agree – the costs of these programs are far outpaced by the short and long term benefits that support children’s brain development, help them get ready for success in school, and ensure their parents can be productive and contributing members of the workforce.
- If we don’t raise the caps, early childhood programs helping to achieve these benefits, which have already had to cut hours of service, serve fewer children, limit the services available, cut staff, lower compensation and make do with much less, will see even fewer resources available in their states and communities.
- If we do raise the caps in the context of a carefully crafted budget deal, we could meet this year’s funding needs and address the continuum of learning and care for the children and families who need it most. We support increases of:
  - o \$370 million for the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG),
  - o \$1.52 billion for Head Start and Early Head Start, including the Partnership Grants,
  - o \$500 million for Preschool Development Grants,
  - o \$65 million for Grants for Infants and Families (Part C of IDEA), and
  - o \$50 million for Preschool Grants (Part B, Section 619 under IDEA).
- *CCDBG*: Recent bipartisan reauthorization of the Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG) will help parents work while their children receive higher quality care that stimulates their physical, emotional and cognitive growth. The costs for states to implement the law is significant, and requires new funding. In addition, the current system has extraordinary gaps and is already serving the lowest number of children since 1997.
- *Early Head Start—Child Care Partnerships*: An increase of \$150 million for this initiative will increase quality and spur even greater collaboration between child care providers and states, local governments, and public and private entities committed to meeting both Early Head Start standards to improve child care for our youngest children and meet the needs of working families.
- *Head Start*: A total of \$9.467 billion for Head Start and Early Head Start helps to meet a critical need. The case for federal funding could not be more evident than when noting that less than half of eligible preschool-aged children are able to participate in Head Start and only five percent of eligible infants and toddlers receive Early Head Start services. These funds will also help Head Start programs expand their hours and days of the year to increase and deepen children’s participation in high-quality early learning experiences.
- *Preschool Development Grants*: Last year, 35 states applied for the Preschool Development Grant, which is a competitive grant that would help them establish or expand pre-K programs for four-year olds. 18 states won a development or expansion grant, totaling nearly \$250 million in funding for pre-K programs. *See list below of states that have Preschool Development Grants and Early Learning Challenge Grants.*
- *Include data and information regarding what additional funds would allow for in these categories, where appropriate.*

	Early Learning Challenge Grant	Applied for Preschool Development Grant	Preschool Development Grant Award
Alabama		X	\$17,500,000
Alaska			
Arizona		X	\$20,000,000
Arkansas		X	\$14,993,000
California	\$75,000,000	X	
Colorado	\$44,888,832	X	
Connecticut		X	\$12,499,000
Delaware	\$49,878,774	X	
Florida			
Georgia	\$51,739,254	X	
Hawaii		X	\$2,074,059
Idaho			
Illinois	\$52,498,043	X	\$20,000,000
Indiana			
Iowa			
Kansas			
Kentucky	\$44,347,932	X	
Louisiana		X	\$2,437,982
Maine		X	\$3,497,319
Maryland	\$49,999,143	X	\$15,000,000
Massachusetts	\$50,000,000	X	\$15,000,000
Michigan	\$51,736,815		
Minnesota	\$44,858,313	X	
Mississippi		X	
Missouri		X	
Montana		X	\$10,000,000
Nebraska			
Nevada		X	\$6,405,860
New Hampshire		X	
New Jersey	\$44,286,179	X	\$17,498,115
New Mexico	\$37,500,000	X	
New York		X	\$24,991,372
North Carolina	\$69,991,121	X	
North Dakota			
Ohio	\$69,993,362	X	
Oklahoma			
Oregon	\$30,763,353	X	

Pennsylvania	\$51,733,877	X	
Rhode Island	\$50,000,000	X	\$2,290,840
South Carolina		X	
South Dakota			
Tennessee		X	\$17,500,000
Texas		X	
Utah			
Vermont	\$36,930,618	X	\$7,231,681
Virginia		X	\$17,500,000
Washington	\$60,000,000	X	
West Virginia			
Wisconsin	\$34,052,084		
Wyoming			