

Fiscal Year 2017 Appropriations Priorities

Background

For nearly 100 years, Save the Children has invested in childhood – every day, in times of crisis and for our future. In the United States, our child experts work to ensure that our nation’s most underserved children have the best chance for success. We help children get ready to learn and succeed in school and live healthy, active lives. We ensure children are protected when crisis strikes. And we advocate to ensure children’s voices are heard and their needs addressed, securing the future we share. Last year alone, our U.S. Programs served more than 300,000 children in the United States.

Save the Children Action Network (SCAN) was created in 2014 to ensure that the issues critical to children’s lives and futures are given top priority by our elected leaders. As the political advocacy arm of Save the Children, SCAN is the voice for kids. By investing in kids and holding leaders accountable, we are helping kids from birth to age five survive and thrive.



Cruise, 5, participates in Save the Children’s literacy program in Tennessee.

Funding Levels

As Congress works on the Fiscal Year 2017 (FY 17) Labor, Health & Human Services and Education Appropriations bill, we urge you to invest in early childhood education programs and provide robust funding at the following levels:

- **Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG): \$3.4 billion**
- **Head Start and Early Head Start: \$10.1 billion**
- **Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program (MIECHV): \$1 billion**
- **Preschool Development Grants: \$350 million**
- **21st Century Community Learning Centers: \$1.3 billion**
- **Innovative Approaches to Literacy: \$27 million**

Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) FY 17 Request: \$3.4 billion

(FY 16: \$2.761b; FY 17 President’s Budget: \$2.961b)

The bipartisan reauthorization of CCDBG was a crucial moment for children and their families, which was echoed by the Administration’s proposal for a bold new investment in child care for young children in its FY 16 budget. Without significant new funding, states may be forced to make difficult decisions such as cutting the number of children receiving child care assistance or reducing payments to already low-paid child care providers.

Making matters worse, federal and state child care spending has fallen to an 11-year low and the number of children receiving assistance is at a 16-year low. Between 2006 and 2014, more than 360,000 children lost federal child care assistance. We therefore respectfully request \$3.4 billion for CCDBG to continue supporting a \$82 billion investment over 10 years to ensure that all children ages birth through three years old in families earning under 200 percent of the federal poverty level receive high-quality child care.

Head Start and Early Head Start FY 17 Request: \$10.1 billion

(FY 16: \$9.168b; FY 17 President's Budget: \$9.602b)

Head Start and Early Head Start are cornerstones in our efforts to provide comprehensive early care and education to our poorest children. With less than half of all eligible preschool-age children participating in Head Start, expanding access while simultaneously preserving program quality is paramount. Additionally, while the very early years of a child's life are critical to their development, Early Head Start serves less than 5 percent of eligible infants and toddlers. We therefore respectfully request \$10.1 billion for Head Start, which includes a \$250 million increase for Early Head Start.

Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program (MIECHV) Request: \$1 billion

(FY 16: \$400m; FY 17 President's Budget: \$400)

The MIECHV program has supported high-risk families in communities across the country through intensive home visiting services since 2010. MIECHV provides federal funds to support programs that connect families with trained professionals—often nurses, social workers or parent educators—who help parents acquire the skills they need to promote their children's development. The majority of MIECHV funds—75 percent—support evidence-based home visiting services that have been rigorously evaluated and have proven to be effective strategies. MIECHV home visiting programs are in all 50 states, Washington, D.C. and five territories. In FY 2014 alone, it served 115,500 parents and children (from birth to kindergarten entry).

Preschool Development Grants FY 17 Request: \$750 million

(FY 16: \$250m; FY 17 President's Budget: \$350m)

Funding to encourage states to establish or expand their own prekindergarten programs to serve more children and bolster the quality of these programs is critical. This program has already served over 70,000 children who otherwise would not have had access to pre-school. In the next two years, it is estimated that an additional 100,000 children will gain access to these vital programs. States' commitment to increasing access to high-quality preschool opportunities is extremely high, as is their eagerness to partner with the federal government in this endeavor. We respectfully request \$750 million for Preschool Development Grants.

21st Century Community Learning Centers Request: \$1.3 billion

(FY 16: \$1.167b; FY 17 President's Budget: \$1b)

The CCLC program also supports the creation of community learning centers that provide academic enrichment opportunities during non-school hours for children, particularly students who attend high-poverty and low-performing schools. The program helps students meet state and local student standards in core academic subjects, such as reading and math, offers students a broad array of enrichment activities that can complement their regular academic programs and offers literacy and other educational services to the families of participating children. Under the Every Student Succeeds Act, funds can also be used to fund additional time, support and enrichment activities during the school day.

Innovative Approaches to Literacy FY 17 Request: \$27 million

(FY 16: \$27m; FY 17 President's Budget: not included)

The IAL program supports high-quality programs designed to develop and improve literacy skills for children and students from birth through 12th grade in high-need schools and underserved communities. These innovative programs promote early literacy for young children, motivate older children to read and increase student achievement by using school libraries, pediatricians and national nonprofit organizations as partners to improve childhood literacy.