



Statement on the Trump Administration's FY2020 Budget

The Trump Administration released its FY2020 Budget on March 11, 2019. It includes funding for the *Ending the HIV Epidemic: A Plan for America*. This multi-year initiative will focus on accelerating progress to eliminate new HIV infections in the U.S. with the goal of reducing new infections by 75 percent within five years and by 90 percent within 10 years. The 2020 Budget provides a total of \$291 million to the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) for the initiative, including:

- \$140 million for Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to reduce new HIV infections by working closely with state and local health departments on intensive testing and referral to care.
- \$120 million for the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to deliver additional care and treatment for people living with HIV through the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program (\$70 million for Part A and B Programs) and \$50 million to supply testing, evaluation, prescription of Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP), and associated medical costs for people who are at risk for HIV infections through the health centers program.
- \$25 million for the Indian Health Service to enhance HIV testing and linkages to care.
- \$6 million to NIH's Centers for AIDS Research (CFAR) program to refine implementation strategies to assure effectiveness of prevention and treatment.

The CAEAR Coalition believes that the ambitious initiative is difficult to take seriously when it is paired with dangerous, counterproductive cuts in domestic spending for key safety net programs many people living with HIV and at risk for HIV rely upon. The Budget would also undermine U.S. leadership in critical global HIV and international humanitarian aid efforts. The FY2020 Budget includes:

- 12% cut to the overall HHS budget.
- \$63 million cut to the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) Program.
- \$250 million cut to the Global Fund, risking resurgence of disease, potentially squandering major progress that the U.S. has led in the fight against AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria.
- \$1.5 trillion cut to Medicaid over 10 years, implementing work requirements as well as eliminating the Medicaid expansion under the Affordable Care Act. The budget instead adds \$1.2 trillion for a *Market Based Health Care Grant*—a block grant to states, instead of paying by need.
- \$845 billion cut to Medicare over 10 years, about a 10 percent cut, to be achieved through targeting wasteful spending and provider payments and lowering prescription drug costs.
- \$220 billion cut to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), commonly referred to as food stamps, over 10 years, including mandatory work requirements.
- \$21 billion cut to Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, an already severely underfunded cash-assistance program for the nation's poorest.
- 9% cut to non-defense programs, which would hit Section 8 housing vouchers, public housing programs, Head Start, the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) nutrition program, and Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, among others.

The CAEAR Coalition will advocate for funding the *Ending the HIV Epidemic: A Plan for America* initiative while also seeking to raise budget caps to meet the key obligations and responsibilities of the country and to avoid the Budget's crippling cuts to medical and support service programs.

The FY2020 Budget also prioritizes the reauthorization of the Ryan White Program. The current Congress has not made the reauthorization of the program a priority, and the CAEAR Coalition is not seeking to reauthorize at this time.

CAEAR Coalition members and all Ryan White Part A affiliates are invited to join a special policy call on Wednesday, March 20, at 3 PM ET to discuss the implications of the President's FY2020 Budget. The call will also focus on the Coalition's June meeting in Washington, DC—a meeting that will include visits to members of Congress to advocate for the healthcare needs of people with HIV. For more information, e-mail info@caear.org.

CAEAR Coalition

The Communities Advocating Emergency AIDS Relief (CAEAR) Coalition is a national membership organization which advocates for federal policy, legislation, regulations, and appropriations to meet the care, treatment, support and prevention needs of people living with HIV/AIDS and the organizations that serve them, focusing on health care reform and the evolving role of the Ryan White Program. CAEAR Coalition's proactive national leadership is focused on the Ryan White Program as a central part of the nation's response to HIV/AIDS. CAEAR Coalition's members include Ryan White Program Part A, Part B, and Part C consumers, grantees, and providers as well as the Part F AIDS Education and Training Centers. Learn more about the CAEAR Coalition at www.caear.org.