



## FY 2017 & 2018 Federal Budget and Appropriations



### The Federal Budget and Appropriations Process

The federal budget represents an outline of the President's request and, when passed, Congress' spending priorities. Traditionally, after the budget request is submitted by the President in February of each year, Congress considers and passes its own budget resolution in April, which includes top line numbers for funding various discretionary programs including defense, health care, and education. The actual allocation of funds to those programs is passed later in the year as part of the annual appropriations process, where Congress passes 12 separate bills, including one funding the Departments of Health, Human Services, Education, and related agencies. Child care, early learning, Head Start, and other Child Care Aware® of America (CCAoA) properties are generally included in this bill.

### Fiscal Year 2017

The government is currently being funded by a continuing resolution (CR), which expires April 28, 2017. The current CR slightly lowered funding for discretionary programs like Head Start and CCDBG over FY 2016. When the current CR expires, Congress will either pass another CR (intended to be a stopgap funding measure) or a regular appropriations bill to fund the government through the remainder of fiscal year (FY) 2017, ending on September 30, 2017. A CR usually includes level funding for programs over the previous year. The House and Senate Appropriations subcommittees are said to be in the process of drafting legislation as part of the regular appropriations process to set spending for the remainder of FY 2017 (May-September). Concurrently, Congress will need to address FY 2018 appropriations to fund the government beginning October 1, 2017.

### Fiscal Year 2018

In March, the Trump Administration submitted its budget request to Congress proposing funding levels for FY 2018. If Congress passes another CR to close out FY 2017, the funding will likely be equal to current spending levels. Therefore, in the absence of a regular appropriations process for FY 2017, CCAoA is requesting appropriations for Fiscal Year 2018.

### Child Care Aware® of America®'s Appropriations Request: FY 2018

Child Care Aware® of America advocates helping families gain access to high-quality child care and early education. With regards to child care, CCAoA recommends:

- \$1.4 billion increase in Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG)

discretionary funding over FY 2016 funding levels (\$2.8 billion), to prevent nearly 217,000 children from losing access to care. At a minimum, states will need \$700 million to meet the implementation requirements in the 2014 law.

- \$9.6 billion for Head Start. This would include a set-aside of \$645 million to expand Early Head Start and the Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships, and \$292 million to increase the number of children attending Head Start in a full school-day and -year program.
- \$1.167 billion for 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC), which is a slight increase over FY 2016. This program supports afterschool programs in every state, including child care. Over 1.5 million low-income children and families benefit from this program annually, and President Trump proposed to eliminate the program's federal funding in FY 2018.