



FACT SHEET

# How Trump's FY 2019 Budget Hurts Women

By Shilpa Phadke, Jamila Taylor, and Anusha Ravi February 16, 2018

The Trump administration's fiscal year 2019 budget<sup>1</sup> builds upon the draconian cuts and changes proposed within its fiscal year 2018 budget—what was referred to as “the worst budget for women and women's health in a generation.”<sup>2</sup> In addition to hundreds of billions of cuts to essential programs for women and their families, such as Medicaid, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and job training programs, this budget is symbolic of the anti-women, anti-choice, anti-equality direction Trump is pushing the country toward. Here are just a few ways of how Trump's latest budget is an attack on women.

- **Threatens women's access to health care:** The budget proposes repealing the Affordable Care Act (ACA) as well as deep cuts to Medicaid; together, these changes would reduce federal spending on health care by \$675 billion over 10 years.<sup>3</sup> Medicaid is a critical source of health care—reproductive and otherwise—for millions of women, who comprise two-thirds of adults on Medicaid,<sup>4</sup> including 31 percent of African American women and 27 percent of Hispanic women.<sup>5</sup> Women rely on Medicaid for a range of services including family planning and pregnancy-related care, Pap smears, sexually transmitted infection (STI) testing, and counseling.<sup>6</sup> The budget also doubles down on Trump's new policy creating harsh time limits on Medicaid coverage for individuals unable to meet stringent work requirements—a cruel policy that will disproportionately hurt women.

President Donald Trump also slashes the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) funding by \$17.9 billion dollars, including a \$129 million reduction to maternal and child health programs and a \$26 million cut from primary health care programs, such as health centers and free clinics.<sup>7</sup> In addition, the budget cuts funding to the National Institutes of Health by almost \$10 billion—including an \$86 million cut to the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities, which conducts critical research on the role of racial disparities on maternal and infant mortality.<sup>8</sup>

Additionally, the budget explicitly prohibits “certain abortion providers” from receiving federal funds from HHS for family planning services—specifically targeting front-line health care provider Planned Parenthood. While the budget keeps the fiscal year 2018

levels of funding for the Title X family planning program, it fails to adequately support the 2.5 million uninsured low-income women who rely on these providers for reproductive health care.<sup>9</sup> Additionally, the Trump administration has been stalling the application process for Title X grants for more than four months, leaving clinics in fear of their funding running out.<sup>10</sup> Title X clinics provide contraception and well-woman care for populations that tend to lack access to comprehensive health care, including young women, low-income women, immigrant women, and women of color.

- **Undermines sex education:** The budget also eliminates funding for sexuality education through the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program<sup>11</sup> while shifting funding towards abstinence-only education.<sup>12</sup> Comprehensive, evidence-based sexuality education has been proven far more effective than abstinence-only education in reducing teen pregnancy rates—yet the Trump administration is denying successful programs funding while prioritizing regressive values through abstinence-only education.
- **Jeopardizes women’s economic security:** The draconian cuts to programs that help working families—such as nutrition assistance, Medicaid, and job training, will deeply harm women’s economic security. And fake promises such as the one the Trump budget proposes on parental leave is inadequate to meet the needs of working families. The so-called paid leave program would leave out millions of workers and undermines the unemployment insurance (UI) system. The proposal purports to provide six paid weeks of leave for new mothers, fathers, and adoptive parents, but it excludes the nearly 75 percent of workers who use family and medical leave each year to address their own illness or to care for a loved one.<sup>13</sup> It provides virtually no new investments—but rather would be financed through state UI programs, which will further strain state resources and risk reducing either the benefits to the proposal or the states’ UI program. In addition, the overall Department of Labor (DOL) cut of 21 percent could impair robust enforcement of labor and work-family protections in the Family and Medical Leave Act.<sup>14</sup>
- **Cuts funds to coordinate women’s offices:** The administration should embrace efforts to marshal government resources to address the challenges facing women and girls. Yet, the Trump budget cuts funding from various women’s offices throughout government, such as the DOL Women’s Bureau and the Office of Women’s Health at HHS.

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## Endnotes

- 1 The White House, "An American Budget" (2018), available at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/msar-fy2019.pdf>.
- 2 Planned Parenthood, "Trump Budget Singles Out Planned Parenthood for First Time in History," May 23, 2017, available at <https://www.plannedparenthood.org/about-us/newsroom/press-releases/trump-budget-singles-out-planned-parenthood-for-first-time-in-history>.
- 3 Seth Hanlon and others, "Trump's Budget Reveals that He Wants Everyday Americans to Pay for His Tax Cuts for the Wealthy" (Washington: Center for American Progress, 2018), available at <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/economy/news/2018/02/12/446453/trumps-budget-reveals-wants-everyday-americans-pay-tax-cuts-wealthy/>.
- 4 Annalisa Merelli, "Women will pay the steepest price for Trump's Medicaid cuts," Quartz, May 23, 2017, available at <https://qz.com/989026/women-will-pay-the-steepest-price-for-trumps-medicaid-cuts/>.
- 5 Hannah Katch, Jessica Schubel, and Matt Broaddus, "Medicaid Works for Women – But Proposed Cuts Would Have Harsh, Disproportionate Impact" (Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, 2017), available at <https://www.cbpp.org/research/health/medicaid-works-for-women-but-proposed-cuts-would-have-harsh-disproportionate-impact>.
- 6 Ibid.
- 7 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, *Department of Health and Human Services: The Budget for Fiscal Year 2019* (2019), available at <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/BUDGET-2019-APP/pdf/BUDGET-2019-APP-1-11.pdf>.
- 8 Ibid.
- 9 Thomas Hueskoetter and others, "8 Ways the Trump Budget Threatens the Health and Safety of American Families" (Washington: Center for American Progress, 2018), available at <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/economy/news/2017/05/23/432845/8-ways-trump-budget-threatens-health-safety-american-families/>.
- 10 Amanda Michelle Gomez, "The Trump Administration is 4 Months Behind on providing critical family planning grants," *ThinkProgress*, February 7, 2018, available at <https://thinkprogress.org/as-family-planning-providers-wait-on-funding-many-worry-about-the-programs-future-ffc0e37a50ae/>.
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- 12 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, *Putting America's Health First: FY 2019 President's Budget for HHS* (2019), available at <https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/fy-2019-budget-in-brief.pdf>.
- 13 Sunny Frothingham and Rachel West, "Trump's Paid Parental Leave Plan Won't Work for Women and Families" (Center for American Progress, 2017), available at <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/women/reports/2017/06/08/433895/trumps-paid-parental-leave-plan-wont-work-women-families/>.
- 14 U.S. Department of Labor, *FY 2019: Budget in Brief* (2019), available at <https://www.dol.gov/sites/default/files/budget/2019/FY2019BIB.pdf>.