



Idaho Asset  
Building Network



**IDAHO**  
Center for  
Fiscal Policy

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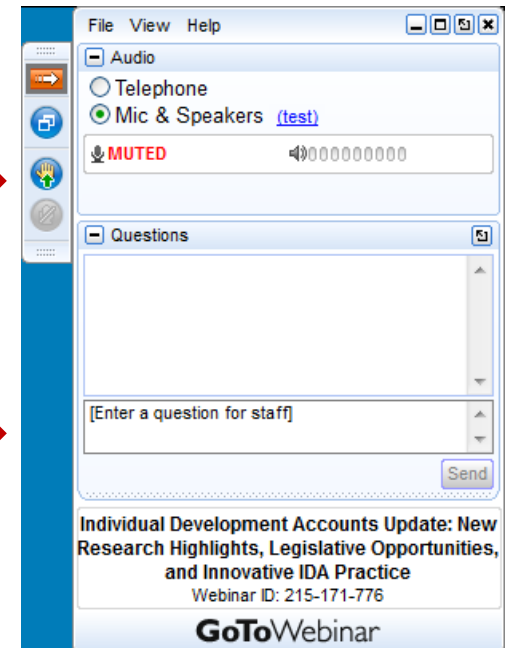
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# UNDERSTANDING CUTS TO SAFETY NET PROGRAMS AND HOW YOU CAN TAKE ACTION

August 29, 2017

# Webinar Logistics

- All webinar attendees are muted to ensure sound quality
- Ask a question at any time by typing in the text box of the GOTOWEBINAR control panel
- Handouts will be visible on your control panel
- The “raise your hand” feature can also be used



*Please submit questions throughout the webinar using the “questions” box*

# Introductions

## Idaho Center for Fiscal Policy

We are dedicated to providing our state's citizens and elected officials with fact-based information and analysis to help make informed policy decisions that will shape Idaho's future for generations to come



Alejandra Cerna Rios, ICFP Policy Analyst

## Idaho Asset Building Network

Our mission is to connect leaders, service providers, businesses and consumers statewide to advance policies that support all Idahoans in achieving long-term financial security



Christine Tiddens, IABN Policy Director

# Webinar Agenda

1. Understanding the Budget Process
2. What is in the 2018 Budget
3. Potential Impacts on Idaho
4. Guiding Budget Principles
5. Now is the Time for Action!



# UNDERSTANDING THE BUDGET PROCESS

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# Federal Budget 101

- The federal budget is a blueprint for our nation's values
- It directs federal resources to communities and has sweeping implications for our states, communities, and families
- This year's budget proposals include:
  - Large tax cuts for the wealthy
  - Massive cuts to public investments and services that support children, people with disabilities, seniors, and everyday working families
  - A fast-tracking tool that would make the budget process partisan and less transparent

# Federal Budget Process Steps



1. The President submits a **budget request** to Congress.
2. House and Senate budget committees set overall spending levels with a **budget resolution**.\*
3. The budget committees resolve differences in their **budget resolutions**.
4. House and Senate subcommittees set program funding through **appropriation bills**\*
5. House and Senate members come together to **resolve differences** in their appropriation bills.
6. **Final vote**.\*
7. Budget goes to the President for signature and **becomes law**.

# Federal Budget Categories

## Mandatory (Safety Net)

- Funding is ongoing and eligibility and benefits set by federal law.
- Funding does not need to be renewed every year.
- Includes SNAP, Medicaid and Medicare, income security, Pell grants and other safety net programs
- Not subject to typical appropriations process
- Sometimes called entitlements.

## Discretionary (Public Investments)

- Funding must be renewed each year.
- Funding must be renewed every year.
- Includes public investments like school funding, job training, some low-income assistance, and economic development
- Subject to typical appropriations process
- Has been subject to caps under sequestration



# What is Resolution & Reconciliation?

## Budget Resolution

- **A plan reflecting a broad fiscal vision for the next decade**
- Sets the “rules of the road” for budget by providing topline spending for appropriations.
- Ability to authorize the reconciliation process.

## Budget Reconciliation

- **Fast-track legislative process for spending and tax changes**
- Passes with a simple majority in Senate and can't be filibustered
- Can change mandatory spending
- Congress is supposed to pass a reconciliation by April 15. The hard deadline is Oct. 1

# 2018 BUDGET IMPACT

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# \$206 Billion Cut in First Round

## Mandatory (Safety Net)

- **Food assistance** under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (food stamps or SNAP), would see cuts of at least \$10 billion.
- **Income support for working families** such as social security income (SSI), the child tax credit, and other financial stability programs would see cuts of at least \$52 billion.
- **Medicaid and Medicare**, including children's services, would see cuts of at least \$20 billion.
- **Student loan and grant programs** that make college more affordable for low-income families would see cuts of at least \$20 billion.

## Discretionary (Public Investments)

- **Support for public schools:** Elimination or reduction of grants for recruiting and training high-quality teachers, improving literacy, and after-school programs would total \$2.3 billion in cuts.
- **Job training and services:** Grants that help workers find jobs would be reduced or eliminated, bringing funding 23% below 2010 levels.
- **Mental health services:** The Community Mental Health Services block grant, important to people without health insurance, would be cut by 25%.
- **Child care:** Funding would not keep pace with rising costs or cover costs of strengthened health, safety, and quality standards.

# House and Trump Budget Proposals

Deep cuts &  
structural  
changes to  
SNAP

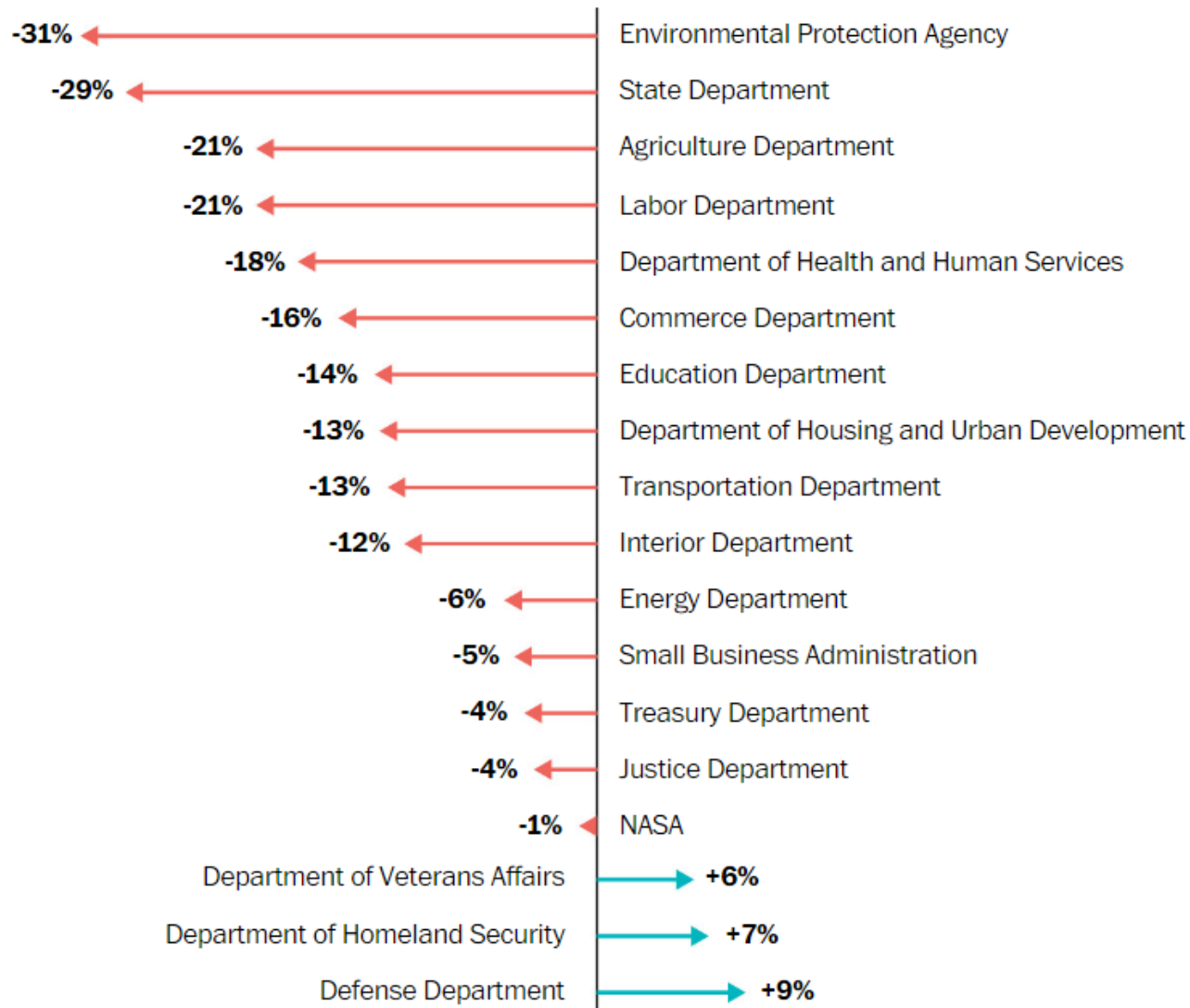
Reductions  
to Medicaid

Cuts to education,  
income stability,  
public health,  
housing assistance,  
& basic government  
operations

Cuts to job  
training  
grants

Massive tax  
giveaways  
to the wealth  
and  
corporations

# Trump's 2018 Proposed Budget



# Attempts to Block Grant Public Benefits

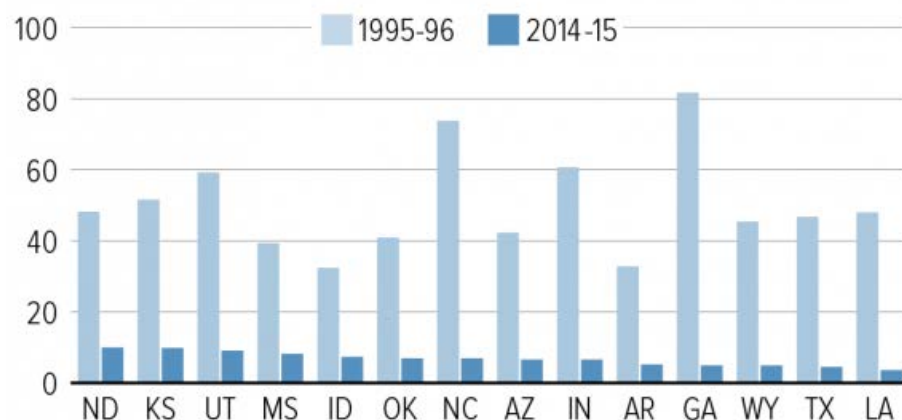
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Medicaid



- Lessons from TANF:

## TANF Serves Hardly Any Poor Families in Some States

In 14 states in 2014-15, TANF provided cash assistance to ten or fewer of every 100 poor families with children



TANF = Temporary Assistance for Needy Families

Note: Poor families with children received benefits under Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) in 1995-96, before TANF replaced AFDC under the 1996 welfare law.

Source: CBPP analysis of poverty data from the Current Population Survey and TANF caseload data from Department of Health and Human Services and (since September 2006) caseload data collected by CBPP from state agencies.

# POTENTIAL IMPACTS ON IDAHO

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# Mandatory

- **Food assistance.** SNAP reaches 185,000 Idaho residents (11 percent of the population). Three-quarters are in families with children and one quarter are in families with members who are elderly or have disabilities. More than 58 percent are in working families. Total Idaho SNAP spending of \$255 million goes directly to grocers.
- **Healthcare.** Medicaid serves 217,00 children and 71,000 adults - primarily those with disabilities and elderly people.
- **Income Support.** About 31,000 low-income Idahoans who are aged, blind, or disabled receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI) for basic needs like food and shelter.



# Discretionary

- **Housing.** Of 6,700 Idaho households that use federal housing vouchers, at least 400 would lose funding.
- **Mental Health Services.** An annual \$2.4 million grant (Community Mental Health Services Block Grant) is used to provide mental health services to children and adults who do not have insurance or who aren't covered for mental health services.

# 2018 Budgeting Timeline

August  
Recess

- Members of Congress will be home all month

September

- House members vote on their budget
- Senators craft their budget plan

October

- Negotiations on a budget deal

# GUIDING BUDGET PRINCIPLES

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# Goals

# Our Positions on the 2018 Budget

## Top Tier Priority

Oppose cuts in key assistance – Medicaid, SNAP, SSI, and TANF

## Second Tier Priorities

Oppose non-discretionary program cuts – education, job training, economic development, and research

Oppose tax cuts that will lose revenue and benefit only the wealthy

NOW IS THE TIME FOR  
ACTION!

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# Time is Running Out

- Congress is downplaying importance of budget process to avoid public input
- Important decisions impacting millions of Americans are being made right now
- Time is running out and members of Congress are receiving very little input



# Where Lawmakers Stand

"Mandatory programs remain on autopilot and continue to grow, dwarfing all other government programs in terms of spending. That is why I will continue to advocate for "going big" with a package of spending cuts paired with tax and entitlement reform, as it is the only way we will truly put our country back on solid fiscal footing." – Cong. Mike Simpson, May 23, 2017

"I am aware that portions of the president's budget call for dramatic cuts to programs affecting Idahoans and its communities," Crapo said, pledging to work with colleagues "to strike a fair balance between funding necessary programs and the need to reduce ongoing deficit spending." – Sen. Mike Crapo, May 24, 2017



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# Action Suggestions

- Earned media
  - Submit opinion editorials and letters to the editor all summer
  - We need submissions from each region of the state
- Schedule August Recess Meetings with Congressmen
  - Schedule in-person meetings at local offices and invite Congressmen to do site visits
  - Simpson (target), Crapo and Risch (secondary)
  - **We will be happy to produce talking points and handouts for your visits**
- Emails & Phone Calls
  - Start pushing regular action alerts out to your networks

# Tweet!

@CongMikeSimpson House budget would make it harder for Idahoans to get by – don't stand for it #idleg #idpol

@MikeCrapo House budget would make it harder for Idahoans to get by – don't stand for it #idleg #idpol

**HOUSE GOP BUDGET CUTS  
PROGRAMS AIDING LOW- AND  
MODERATE-INCOME PEOPLE  
BY \$2.9 TRILLION OVER  
DECADE.**

CENTER ON BUDGET AND POLICY PRIORITIES | CBPP.ORG

# IABN Action Tool!

[IdahoAssetNetwork.org/TakeAction/](https://IdahoAssetNetwork.org/TakeAction/)

**TAKE  
ACTION!**

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