



Idaho Asset  
Building Network

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**HOUSE BUDGET STRIPS WORK SUPPORTS, INVESTMENTS IN CHILDREN**  
*Idaho policy experts alarmed by the potential for great harm to Idaho families*

[Boise] – The House Republicans’ new budget proposal, passed yesterday by the House Budget Committee, would make it harder for thousands of Idaho families to build financial stability and climb the economic ladder. The plan, which largely echoes that of President Trump’s proposal released in May, includes severe cuts to vital assistance programs, including job training, education, health care, food assistance and economic development in Idaho communities.

The budget would fall hardest on Idahoans struggling in today’s economy, with cuts to programs that prevent financial ruin and help families get back on their feet after a job loss or unexpected financial crisis. States, local governments and nonprofits will not be able to fill the gap left by these deep cuts, and many services would be cut or eliminated. The proposed budget simultaneously opens the door to substantial tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans and profitable corporations.

“Many of the cuts in the House budget proposal would harm Idaho’s most poor and vulnerable populations, including children, seniors and Idahoans with disabilities, and they threaten the financial stability of hardworking Idaho families struggling to pay the bills. For example, child care assistance makes it possible for thousands of Idahoans to work, and budget cuts would result in fewer families receiving this critical assistance,” said Christine Tiddens, policy director of the Idaho Asset Building Network. The average cost of child care in Idaho exceeds tuition at the state’s public universities.

The budget includes cuts to Medicaid that go beyond the Senate health reform bill as well as cuts to Medicare. Idaho Medicaid provides care to about 290,000 Idahoans, largely lower income children and children with disabilities. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) would also face cuts. In Idaho 76,000 households, half of which contain children, supplement their grocery budgets with SNAP.

“Idaho will get less money to do less for our most vulnerable populations: seniors, children, and people with disabilities. Idahoans who rely on these critical programs will not only suffer the loss of long-term supports through home- and community-based services, but will find themselves in a position of not having nearly enough food to get through the month,” said Christine Pisani, executive director of the Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities. “Cuts of this scale will undermine the last 30 years of efforts to support people with disabilities living at home rather than institutions and rightfully have their place as citizens in our society.”

“Over time, Congress has sought to improve nutrition and income supporting programs to make them more effective, efficient, and targeted to those who truly need assistance. Both parties have supported them, recognizing that upholding basic living standards for all Americans is sound public policy,” said Darcy James, Chair of the Idaho Interfaith Roundtable Against Hunger. “Religious institutions and charities do not have the capacity to replace these programs.”

“Idahoans value investments in our children and our schools that ensure the success of the next generation. Idahoans deserve a responsible federal budget that mirrors these values,” said Lauren Necochea, director of Idaho Voices for Children. Necochea continued, “Many of the cuts are pennywise and a pound foolish. We face greater costs as a society down the road when families lose the supports that enable them to work and children don’t get the strong start they need in life.”

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The Idaho Asset Building Network works to implement strategies and advocates for policies that help people build financial stability and move up the economic ladder. Learn more: [Idahoassetnetwork.org](http://Idahoassetnetwork.org)