

## DOMESTIC HUMAN NEEDS TALKING POINTS

**Key Talking Points:** The federal budget is a moral document. It should foster hope, opportunity, and a place at the table for all, especially those experiencing hardship and oppression

We urge Congress to:

1. **Support a bipartisan budget agreement that has balanced and responsible sequester relief.** Address sequestration in a balanced way to ensure that programs that are critical to the stability of vulnerable communities do not suffer funding cuts but receive the investments needed to succeed.
2. **Oppose any budget that includes fast track procedures that would cut low-income entitlement programs,** including Medicaid, SNAP (food stamps), and refundable tax credits.
3. **Commit to opposing cuts to low-income programs,** particularly low-income housing assistance, nutrition assistance, job training, etc.

### Key Facts:

- In 2015, 43.1 million Americans were living in poverty, 20% of which were children; 42.2 million were at risk of hunger<sup>1</sup>. Our shared understanding as children of God is that everyone deserves to be able to put food on the table, to get the medical help they need, and live in a way that preserves their dignity.
- In 2015, SNAP alone brought 4.7 million people out of poverty<sup>2</sup>. Medicaid provides health coverage for nearly one in five Americans, mostly children, seniors, people with disabilities, and low-income families.<sup>3</sup>
- According to the Coalition on Human Needs, nearly one third of domestic human needs programs have been cut by 25% or more since 2010.<sup>4</sup>

### President Trump's Proposed Budget:

- **Eliminates Housing Choice Vouchers for more than 250,000 low-income households.** This program mainly helps extremely low-income seniors, people with disabilities, and working families with kids, and these cuts would increase homelessness and exacerbate hardship for some of America's most vulnerable populations.
- **Eliminates LIHEAP.** Its budget is less than \$4 billion, but it provides crucial energy assistance 6.7 million for low-income households every year. All would lose benefits if LIHEAP were eliminated. Rural households would lose an average of \$500 in annual assistance towards heating their homes in winter and cooling them in the summer. Urban households would lose an average of \$450 in annual assistance. Eliminating LIHEAP would cause 200,000 to fall into poverty and 50,000 people would fall into deep poverty.

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.feedingamerica.org/hunger-in-america/impact-of-hunger/hunger-and-poverty/>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.cbpp.org/blog/safety-net-programs-lift-millions-from-poverty-new-census-data-show>

<sup>3</sup> <http://kff.org/medicaid/issue-brief/10-things-to-know-about-medicaid-setting-the-facts-straight/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.chn.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/final-fy18-budget-letter-national-6-2-17.pdf>

- **Ends the federal financing structure of SNAP (formerly food stamps),** requiring states to contribute a quarter of the funding. This would put an additional budgetary strain of \$116 billion onto state budgets over ten years. States could add many more restrictions that would prevent struggling individuals from accessing SNAP. In 2016, 21.7 million households received SNAP benefits to help them put food on the table and feed their families. The Trump budget would cut more than a third of them (over 8 million households) from the program.

**The House Budget Resolution:**

- Cuts non-defense spending by \$1.3 trillion over the next decade, while boosting the Pentagon budget by nearly a trillion dollars over the next decade. By 2027, annually appropriated non-defense spending would be 44 percent below 2010 levels, adjusted for inflation.
- Includes fast-track procedures to cut low-income entitlements, such as SNAP (food stamps) and Medicaid by \$200 billion.