

Babies and the Budget:

ZERO TO THREE's analysis of President Biden's budget

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ZERO TO THREE
Early connections last a lifetime

President Biden's proposed budget for fiscal year 2022 (FY22) makes significant strides for babies and their families. It incorporates the President's American Jobs Plan and American Families Plan as well as program-level funding. The \$6 trillion investment in our country's infrastructure would offer substantial support for our nation's babies and toddlers by strengthening the fabric that supports their healthy development both now and in the future. The budget proposes to increase the quality and availability of child care, expand access to paid family and medical leave, and promote families' economic security.

ZERO TO THREE analyzed the President's budget from the standpoint of policies that will build a strong future for babies and toddlers, identifying those policies that support Good Health, Strong Families, and Positive Early Learning Experiences.

The President's budget proposes investments in:

Good Health

Medicaid: \$571 billion in proposed mandatory spending for Medicaid, including eliminating funding caps for Puerto Rico and the Territories. The budget includes proposals to make it easier for eligible people to get and stay covered and reduces deductibles for marketplace plans under the Affordable Care Act.

Maternal Mortality: Over \$220 million to reduce maternal mortality and morbidity – an increase of \$81 million from FY21.

Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health: \$8 million for Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health (IECMH) grants to support the continuation of current grants and award a new cohort of two grants to increase access to a range of evidence-based and culturally appropriate IECMH services – continued flat funding from FY21.

National Child Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN): \$82 million aimed at improving behavior health services and interventions for children exposed to traumatic events – an increase of \$10 million from FY21.

Maternal Mental Health Hotline: \$4 million for the 24/7 Maternal Mental Health Hotline – an increase of \$1 million from FY21 to continue and increase support for the hotline.

Early Childhood Support in Pediatric Offices: \$10 million in new funding for Early Childhood Development Expert Grants to help cities place early childhood development experts in primary care practices with a high percentage of patients with Medicaid and CHIP.

Screening and Treatment for Maternal Depression: \$10 million to support expanding services to an addition seven states – an increase of \$5 million from FY21.

Community Mental Health Services Block Grant: \$1.6 billion to support adults and children's mental health needs – an increase of \$825 million from FY21.

Maternal and Child Health Block Grant: \$823 million to promote and improve the health and well-being of mothers, children, and their families – \$110 million above the FY21 enacted level.

Community Health Centers: \$5.6 billion to continue providing culturally competent care, help patients overcome geographic barriers, and reach the most vulnerable populations – a \$95 million reduction in funding from FY21 due to the mandatory sequester.

Strong Families

Paid Family and Medical Leave: \$225 billion over 10 years in new funding to establish a new paid family and medical leave program.

Child Tax Credit: \$104.2 billion in new funding to extend the Child Tax Credit benefits in the American Rescue Plan through 2025 and make the fundability aspect of the benefit permanent. This includes refundability and higher payment level for young children.

Home Visiting: \$377 million for the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) program – a \$23 million reduction from its statutory level of \$400 million due to the mandatory sequester.

Child Welfare:

- \$906 million for Child Welfare and Child Abuse Prevention programs – an increase of \$188 million from FY21.
- \$100 million in new competitive grants for states and localities to advance reforms that would reduce the overrepresentation of children and families of color in the child welfare system.

Infant-Toddler Court Teams: \$10 million for Infant-Toddler Court Teams to change child welfare practices to improve well-being for infants, toddlers, and families – continued flat funding from FY21.

Child Nutrition Programs: \$26.9 billion for Child Nutrition Programs (including funding for the Child and Adult Care Food Program).

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP): \$105.8 billion for SNAP – a decrease of \$8.2 billion from FY21 largely due to the effect of the expiration of emergency authorization payments provided through the Families First Coronavirus Response Act and the expiration of the 15 percent benefit increase provided by the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021.

Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC): \$6 billion – flat funding from FY21.

- Building on increases provided by the American Rescue Plan Act, the FY22 Budget proposes to continue the provision of enhanced Cash Value Benefits to provide more fruits and vegetables to WIC participants.

- The Budget includes \$200 million in contingency funding in case participation or costs exceed the budget estimate.

TANF: \$16.7 billion to provide states, territories, and eligible tribes the opportunity to design programs funding a wide range of services that support children and families – an increase of \$600 million from FY21.

LIHEAP: \$3.85 billion to provide heating and cooling assistance to households with low income through formula grants to states, tribes, and territories – an increase of \$100 million from FY21.

Positive Early Learning Experiences

Child Care:

- \$7.4 billion for the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) – an increase of \$1.5 billion from FY21.
- \$3.55 billion for the Child Care Entitlement to the States – equal to the mandatory and supplemental funding enacted in FY21.
- \$25 billion over 10 years for a new Child Care Growth and Innovation Fund to build supply and modernize the nation's child care.
- \$225 billion over 10 years to establish a new child care program that would ensure all families with children under 5 with low and moderate income have access to child care capped at 7 percent of family income, and to ensure that providers make a minimum of \$15/hour, and that staff with similar credentials and experience to kindergarten teachers are compensated comparably.

Head Start and Early Head Start:

- \$11.9 billion for Head Start which includes a doubling for Early Head Start – Child Care Partnerships (EHS-CCP) and a \$234 million cost of living adjustment – an increase of \$1.2 billion from FY21.
- \$27.5 billion over 10 years for a Head Start Educator Fund, to ensure all Head Start workers are paid at least a living wage, with Head Start teachers with comparable qualifications to kindergarten teachers receiving comparable salaries.

Pre-Kindergarten: \$172 billion over 10 years to provide universal, high-quality preschool to all 3- and 4-year-old children in mixed delivery settings.

Early Intervention for Infants and Toddlers: \$732 million for early intervention services for infants and toddlers with disabilities or delays – an increase of \$250 million from FY21 to be paired with reforms to expand access to services for underserved children, including children of color and children from families with low income.