

TRUMP'S PROPOSED BUDGET

Cuts Funding for Critical Programs that Help Vietnamese Americans

The Trump administration released a preliminary 2018 budget proposal, which describes many of the changes the president wants to make to the federal government's spending. Here are some highlights of the cuts and its potential impacts on Vietnamese Americans.

HEALTH

18 percent budget cut for the Department of Health and Human Services. This would mean significant reductions in health research funding. It is unknown whether this could also affect cash assistance programs (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) and Head Start, which many Vietnamese immigrants benefit from.

EDUCATION

14 percent budget cut for the Department of Education. This could mean less money for aid programs to low-income & minority students. Two-thirds of students pay for college with the help of financial aid. It also means shifting funding away from public schools, which would affect Vietnamese Americans, who already have a lower percentage of those who finished high school (70%) compared to the US average of 86%.

HOUSING

13 percent budget cut for the Housing & Urban Development (HUD), putting tremendous strain on housing authorities. This will result in less low-income housing, which many Vietnamese Americans reside in. It will eliminate the \$3 billion Community Development Block Grant program, which funds many Vietnamese community centers as well as Meals on Wheels.

LABOR

21 percent budget cut for the Labor Department would reduce funding for job training programs benefitting seniors and disadvantaged youth. For example, it can eliminate the Senior Community Service Employment Program, which helps many Vietnamese seniors gain work. It would mean funding cuts for health and safety trainings that benefit the nail salon workforce, where Vietnamese Americans comprise nearly 40% nationwide.

ENVIRONMENT

31 percent budget cut for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and eliminating a fifth of its workforce. Many of the programs to be cut affect specific geographic areas, including the Great Lakes, Chesapeake Bay, San Francisco Bay Delta, and Puget Sounds in Washington State, where there are large Vietnamese American communities.

FOOD ASSISTANCE

21 percent budget cut to the Agriculture Department's discretionary spending budget means cuts to Women, Infants and Children (WIC) nutrition assistance. Approximately 10% of Vietnamese Americans receive public assistance, such as WIC, especially among new immigrants.

PIVOT

The mission of PIVOT is to engage and empower Vietnamese Americans through leadership development, civic engagement, as well as evaluation and advocacy of progressive policies and candidates. We **oppose** the proposed budget by the Trump Administration because it would cause great harm to our Vietnamese American population and to Americans at large.