



FY 11 Federal Budget Proposal
The Administration's Request to Congress
February 1, 2010

On February 1, the Administration released the Budget Proposal for Fiscal Year 2011, which begins October 1, 2010. This is the first step in the annual funding process for all federal programs, and this year it includes big gains for early childhood programs, investments in the broader education landscape, and a focus on job creation and supports for working families.

Federal Budget Proposal Highlights:

- **Child Care and Development Block Grant:** Funding increased by \$1.6 billion
- **Head Start/Early Head Start:** Funding increased by \$989 million
- **Early Learning Challenge Fund:** The budget proposal includes about \$9 billion over 10 years. The Challenge Fund is included in higher education loan reform legislation, which passed the House and is awaiting Senate action.
- **Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA):** Funding increased by \$3 billion for K-12 education programs, with up to an additional \$1 billion available if Congress completes the reauthorization of ESEA
- **Individuals with Disabilities Education Act:** \$250 million increase overall; the initiatives for infants and for preschoolers are flat-funded
- **Child Nutrition Act Programs (which includes the Child and Adult Care Food Program):** \$10 billion over 10 years (Note: This is more like a continuation of the FY10 Budget Proposal; Congress has yet to complete the reauthorization of the Child Nutrition Act.)
- **Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit:** Expanded to reach families at higher income levels and to increase the amount of expenses that parents can include, although without making the credit refundable.

This is just the beginning!

It is great news that these investments are included in the Administration's Budget Proposal. But the Budget Proposal is really a non-binding *request* to Congress which highlights the priorities of the Administration. Now it's up to Members of Congress to make the funding and legislative decisions to make these proposals a reality for children, families and early childhood program providers.

Every one of us working in the child care community will need to work together to make sure Members of Congress know the value of child care and early learning and the needs of families in this economy.

More Resources from ECEC

For more information about how the annual federal funding process works, please see:
http://www.ececonsortium.org/Federal_Budget_Basics.pdf