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## ***President Submits FY 2005 Budget Request: CAPTA, Promoting Safe & Stable Families Increases Proposed***

Though the President’s FY 2005 budget request -- submitted to Congress February 2<sup>nd</sup> -- clamps down on domestic discretionary spending for most programs serving children and families, increases are proposed for two important sources of federal funding for child maltreatment prevention services: state and community-based Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) grants and the Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF) program.

In total the budget encompasses nearly \$2.4 trillion in spending for FY 2005, much of which is obligated towards mandatory programs. In order to halve the deficit – estimated at more than \$520 billion for the current fiscal year -- the Administration proposes to dramatically reign in discretionary spending over the next few years. On the table this year is the Administration’s intent to make permanent the tax cuts implemented in 2001 and 2003. In addition, since future expenses for military actions in Iraq and Afghanistan were conspicuously missing from the budget request, a separate, supplemental appropriation to pay for the war is expected some time after the November election.

It is important to keep in mind when reading this article that the budget request is just that – a *request* that Congress adopt the Administration’s policy intentions. The proposal is by no means the final word on discretionary spending; in fact, this is just the beginning of the budget process (see January edition of *Prevention Advocate* for more information on the federal budget process). Congress is now charged with adopting a budget resolution, after which House and Senate committees will begin work on appropriations bills. It is the appropriations subcommittees that have the ultimate say over funding amounts for domestic discretionary programs such as CAPTA and Promoting Safe and Stable Families.

Below are highlights from the Administration’s budget proposal of particular interest to prevention advocates:

**CAPTA:** In an unprecedented move, the Administration has proposed a \$52 million, or 58%, increase in CAPTA funds over last year’s levels. The budget requests that CAPTA state grants for child protective services be increased from \$22 million in FY 2004 to \$42 million in FY 2005. The Title II program, for community-based child abuse prevention grants, would grow from \$33 million in FY 2004 to \$65 million in 2005. No increases are proposed for CAPTA discretionary grants – funded at \$35 million for the current year -- which are distributed through competitive



grants to research and demonstration programs. Eight million dollars directed toward Congressional earmarks in FY 2004 would be eliminated under the President's request.

The budget proposal thus provides an excellent opportunity for advocates to highlight the diminutive CAPTA state and community-based programs, which have not seen budget increases in some time. The stature of CAPTA programs as important sources of prevention funding has, in fact, been impeded in recent years by the programs' lean funding levels. The proposed increases reportedly stem from the results of ACF administered child and family service reviews, which have now been completed in nearly all states. Following these reviews, most states have been required to implement substantial improvements to their child welfare systems to bring them into compliance with agency standards. CAPTA funds could ostensibly be used to cover some of the costs of these improvements.

With good reason, the aforementioned increases have generated some excitement among prevention advocates. Yet work on the 2005 spending bills will not be completed until fall at the earliest. In the interim, lawmakers will have several months to consider the President's request and make changes to certain discretionary spending as they see fit. Within days of receiving the President's budget, lead appropriators were already making clear that many of the proposed increases may not make it through Congress this year.

**Promoting Safe and Stable Families:** Like last year, the President's FY 2005 budget proposes to fully fund the Promoting Safe and Stable Families program at \$505 million. Otherwise known as Title IV-B (2), Promoting Safe and Stable Families funds a variety of services along the child welfare continuum, including family support, family preservation, adoption promotion and post-adoption. In the absence of a significant push from the White House last year, Congress opted to appropriate \$405 million instead of \$505 million. Without visible support and advocacy from the Administration, such a scenario could repeat itself this year.

**Social Services Block Grant:** The SSBG is a flexible source of funding that states use for a variety of child welfare and other services. Child abuse prevention programs can be funded with SSBG dollars, though the value of the block grant has been significantly reduced since the mid-1990s when it was funded at \$2.8 billion. The Administration's budget proposes that SSBG continue to be funded at \$1.7 billion as it has in recent years. The TANF transfer would be kept at 10%, meaning that states could transfer up to 10% of TANF funds to SSBG.

The budget request was submitted to Congress while lawmakers continue to discuss restoring funds to SSBG as part of the CARE Act (see previous editions of *Prevention Advocate* for information on charitable giving legislation). At this time, an agreement has not yet been reached on how additional funds for SSBG would be offset or how many additional dollars would be provided through the CARE Act.

**CDC:** Under the President's proposal, the budget for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) would decrease by \$302 million from FY 2004. Injury prevention activities at CDC would be flat funded at \$154 million. It is within the injury prevention line item that Congress specifies in report language an amount to be spent on child maltreatment activities. Last year, funding for child maltreatment prevention was increased by \$3 million for a total of \$8.7 million.

**Marriage/Fatherhood:** Hefty sums are requested once again this year for marriage and fatherhood programs. Though the ACF budget would decline overall, these and other Administration priorities would fair well under the budget request. For the healthy marriages



initiative, the Administration has requested \$1.2 billion over five years (\$240 million annually) -- an increase over the \$1 billion over five years that is specified in House and Senate TANF reauthorization bills. The President's budget also proposes a larger appropriation (\$50 million) this year for programs to promote responsible fatherhood. Last year, \$20 million was requested, although Congress chose not to appropriate any funds.

**Other Administration Priorities:** The budget request allows the Administration to state its policy intentions by requesting increases for pet programs and additional dollars for new priorities. Under the FY 2005 request, programs for mentoring children of prisoners and a new prisoner reentry program would see sizeable appropriations. Fifty million would again be appropriated for mentoring children of prisoners. Three hundred million would help incarcerated fathers reenter society and prevent recidivism. The Compassion Capital Fund, which helps faith-based and community groups receive federal dollars, would be increased to \$100 million. An increased appropriation for abstinence education was also included in the request, as was a \$10 million request for maternity group homes.

<b>FUNDING FOR SELECT PROGRAMS UNDER THE ADMINISTRATION'S BUDGET REQUEST FOR FY 2005</b>		
<b>(IN MILLIONS)</b>		
	FY 2004	FY 2005 Admin. Request
CAPTA State Grants	\$ 22.013	\$ 42.000
CAPTA Discretionary R & D	34.623	27.000
CAPTA Community-Based	33.403	65.000
SSBG	1,700.000	1,700.000
Title IV-B (1), Child Welfare Services	290.000	292.000
Title IV-B (2), PSSF	405.000	505.000
Title IV-E Foster Care	4,900.000	4,900.000
Title IV-E Adoption Assistance	1,700.000	1,800.000
Abandoned Infants	12.000	12.000
Head Start	6,775.000	6,994.000

While the budget requests funding increases for CAPTA and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, which have the potential to be important sources of funding for the child abuse prevention field, many advocates have expressed concern with other elements of the budget proposal that negatively impact children and families. Many child care advocates, for example, have argued that the funding proposal for the Child Care Development Block Grant would result in sizeable numbers of children losing access to affordable child care. Housing advocates have expressed dismay about cuts to federal housing assistance. Most domestic violence programs are flat funded. Funding for juvenile justice programs would be drastically reduced. Even Start and the Early Learning Fund are just two education programs that critics note would fair poorly under the President's proposal.

To access the budget documents, go to <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget/fy2005>. And stay tuned to *Prevention Advocate* for updates on the federal budget process and FY 2005 appropriations.



## ***For 2<sup>nd</sup> Consecutive Year, Administration Proposes Child Welfare “State Option”***

For the second consecutive year, the Bush Administration has included in its budget request a proposal to give states the option of either receiving title IV-E funds as a block grant over five years or continuing to receive foster care dollars as an annual entitlement based on the number of children in out-of-home care. While the proposal has been widely discussed in advocacy circles, and referenced during several child welfare hearings before the House Ways and Means Committee, no legislation has as yet been introduced.

A block grant would allow states greater discretion on how Title IV-E funds are used. Under the proposed option, states would no longer be obliged to spend all Title IV-E on foster care, and could possibly use Title IV-E dollars to fund front-end services such as child abuse prevention programs. However, participating states would also relinquish the Title IV-E entitlement status and assume greater financial risk should foster care caseloads increase.

Lacking an actual legislative proposal, we do not yet know details of the Administration’s plan for Title IV-E. Past experience with block grants, however, raises several questions. At a general level, block grants afford states increased discretion in the use of federal funds, but also transfer primary financial risk from the federal government to the states. In a period of stable or decreased demand for child welfare services, a block grant may allow states greater latitude to redirect funding, possibly in support of prevention services and other front-end investments. On the other hand, in a period of increased demand and/or escalating costs for child welfare services, the block grant and the elimination of entitlement status of Title IV-E may expose states to considerable financial risk.

## ***Attend PCA America’s National Conference and Become a More Effective Prevention Advocate***

Interested in becoming a more effective prevention advocate? Consider attending PCA America’s national conference (<http://www.preventchildabuse.org/news/conf.htm>), which will be held May 16 – 19 at *Disney’s Coronado Springs Resort at Walt Disney World®* Resort, Florida. "Spreading the Magic of Prevention" will bring together Prevent Child Abuse America’s networks as well as professionals in family support, child abuse prevention and numerous related fields for the latest news on critical topics in prevention.

This top-notch conference will feature nationally renowned keynote speakers; over 80 high-quality workshops on a variety of aspects of child abuse prevention and family support; a Resource Marketplace with over 60 exhibitors; structured and informal networking opportunities; and a host of other activities.

The following sessions, geared toward prevention advocates, are just a sample of key topics to be addressed at the conference:

- Introduction to Federal Policy and Advocacy to Prevent Child Abuse and Neglect
- Working at the Crossroads of Politics and Policy
- Advocacy Tools for Countering Opposition
- The 2004 Elections: How to Advocate for Prevention During an Election Year



- The Art of Lobbying: Training Parents to be Effective Advocates
- Making Sense of Federal Budget and Tax Trends: A Macro-Level Look at What NPO's Need to Know
- Creating Political Will for Healthy Families America: Success Stories from the States
- Child Maltreatment and Methamphetamine
- Understanding Research on Home Visitation to Inform Policy and Practice
- The Healthy Marriage Initiative and Child Abuse Prevention

Go to [www.preventchildabuse.org](http://www.preventchildabuse.org) for a complete list of workshops, hotel information, registration materials and more. Or call Ann Johnson at PCA America at 312.663.3520 x 145.

## ***Useful Resources for Advocates***

- ❑ Information about the 2004 elections can now be accessed through Prevent Child Abuse America's legislative action center. For candidate bios, candidates' statements on important issues, or information on voter registration, go directly to <http://capwiz.com/pca/e4/>, or visit our legislative action center (available via our website at [www.preventchildabuse.org](http://www.preventchildabuse.org)), and click on "Elections and Candidates".
- ❑ The Administration for Children and Families at HHS recently announced the availability of approximately \$50 million for 150-200 Mentoring Children of Prisoners grants. Applications are due April 23<sup>rd</sup> for competitive grants to establish or expand programs that provide mentoring to children of incarcerated parents. Faith and community-based organizations, tribal governments or consortia, and state and local governments where substantial numbers of children of prisoners live are eligible. For more information, go to <http://grants.gov>.
- ❑ According to statistics recently released by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, approximately 5.8 million children nationwide who otherwise would have had no health insurance were enrolled in the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) at some point in 2003. Enrollment numbers will be available at [www.cms.gov/ship/enrollment](http://www.cms.gov/ship/enrollment).
- ❑ For an analysis of the President's budget and its effect on the number of children receiving child care assistance, check out a new publication by the Center for Law and Social Policy and the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, which can be accessed online at [http://www.clasp.org/DMS/Documents/1076435768.7.CC\\_reversing.pdf](http://www.clasp.org/DMS/Documents/1076435768.7.CC_reversing.pdf).
- ❑ The Winter 2004 edition of the David and Lucile Packard Foundation's periodical *The Future of Children* focuses on children, families and foster care. Analysis and recommendations for better meeting the needs of children in foster care are included in this comprehensive report, which can be accessed online at [http://futureofchildren.org/pubs-info2825/pubs-info.htm?doc\\_id=203959](http://futureofchildren.org/pubs-info2825/pubs-info.htm?doc_id=203959).



- ❑ A section-by-section analysis of the Senate's Head Start reauthorization bill (S. 1940), and a summary of how this compares with the House-passed bill (H.R. 2210), has been prepared by the Center for Law and Social Policy. Check out this analysis at [http://clasp.org/DMS/Documents/1074882262.41/S1940\\_analysis.pdf](http://clasp.org/DMS/Documents/1074882262.41/S1940_analysis.pdf).
- ❑ New federal poverty guidelines were recently announced by the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation at HHS. The guidelines, updated for 2004 to account for last year's increase in prices as measured by the Consumer Price Index, can be accessed at <http://aspe.os.dhhs.gov/poverty/04fedreg.htm>.

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## Spreading the Magic of Prevention

The [Prevent Child Abuse America National Conference](http://www.preventchildabuse.org/news/conf.htm)

(<http://www.preventchildabuse.org/news/conf.htm>) will be held May 16 – 19 at *Disney's Coronado Springs Resort* at *Walt Disney World*® Resort, Florida. "Spreading the Magic of Prevention" will bring together Prevent Child Abuse America's networks as well as professionals in family support, child abuse prevention and numerous related fields for the latest news on critical topics in prevention.

This top-notch conference will feature nationally renowned keynote speakers; over 80 high-quality workshops on a variety of aspects of child abuse prevention and family support; a Resource Marketplace with over 60 exhibitors; structured and informal networking opportunities; and a host of other activities. Registration materials will be available by mail and online as of January 2004. Early Bird registration is \$295 from January to early March, after which registration is \$350.

*Disney's Coronado Springs Resort* is a beautiful Southwestern-flavored property nestled in the heart of *Walt Disney World*® Resort. Attendees can take advantage of a special conference rate of **\$129 per night plus tax** for six days before and after the conference: a terrific vacation opportunity.

Participants may book rooms now by calling 407.939.1020 and mentioning the Prevent Child Abuse America National Conference. For more information about the hotel, visit [Disney's Coronado Springs Resort](http://www.disney.ca/vacations/disneyworld/II/B/5) (<http://www.disney.ca/vacations/disneyworld/II/B/5>).

Please contact [Ann Johnson](mailto:ajohnson@preventchildabuse.org) (mailto:ajohnson@preventchildabuse.org) at 312.663.3520 for more information.

