



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **President's Budget Hurts Low-Income Working Families**

(Washington, DC)—Every administration uses the budget to signal its priorities for the coming year. The message of the president's budget is simple and stark: **low income working families don't matter.**

In this period of economic downturn, our most vulnerable families and children need access to comprehensive supports. Yet the president has recommended slashing or freezing funding for programs already struggling to provide assistance to those who need it most, including proposals to:

- **flat fund child care, which will cause 200,000 children to lose access to child care assistance by 2009**
- **cut funding for the Legal Services Corporation by \$39 million—from about \$350 million to \$311 million**
- **cut the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers after-school program by \$281 million—more than 25 percent**
- **sharply cut critical employment and workforce education and training programs, eliminate the funding stream that supports the local youth workforce delivery system, and terminate the \$1.16 billion Career and Technical Education State Grants program.**

**On Child Care:** *“The President's budget cuts 200,000 children from the child care assistance program in two years—a breathtaking signal of the low priority this administration places on investments in working families,” said Danielle Ewen, director of Child Care and Early Education Policy at CLASP.*

The administration also acknowledges that fewer children will be served in Head Start under their proposal.

*The Center for Law and Social Policy is a national, nonprofit organization working to improve the lives of low-income people through research, policy analysis, technical assistance, and advocacy.*

**On the Legal Services Corporation:** *“There is a huge justice gap between the need for civil legal aid and the funding available. Instead of addressing this gap, the president has chosen to make the gap greater,”* said Alan Houseman, executive director of CLASP.

The 11.3 percent will be cut from local legal aid programs across the country; no funding will be cut from the LSC administration or the Office of Inspector General. If LSC were funded at the same level as 1980, when it achieved cover of legal aid for every county in the US, it would receive more than \$765 million in 2009 dollars.

**On the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers:** Thousands of children across the country would lose much-needed after-school academic support, supervision, and extra-curricular programming. In addition, the administration proposes to convert the program from a community-based grant program to a voucher program, a move which would jeopardize the stability of after-school opportunities in communities, causing some programs to have to close their doors. It is quite likely that the unintended consequence of this voucher program is that fewer after-school opportunities will be available to low-income children.

**On Employment and Training Programs:** *“Instead of addressing our country’s pressing need for investment in workforce education and training programs, the administration continues to propose consolidation as a smokescreen for deeper budget cuts that will reduce available funding for adults, youth and laid off workers,”* said Neil Ridley, a CLASP senior policy analyst.

Workforce education programs help low-income individuals and workers who have lost their jobs to find employment and to build skills necessary to secure good jobs. These programs also help employers find the skilled workforce they need to compete in today’s global economy. As our nation heads into uncertain times, when workers and their families already are struggling in a softening labor market, the president should be proposing to expand these critical programs, not dismantle them.

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To set up an interview with a CLASP policy analyst, contact Cyra Master at (202) 906-8027.

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