

‘The Year of Investing in Our Families’: Why Federal House Budget Must Prevail

A House-version of the federal spending budget has been approved, finally showing the beginnings of a promising budget for children and families. This comes as welcomed news for advocates like you and others working to improve outcomes for hard-working, struggling American families after a period of disinvestment in their success. Regressive fiscal plans that don’t begin to meet the needs of families have destabilized communities. Paired with inadequate support for many Americans stymied by moribund wages, this has left too many American families behind. Congress is responsible, but Congress has the power to make positive changes.

[The FY2020 budget](#) proposed by the House of Representatives offers new hope with increases in spending areas where we need it most. It does this by allocating more funding towards after-school and summer programs that are proven to increase student retention and standardized testing scores - \$100 million above the enacted FY19 budget; adding \$2.4 billion more for critical childcare and preschool grants enabling more families to secure high-quality child care that is often out-of-reach in cost and accessibility; and an additional \$900 million more for adult employment and training activities to help working parents improve their employment potential and ability to care for their children. What about *Early On*?

This all sounds good, right? Unfortunately, this bill (H.R. 2740) is far from becoming law. The Senate’s version of a FY20 budget has yet to be adopted, and before a bill lands on the President’s desk for final authorization there will be backdoor negotiations and party-line muscle on both sides. That is why we should all speak up and advocate for budget changes that better support our families in Michigan and nationwide.

This is not the time to be a bystander in the American budget process. Contact your U.S. Representative and thank them for increasing support for families, or tell them you expect more from them next time. [Contact your U.S. Representative](#) and [thank them for increasing support for families, or tell them you expect more from them next time.](#) [Contact your Senator](#) and tell them you’re watching.

Working together, we can make FY20 the year of Investing in Our Families.

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