



Budget Snapshot: President Obama's FY2015 Budget Proposal

Each year, the President is required to submit a budget to Congress that outlines how the federal government should spend its money in the coming year. Last week, President Obama presented Congress with a \$3.9 trillion budget for fiscal year 2015 that contains \$56 billion in new spending. The newly proposed spending is split evenly between the military and other federal programs. The Administration maintains that the increase in spending is to alleviate the negative impact of sequestration, the deep across-the-board cuts that went into effect in 2013. The budget assumes new revenues through cuts in federal crop insurance, new fees for air travel, and closing both individual and corporate tax loopholes.

The President's proposal "flat funds" most aging programs, meaning funding is at the same level as FY2014, with no increase or decrease. Below is a breakdown of selected caregiving programs.

Caregiving and Related Programs, President's FY2015 Budget Request

Program	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015	
	Final	Enacted	President's Budget	+/- FY2014
National Family Caregiver Support Services	145,586	145,586	145,586	--
Native American Caregiver Support Services	6,031	6,031	6,031	--
Alzheimer's Disease Support Services	3,786	3,800	3,800	--
Alzheimer's Disease Initiative – Services*	--	10,500	10,500	--
Lifespan Respite Care*	2,351	2,360	2,360	--
White House Conference on Aging	0	0	3,000	

Source: AOA, Administration for Community Living, FY2015 ACL Budget Table

*For FY2015, these funds are requested from amounts under section of the Public Health Service Act.

How Does the Federal Government Create a Budget?

There are five key steps in the federal budget process excerpted from "*Federal Budget 101*" published by the *National Priorities Project*:

1. The President submits a budget request to Congress.
2. The House and Senate pass budget resolutions.
3. House and Senate Appropriations subcommittees "markup" appropriations bills.
4. The House and Senate vote on appropriations bills and reconcile differences.
5. The President signs each appropriations bill and the budget becomes law.

Budget Outlook

Because Congress has already determined the spending levels that govern the appropriations process for FY2014 and FY2015 in the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 (P.L. 113-67), there is likely little appetite to reopen the debate around increasing federal spending outside of the agreement. However, it doesn't mean that the President's budget is not important. It is a road map of the Administration's priorities. Further, Congress can take up specific policy priorities outlined in the President's budget during the annual appropriations process.