

**ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

**RELATED EXCERPTS FROM THE SENATE REPORT [112-84](#)**

**DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND  
RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATION BILL, 2012**

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**TITLE II**

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

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**ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

**PAYMENTS TO STATES FOR CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT AND FAMILY SUPPORT  
PROGRAMS**

Appropriations, 2011	\$2,964,323,000
Budget estimate, 2012	2,305,035,000
Committee recommendation	2,305,035,000

The Committee recommends \$2,305,035,000, the same as the budget request under current law, in fiscal year 2012 mandatory funds for payments to States for child support enforcement and family support programs. The comparable fiscal year 2011 appropriation is \$2,964,323,000. In addition, the Committee recommends \$1,100,000,000, the same as the budget request, in advance funding for the first quarter of fiscal year 2013. The comparable advance appropriation provided in fiscal year 2011 as an advance appropriation for fiscal year 2012 is \$1,200,000,000.

These funds support States' efforts to promote the self-sufficiency and economic security of low-income families, including administrative expenses matching funds and incentive payments to States for child support enforcement; grants to States to help establish and administer access and visitation programs between non-custodial parents and their children; payments to territories for benefits to certain aged, blind, or disabled individuals; and temporary benefits for certain repatriated citizens.

The Committee notes that the budget request includes a legislative proposal that would require that child support payments made on behalf of youth in foster care are used in the best interest of the child, rather than as an offset to State and Federal child welfare costs. The Committee supports this initiative and will work with the Committees of jurisdiction on this proposal as necessary.

## LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Appropriations, 2011	\$4,700,580,000
Budget estimate, 2012	2,569,551,000
Committee recommendation	3,600,580,000

The Committee recommends \$3,600,580,000 for the low income home energy assistance program [LIHEAP]. The comparable fiscal year 2011 funding level is \$4,700,580,000 and the fiscal year 2012 budget request is \$2,569,551,000. LIHEAP provides home heating and cooling assistance to low-income households, generally in the form of payments to energy vendors on behalf of the recipient.

The Committee is aware of the significant continuing demand for LIHEAP assistance and regrets that budget constraints require a cut in funding. The Committee notes that the recommended level for fiscal year 2012 is \$1,030,252,000 higher than the fiscal year 2008 funding level and \$1,031,029,000 higher than the administration's budget request.

Within the total, the Committee recommendation includes \$3,400,653,000 for the State formula block grant. Bill language stipulates that all of the funds should be allocated to States based on the original LIHEAP formula. The comparable fiscal year 2011 funding level is \$4,500,653,000 and the budget request is \$1,980,000,000. LIHEAP block grants are awarded to States, territories, Indian tribes, and tribal organizations according to a statutory formula, based in part on each State's share of home energy expenditures by low-income households. Within this amount, the Committee includes up to \$3,000,000 for program integrity and oversight efforts and \$27,000,000 for leveraging incentive funds, as requested by the administration.

The Committee recommendation also includes \$199,927,000, the same as the comparable fiscal year 2011 level, for the contingency fund. The budget request is \$589,551,000. The Committee does not include bill language making the contingency fund available until expended, as proposed by the administration. The contingency fund is used to provide additional assistance to States adversely affected by extreme heat or cold, significant price increases, or other causes of energy-related emergencies.

## REFUGEE AND ENTRANT ASSISTANCE

Appropriations, 2011	\$729,466,000
Budget estimate, 2012	824,694,000
Committee recommendation	787,639,000

The Committee recommends \$787,639,000 for refugee and entrant assistance. The comparable fiscal year 2011 funding level is \$729,466,000 and the fiscal year 2012 budget request is \$824,694,000. The refugee and entrant assistance program is designed to assist refugees, asylees, Cuban and Haitian entrants, trafficking victims, and torture victims (summarized below as 'refugees') to become employed and self-sufficient as quickly as possible. It also funds temporary shelter and services for unaccompanied alien children apprehended by law enforcement who are in Federal custody awaiting adjudication of their immigration status.

### *Transitional and Medical Services*

The Committee recommendation includes \$386,625,000 for transitional and medical assistance. The comparable fiscal year 2011 funding level is \$352,625,000 and the budget request is \$394,224,000.

Transitional and medical services provide grants to States and nonprofit organizations to provide up to 8 months of cash and medical assistance to incoming refugees as well as foster care services to unaccompanied minors. Within the total, the Committee recommendation includes not less than \$65,000,000 for the voluntary agency matching grant program, which provides grants to resettlement agencies to provide comprehensive services, including case management, job development, job placement, and interim housing and cash assistance, with the goal of refugees becoming self-sufficient within their first 4 months. Refugees enrolled in this program are not eligible for regular transitional and medical assistance. The Committee continues to support the voluntary agency matching grant program and encourages the Office of Refugee Resettlement [ORR] to explore the continued expansion of this program.

While many of the costs of the transitional and medical services program are outside of HHS' control, the Committee remains concerned with the projected increases in these costs. The Committee directs ACF to include actual and projected information in their fiscal year 2013 budget justification, broken out by refugees in State-administered, voluntary agency matching grant, and Wilson-Fish programs where applicable, on the number of refugees arriving in the United States, potentially eligible for assistance and actually receiving assistance; the average amount of time refugees receive assistance; the average cash and medical assistance benefit; and the total obligations of the program. The Committee also directs ACF to separately include information on the actual and projected costs of reimbursing States for providing foster care for unaccompanied refugee minors [URM], including the number of URM in foster care.

### *Victims of Trafficking*

The Committee recommendation includes \$9,794,000, the same amount as the comparable fiscal year 2011 funding level, for victims of trafficking. The fiscal year 2012 budget request is \$9,814,000. This program supports a national network for identifying, certifying and providing comprehensive services to international victims of trafficking.

### *Social Services*

The Committee recommendation includes \$153,697,000, the same amount as the comparable fiscal year 2011 funding level, for social services. The fiscal year 2012 budget request is \$179,005,000. These funds include formula and discretionary grants to States and nonprofit organizations to provide a variety of employment and support services to recently arrived refugees.

### *Preventive Health*

The Committee recommendation includes \$4,739,000, the same amount as the comparable fiscal year 2011 funding level, for preventive services. The budget request is \$4,748,000. This program funds grants to coordinate and promote refugees' access to health screening, treatment and follow-up services.

### *Targeted Assistance*

The Committee recommendation includes \$48,493,000 for targeted assistance, the same amount as the comparable fiscal year 2011 funding level, for the targeted assistance program, which provides additional

funds to States with an influx of refugee arrivals and a high concentration of refugees facing difficulties achieving self-sufficiency. The budget request is \$48,590,000.

#### *Unaccompanied Alien Children*

The Committee recommendation includes \$173,225,000 for unaccompanied alien children [UAC]. The comparable fiscal year 2011 funding level is \$149,052,000 and the budget request is \$177,225,000. The unaccompanied alien children program provides shelter and support services to unaccompanied alien minors apprehended in the United States by the Department of Homeland Security or other law enforcement agencies. Children are taken into ORR's care pending resolution of their claims for relief under U.S. immigration law or release to an adult family member or guardian.

Within the total, the Committee provides \$6,100,000 to continue the pro bono legal services initiative to ensure legal representation for both released and detained children. These funds should be used to train legal counsel to detect abuse, mistreatment, labor exploitation and trafficking of these children. In addition, a portion of these funds should be used to train legal counsel in methods that will ensure the appearance of children at all immigration court hearings.

#### *Victims of Torture*

The Committee recommendation includes \$11,066,000, the same amount as the comparable fiscal year 2011 funding level, for victims of torture. The budget request is \$11,088,000. This program provides treatment, social and legal services to victims of torture and training to healthcare providers on treating the physical and psychological effects of torture.

### **PAYMENTS TO STATES FOR THE CHILDCARE AND DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT**

Appropriations, 2011	\$2,222,627,000
Budget estimate, 2012	2,926,757,000
Committee recommendation	2,222,627,000

The Committee recommends \$2,222,627,000, the same amount as the comparable fiscal year 2011 funding level, for the childcare and development block grant [CCDBG]. The budget request is \$2,926,757,000. The CCDBG is a formula grant to States to provide financial assistance to low-income families to help pay for childcare and improve the quality of childcare programs.

Within the total, the Committee recommendation includes \$18,922,000 for resource and referral programs and school-aged childcare activities, of which \$1,000,000 is specified in bill language for a national toll-free hotline and Web site that provides consumer education materials and assists families in accessing local information on childcare options. The Committee recommendation also includes \$283,592,000 for childcare quality improvement activities, of which \$104,005,000 is specified for improving infant and toddler childcare. These quality improvement funds are in addition to the 4 percent quality improvement set-aside established in the authorizing legislation. Finally, the Committee recommendation includes \$9,890,000 for childcare research and evaluation activities.

The Committee notes the administration has proposed revised reporting requirements for tribes that integrate Federal funding, including CCDBG funding, for employment, job training and related services into a single coordinated program, as authorized by Public Law 102-477. While the Committee supports

an improved reporting system, any changes should be made consistent with Public Law 102-477, which is intended to improve efficiencies and lessen the administrative burden on tribes. The Committee does not support the proposed requirement that tribes under this program report separately on CCDBG, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, and Native Employment Works funding. The Committee expects notification prior to ACF implementing any changes to reporting requirements under these programs.

**SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT**

Appropriations, 2011	\$1,700,000,000
Budget estimate, 2012	1,700,000,000
Committee recommendation	1,700,000,000

The Committee recommends \$1,700,000,000 in mandatory funds for fiscal year 2012 for the social services block grant [SSBG]. This amount is the same as the comparable fiscal year 2011 funding level and the budget request. The SSBG is a flexible source of funding that allows States to provide a diverse array of services to low-income children and families, the disabled and the elderly.

The Committee continues to regard the SSBG as a critical source of funding for services that protect children from neglect and abuse, including providing foster and respite care, as well as related services for children and families, persons with disabilities and older adults. The Committee recognizes the importance of this program, especially in providing mental health and counseling services to underserved populations, and recommends continued usage and flexibility of these funds for such purposes.

**CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES PROGRAMS**

Appropriations, 2011	\$9,519,357,000
Budget estimate, 2012	9,794,598,000
Committee recommendation	9,845,685,000

The Committee recommends \$9,845,685,000 for fiscal year 2012 for children and families services programs. The comparable funding level for fiscal year 2011 is \$9,519,357,000 and the budget request is \$9,794,598,000. The recommendation includes an additional \$5,762,000 in transfers available under section 241 of the Public Health Service Act.

This appropriation supports a variety of programs for children, youth and families; the developmentally disabled; Native Americans; victims of child abuse, neglect and domestic violence; and other vulnerable populations.

*Head Start*

The Committee recommends \$7,899,633,000 for Head Start. The comparable funding level for fiscal year 2011 is \$7,559,633,000 and the budget request is \$8,099,783,000.

Head Start provides comprehensive early childhood development services for low-income children and families that emphasize cognitive and language development, socio-emotional development, physical and mental health and parent involvement to enable each child to develop and function at his or her highest

potential. At least 10 percent of enrollment opportunities in each State are made available to children with disabilities.

The Committee recommendation maintains the expansion of the Head Start program started with Recovery Act funding in fiscal years 2009 and 2010. It fully supports the increase of over 61,000 Head Start slots funded through the Recovery Act and in total will allow Head Start to provide comprehensive early childhood services to 968,000 low-income children and their families.

There is considerable and increasing evidence that high-quality early childhood education has long lasting effects for low-income children and families. Children receiving high-quality care are more likely to graduate high school on time and go on to college, more likely to earn higher incomes later in life and less likely to commit a crime. The Committee's investments in Head Start and elsewhere in HHS and the Department of Education, as well as changes in the Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007, will ensure that more low-income children and families have access to high-quality early childhood education.

#### *Consolidated Runaway and Homeless Youth Program*

The Committee recommends \$97,539,000, the same as the fiscal year 2011 level, for the consolidated runaway and homeless youth program. The budget request includes \$102,734,000 for this purpose. This program supports basic centers which provide temporary shelter, counseling and after-care services to runaway and homeless youth under age 18 and their families; the transitional living program, which provides longer-term shelter and services for older youth; and a national toll-free runaway and homeless youth crisis hotline. Because of budget constraints, the Committee recommendation regretfully does not include increased funding for the administration's proposal targeted at enhancing services for youth victims of sex trafficking.

Basic centers and transitional living programs provide services to help address the needs of some of the estimated 1,600,000 runaway and homeless youth, many of whom are running away from unsafe or unhealthy living environments. These programs have been proven effective at lessening rates of family conflict and parental abuse, as well as increasing school participation and the employment rates of youth.

#### *Education and Prevention Grants To Reduce Sexual Abuse of Runaway Youth*

The Committee recommends \$17,935,000, the same as the fiscal year 2011 level, for education and prevention grants to reduce sexual abuse of runaway and homeless youth. The budget request is \$17,971,000. This program provides competitive grants for street-based outreach and education services for runaway and homeless youth who are subjected to or are at risk of being subjected to sexual abuse or exploitation.

#### *Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Programs*

The Committee recommends \$93,881,000, the same as the fiscal year 2011 level, for child abuse prevention and treatment programs. The budget request is \$97,244,000. These programs seek to improve and increase activities that identify, prevent and treat child abuse and neglect through grants to States; research and demonstrations; technical assistance; and grants to community-based organizations.

### *State Formula Grants*

Within the total for child abuse prevention and treatment, the Committee recommendation includes \$26,482,000 for State formula grants, the same as the comparable fiscal year 2011 funding level. The budget request is \$26,535,000. This program provides formula grants to States to improve their child protective service systems.

### *Discretionary Activities*

Within the total for child abuse prevention and treatment, the Committee recommendation includes \$25,793,000 for discretionary activities, the same as the comparable fiscal year 2011 funding level. The budget request is \$29,020,000. This program supports discretionary grants for research, demonstration and technical assistance to increase the knowledge base of evidence-based practices and disseminate information to State and local child welfare programs.

### *Community-Based Grants*

Within the total for child abuse prevention and treatment, the Committee recommendation includes \$41,606,000 for community-based grants, the same as the comparable fiscal year 2011 funding level. The budget request is \$41,689,000. This program provides formula grants to States that then disburse funds to local, community-based organizations to improve local child abuse prevention and treatment efforts, including providing direct services and improving the coordination between State and community-based organizations.

### *Abandoned Infants Assistance*

The Committee recommends \$11,575,000, the same as the budget request, for the abandoned infants assistance program. The comparable fiscal year 2011 funding level is \$11,605,000. This program provides discretionary grants to public and private community and faith-based organizations to develop, implement and operate demonstration projects that prevent the abandonment of infants and young children impacted by substance abuse and HIV. Funds may be used to provide respite care for families and caregivers, allow abandoned infants and children to reside with their natural families or in foster care, and carry out residential care programs for abandoned infants and children who are unable to reside with their families or be placed in foster care.

### *Child Welfare Services*

The Committee recommends \$281,181,000, the same as the comparable fiscal year 2011 funding level, for child welfare services. The budget request is \$281,744,000. This formula grant program helps State and tribal public welfare agencies improve their child welfare services with the goal of keeping families together. States and tribes provide a continuum of services that prevent child neglect, abuse or exploitation; allow children to remain with their families, when appropriate; promote the safety and permanence of children in foster care and adoptive families; and provide training and professional development to the child welfare workforce.

### *Child Welfare Research, Training and Demonstration*

The Committee recommends \$27,153,000, the same as the fiscal year 2011 level, for child welfare research, training and demonstration. The budget request is \$27,207,000. This program provides grants to public and nonprofit organizations for demonstration projects that encourage experimental and promising

types of child welfare services, as well as projects that improve education and training programs for child welfare service providers.

Within this amount, the Committee recommendation includes \$20,000,000, as requested by the administration, for innovative approaches to foster care program. This continues funding for 5-year demonstration projects started in fiscal year 2010 to improve the outcomes of children and families in foster care, particularly those with long-term involvement in the foster care system.

#### *Adoption Opportunities*

The Committee recommends \$39,253,000, the same as the comparable fiscal year 2011 funding level, for adoption opportunities. The budget request is \$39,332,000. In fiscal year 2011 the more narrowly focused adoption awareness program was eliminated and its funding redirected to the adoption opportunities program. The Committee supports and maintains this consolidation.

The adoption opportunities program funds discretionary grants to help facilitate the elimination of barriers to adoption and provide technical assistance to help States increase the number of children adopted, particularly children with special needs. The adoption awareness program provided grants to train health center staff to inform pregnant women about adoption and to make referrals on request to adoption agencies. It also funded the planning, development and operation of a national campaign to inform the public about the adoption of children with special needs. The adoption opportunities program has broad authority to fund these types of awareness activities and will continue to fund them in the consolidated program.

Consistent with the authorization of this program, the Committee expects that these funds will focus on facilitating the adoption of older children, minority children, and children with special needs, particularly infants and toddlers with disabilities who have life-threatening conditions.

#### *Adoption Incentives*

The Committee recommends \$39,421,000, the same as the comparable fiscal year 2011 funding level, for the adoption incentives program. The budget request is \$49,875,000. This program provides incentive payments to States based on a formula in law to encourage States to increase the number of adoptions of children from the foster care system, with an emphasis on children who are the hardest to place. If the payments due to States are higher than the amount of funds available, the payments are reduced on a pro rata basis based on the amount available.

#### *Strengthening Communities Fund*

The Committee recommendation does not include funding for the strengthening communities fund. This program was first funded in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act but did not receive funding in fiscal year 2011. The budget request for fiscal year 2012 is \$20,000,000. The strengthening communities fund is designed to improve the capacity of community and faith-based organizations to contribute to economic development and revitalization. ACF is currently conducting an outcome-based evaluation of this program and the Committee will consider funding in future fiscal years pending the results of that evaluation.

### *Social Services and Income Maintenance Research*

The Committee recommends \$5,762,000, the same as the fiscal year 2011 level, for social services and income maintenance research. This entire amount is funded through transfers available under section 241 of the PHS Act, the same as in fiscal year 2011. The budget request is \$8,762,000, of which \$5,762,000 is from transfers available under the PHS Act. These funds support research and evaluation of cost-effective programs that increase the stability and economic independence of American families, and contribute to the healthy development of children and youth.

The Committee recommendation does not provide increased funding specified for an early childhood care and education research and evaluation study. The Committee supports this research and the administration's initiative to strengthen program evaluation, but notes that research and evaluation funding for early childhood programs is set aside within Head Start and the Child Care and Development Block Grant.

The Committee encourages ACF to continue to work with the Administration on Aging and other HHS agencies to evaluate intergenerational approaches aimed at improving the outcomes for vulnerable populations. The Committee is aware of effective neighborhood based programs that utilize older volunteers to foster permanency and improved outcomes for at risk youth.

### *Developmental Disabilities*

The Committee recommends \$163,056,000 for developmental disabilities programs. The comparable fiscal year 2011 funding level is \$168,857,000 and the budget request is \$163,366,000. These programs support community-based delivery of services that promote the rights of persons of all ages with developmental disabilities. Developmental disability is defined as severe, chronic disability attributed to mental or physical impairments manifested before age 22, which causes substantial limitations in major life activities.

#### *State Councils*

Within the total for developmental disabilities, the Committee recommendation includes \$74,916,000 for State councils, the same as the comparable fiscal year 2011 funding level. The budget request is \$75,066,000. State developmental disability councils work to develop, improve and expand the system of services and supports for people with developmental disabilities. By engaging in activities such as training, educating the public, building capacity and advocating for change in State policies, these councils support the inclusion and integration of individuals with developmental disabilities in all aspects of community life.

#### *Protection and Advocacy*

Within the total for developmental disabilities, the Committee recommendation includes \$40,942,000 for protection and advocacy programs, the same as the comparable fiscal year 2011 funding level. The budget request is \$41,024,000. This formula grant program provides funds to States to establish and maintain protection and advocacy systems to protect the legal and human rights of persons with developmental disabilities who are receiving treatment, services or rehabilitation.

### *Projects of National Significance*

Within the total for developmental disabilities, the Committee recommendation includes \$8,333,000, the same as the budget request, for projects of national significance to assist persons with developmental disabilities. The comparable fiscal year 2011 funding level is \$14,134,000. This program funds grants and contracts that develop new technologies and demonstrate innovative methods to support the independence, productivity and integration into the community of persons with developmental disabilities.

The Committee recommendation supports the continuation of current grants, including initiatives on youth transition to employment, family support, technical assistance and data collection, as well as continued support of the Autism Research Center.

### *University Centers for Excellence*

Within the total for developmental disabilities, the Committee recommendation includes \$38,865,000 for the University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities [UCEDDs], the same as the comparable fiscal year 2011 funding level. The budget request is \$38,943,000. The UCEDD program supports a network of 67 university-based centers that provide interdisciplinary education, conduct research and develop model services for children and adults with disabilities. The centers serve as the major vehicle to translate disability-related research into community practice and to train the next cohort of future professionals who will provide services and supports to an increasingly diverse population of people with disabilities.

### *Voting Access for Individuals With Disabilities*

The Committee recommendation includes \$5,245,000 for voting access for individuals with disabilities. The budget request did not include funding for this program. The comparable fiscal year 2011 funding level is \$17,375,000. This program supports formula grants to States for the Secretary of State or chief election official to make polling places more accessible and increase individuals with disabilities' participation in the voting process, as well as a separate formula grant to States for protection and advocacy organizations to do the same.

The Committee recommendation does not provide formula funding for Secretaries of State but maintains funding for protection and advocacy programs. States have over \$33,000,000 in fiscal year 2007 to fiscal year 2010 unexpended funds available to their Secretaries of State under this program, and States may still use those funds for these activities. In addition, the Committee encourages ACF to work with States and protection and advocacy organizations to ensure that these funds are used in a timely manner. The Committee also encourages ACF, in consultation with the National Council on Disability, to monitor the implementation of the Help America Vote Act for voters with disabilities during the 2012 election cycle.

### *Native American Programs*

The Committee recommends \$48,675,000, the same as the fiscal year 2011 level, for Native American programs. The budget request is \$48,773,000. The Administration for Native Americans [ANA] assists tribal and village governments and Native Indian institutions and organizations to support and develop stable, diversified local economies. In promoting social and economic self-sufficiency, ANA provides financial assistance through direct grants for individual projects, training and technical assistance, and research and demonstration programs.

Within the total, the Committee recommendation includes \$12,000,000 for Native American language preservation activities, including no less than \$4,000,000 for language immersion programs authorized by 803C(b)(7)(A)-(C) of the Native American Programs Act, as amended by the Esther Martinez Native American Language Preservation Act of 2006. The Committee strongly encourages ANA to give priority to grantees with rigorous immersion programs.

### *Community Services Programs*

The Committee recommends \$731,501,000 for community services programs. The comparable fiscal year 2011 funding level is \$727,212,000 and the budget request is \$393,907,000.

### *Community Services Block Grant*

Within the total for community services programs, the Committee recommendation includes \$678,640,000 for the community services block grant [CSBG], the same as the comparable fiscal year 2011 funding level. The budget request is \$350,000,000. The CSBG is a formula grant to States and Indian tribes to provide a wide range of services and activities to alleviate causes of poverty in communities and to assist low-income individuals in becoming self-sufficient. States are required to pass on at least 90 percent of these funds to local community-based organizations, that vast majority of which are community action agencies.

The Committee strongly supports the CSBG, which provides critical flexible funding for local organizations that serve as a central source of assistance for low-income populations. These local organizations typically administer larger Federal programs such as Head Start, LIHEAP and the Weatherization Assistance Program. The CSBG provides critical funding to support the administration of these programs at the local level, as well as flexible funding to fill in service gaps and meet the particular needs of local communities. The Committee supports efforts to improve accountability and transparency, but within the current framework of the program.

### *Community Economic Development*

Within the total for community services programs, the Committee recommendation includes \$21,964,000 for the community economic development program. The comparable fiscal year 2011 funding level was \$17,964,000. The budget request is \$20,000,000. This program provides grants to community development corporations to support employment and business development opportunities for low-income individuals.

Within this total for community economic development, the Committee recommendation includes up to \$10,000,000, including any related program support and evaluation costs, for the Healthy Foods Financing Initiative [HFFI]. A recent study by the Department of Agriculture found that over 23 million Americans, including 6.5 million children, live in low-income areas without ready access to grocery stores. HFFI is a joint initiative with the Department of Agriculture and Department of the Treasury to provide financial and technical assistance to community development financial institutions, nonprofit organizations and businesses to expand access to healthy foods in these low-income and underserved areas.

### *Rural Community Facilities*

Within the total for community services programs, the Committee recommendation includes \$6,990,000 for the rural community facilities program. The comparable fiscal year 2011 funding level was

\$4,990,000. The budget request did not include funding for this program. The rural community facilities program provides grants to regional nonprofit organizations to provide training and technical assistance to low-income rural communities in developing and managing safe and affordable water and wastewater treatment facilities.

#### *Job Opportunities for Low-Income Individuals*

Within the total for community services programs the Committee recommendation does not include funding for the job opportunities for low-income individuals [JOLI] program. The comparable fiscal year 2011 funding level is \$1,641,000. The budget request did not include funding for this program. JOLI provides grants to nonprofit organizations to support employment and business opportunities for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families [TANF] recipients and other low-income individuals, focusing on micro-enterprise and self-employment. This small discretionary grant program has never been evaluated and duplicates activities funded in the TANF program.

#### *Individual Development Accounts*

Within the total for community services programs, the Committee recommendation includes \$23,907,000, the same as the budget request, for individual development accounts. The comparable fiscal year 2011 funding level is \$23,977,000. This program funds activities to encourage and help low-income individuals and families accumulate savings for dedicated purposes, including buying a home, paying for college or starting a business.

#### *Domestic Violence Hotline*

The Committee recommends \$3,203,000, the same as the comparable fiscal year 2011 funding level, for the national domestic violence hotline. The budget request is \$4,500,000. This national, toll-free hotline provides information and assistance to victims of domestic violence 24 hours a day.

#### *Family Violence Prevention and Services*

The Committee recommends \$129,792,000, the same as the comparable fiscal year 2011 funding level, for the family violence prevention and services program. The budget request is \$135,052,000. These funds support programs to prevent family violence and provide immediate shelter and related assistance for victims of domestic violence and their dependents.

The Committee encourages ACF to provide funding for State resource centers to reduce disparities in domestic violence in States with high proportions of Indian (including Alaskan Native) or Native Hawaiian populations, as authorized by section (a)(2)(B)(i) of the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act.

#### *Mentoring Children of Prisoners*

The Committee does not include funding for the mentoring children of prisoners program, which was eliminated in fiscal year 2011. The budget request is \$25,000,000. This program provided grants to community organizations to create and sustain mentoring relationships between children of prisoners and adults in their community. Program data showed that the majority of the mentoring relationships established through the program lasted fewer than 12 months.

*Independent Living Training Vouchers*

The Committee recommends \$45,260,000, the same as the comparable fiscal year 2011 funding level, for independent living training vouchers. The budget request is \$45,351,000. This program supports vouchers of up to \$5,000 per year for postsecondary education and training for foster care youth up to 21 years of age. This program increases the likelihood that individuals who age out of the foster care system will be better prepared to live independently and contribute productively to society.

*Disaster Human Services Case Management*

The Committee recommends \$1,996,000, the same as the comparable fiscal year 2011 funding level, for the disaster human services case management program. The budget request is \$2,000,000. This program assists States in establishing the capacity to provide case management services in a timely manner in the event of a disaster. It ensures that States are able to meet social service needs during disasters by helping disaster victims prepare recovery plans, referring them to service providers and FEMA contacts in order to identify needed assistance, and providing ongoing support and tracking through the recovery process.

*Program Administration*

The Committee recommends \$209,386,000, the same as the comparable fiscal year 2011 funding level, for program administration. The budget request is \$226,184,000. Within this amount, the Committee includes \$1,376,000 for the Center for Faith-based and Community Initiatives.

**SUPPORTING HEALTHY FAMILIES AND ADOLESCENT DEVELOPMENT**

Appropriations, 2011	\$428,184,000
Budget estimate, 2012	428,311,000
Committee recommendation	428,184,000

The Committee recommends \$428,184,000, the same as the comparable fiscal year 2011 funding level, for supporting healthy families and adolescent development. The budget request is \$428,311,000. The recommendation consists of \$365,000,000 in mandatory funds authorized by the Social Security Act and \$63,184,000 in discretionary appropriations. This account was previously named Promoting Safe and Stable Families and has been revised to better describe the activities funded within it.

This program supports activities that can prevent the emergence of family crises which might require the temporary or permanent removal of a child from his or her own home. Grants allow States to operate coordinated programs of family preservation services, time-limited family reunification services, community-based family support services, and adoption promotion and support services.

## PAYMENTS FOR FOSTER CARE AND PERMANENCY

Appropriations, 2011	\$4,769,000,000
Budget estimate, 2012	5,153,000,000
Committee recommendation	5,153,000,000

The Committee recommends \$5,153,000,000 in mandatory funds for payments for foster care and permanency, an appropriated entitlement that includes funding for the foster care, adoption assistance, guardianship assistance and independent living programs. This is in addition to the \$1,850,000,000 appropriated last year as an advance appropriation for the first quarter of fiscal year 2012. The comparable funding level for fiscal year 2011 is \$4,769,000,000, in addition to the \$1,850,000,000 provided as an advance appropriation the previous year. The Committee recommends \$2,100,000,000, the same as the budget request, for an advance appropriation for the first quarter of fiscal year 2013. The Committee recommendation provides the full amount requested under current law.

The foster care program, authorized under title IV-E of the Social Security Act, provides Federal reimbursement to States and tribes for maintenance payments to families and institutions caring for eligible foster children. Funds are matched at the Federal medical assistance percentage [FMAP] rate for each State. Funding is also provided for administrative costs for the management of the foster care program, as well as training costs for foster care workers and parents.

The adoption assistance program provides funds to States for maintenance payments and the nonrecurring costs of adoption for children with special needs. The goal of this program is to facilitate the adoption of hard-to-place children in permanent homes and thus prevent long, inappropriate stays in foster care. As in the foster care program, State administrative and training costs are eligible under this program for Federal reimbursement subject to a matching rate.

The Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 created a new IV-E guardianship assistance program. This program gives States and tribes an option under their IV-E foster care programs to provide assistance payments to relatives taking legal guardianship of eligible children who have been in foster care.

The independent living program provides services to foster children under 18 and foster youth ages 18 to 21 to help them make the transition to independent living by engaging in a variety of services including educational assistance, life skills training and health services. States are awarded grants based on their share of the number of children in foster care, subject to a matching requirement.

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