

FIRST FOCUS CHILDREN'S BUDGET 2009

The federal government funds over 180 different children's programs, from child health and education to child welfare and juvenile justice. *Children's Budget 2009* is a comprehensive guide to all federal spending on children and an invaluable resource for all those seeking to improve the lives of America's youth.

This year, *Children's Budget* includes a special analysis of investments in children provided through the economic recovery package, known as the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA). Within the \$787 billion ARRA package, almost \$144 billion went to children's programs. This investment accounted for 18 percent of ARRA spending, a significant increase for America's children. In contrast, *Children's Budget 2009* reveals that all other federal spending on children accounts for less than ten percent of the entire non-defense budget.

KEY FINDINGS:

- For the past five years, less than one nickel out of every new, real non-defense dollar spent by the federal government has gone to children and children's programs.
- Children's spending makes up less than ten percent of the entire non-defense budget.
- The overall share of federal, non-defense spending going to children's programs has dropped by twelve percent over the past five years.
- Real discretionary spending on children has declined by one percent since 2005, while at the same time all other non-defense discretionary spending has increased by 4 percent.

REVERSING THE TREND:

- In the short term, children should get their fair share of new spending.
- Reverse the declining share of spending on kids by steadily increasing the federal investments in children's programs.



A UNIQUE RESOURCE

Children's Budget 2009 is a valuable resource for advocates, policymakers, and program administrators alike. For each of the more than 180 federally funded children's programs, the book offers:

- Program descriptions
- Current appropriation levels
- Funding levels from the past five fiscal years
- Proposed funding levels for the coming fiscal year
- The change over time in funding as a percentage of growth (both in nominal and inflation adjusted terms)

USER FRIENDLY:

- Programs are organized into broad categories such as child health and education, allowing users to compare investments across policy areas.
- The book highlights specific programs, drawing attention to their significant role in the lives of children.

For additional information, or to request a hardcopy of the book, please visit www.firstfocus.net.

CHILDRENS  **BUDGET.ORG**

Earlier this year, First Focus launched www.childrensbudget.org, the online companion to the Children's Budget book series. This new resource provides a dynamic and customizable element to the federal budget data, allowing users to glean the precise information that they need, quickly, easily, and in real time.


FIRST FOCUS
MAKING CHILDREN & FAMILIES THE PRIORITY