



# Fact Sheet

IWPR #C379

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## Implications for Low-Income Student Parents of House Bill H.R. 1, Proposed Continuing Resolution for FY 2011 Appropriations

With the ongoing debate in Congress over how to fund the remainder of the 2011 Fiscal Year, considerable uncertainty exists surrounding the funding picture for many federal programs going forward. This is no less true for the diverse roster of student financial aid, child care, and other education and training programs and initiatives that support low-income student parents as they strive to enter and complete postsecondary programs. Although the analysis that follows is not an exhaustive account of each and every program with the potential to impact economically disadvantaged student parents over the course of their college careers, we attempted to highlight those programs most directly linked to college access and persistence for this particular student population, namely those related to student financial aid, child care, and early childhood education, as well as pertinent social services and employment and training funding streams. The initial proposal, H.R. 1, put forth by the U.S. House of Representatives Appropriations Committee and released on February 19, 2011, structured in the form of a Continuing Resolution (CR), articulated more than \$66 billion<sup>1</sup> in cuts to federal, non-security discretionary spending across a number of government agencies.

Most notably for student parents and those who advocate on their behalf, the resolution recommended steep cuts to a number of student financial aid programs, including:

- **Pell Grants:** the largest source of federally-funded grant aid; provide grants for low-income undergraduate students.
  - Reduces funds by \$5.7 billion,<sup>2</sup> or about 24 percent
- **Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants:** provide funds for need-based grants to undergraduate students.
  - Eliminates all funding for this program, a reduction of \$758 million.<sup>3</sup>
- **Leveraging Educational Assistance Partnerships (LEAP):** a program involving state matching funds that provides need-based grants of up to \$5,000 for undergraduate students.
  - Eliminates all funding for this program, a reduction of \$64 million.<sup>4</sup>

The CR also recommended eliminating the Perkins Tech Prep program, which is closely tied to the Perkins Basic Grants to States:

- **Perkins Tech Prep:** This funding stream is intended to foster relationships between secondary and postsecondary institutions with the goal of ensuring students continue to progress through the career and technical education pipeline. For states that have kept these funding streams distinct, this would result in outright elimination of the Tech Prep supported activities. However, about half of states have elected to combine Tech Prep and Basic Grant funds.
  - Eliminates all funding for this program, totaling \$103 million.<sup>5</sup>
- **Basic Grants:** Basic Grant funds can be used for a variety of activities in support of vocational and technical education students, including support services such as transportation and child care for designated special populations, which include single parents, displaced homemakers and economically disadvantaged students.
  - Although the CR does not specify reductions in Basic Grants funding per se, in states with commingled Tech Prep and Basic Grants funds, the elimination of the former would result in an average eight percent reduction in total available funds.<sup>6</sup>

In addition, HR 1 specifies sizeable reductions in early childhood development and child care programs including:

- **Child Care and Development Block Grant:** provides funding to states to support child care assistance for low-income families.
  - Reduces funding by \$39 million.<sup>7</sup>
- **Head Start and Early Head Start:** combined, the programs serve children from birth through pre-school in early childhood development programs targeted to low-income families.
  - Reduces funding by \$1 billion or about 15 percent.<sup>8</sup>
- **TRIO programs:** a series of eight federal programs designed to provide supports for disadvantaged students from middle school through college. FY 2010 funding for all 8 programs totaled about \$904 million.<sup>9</sup>
  - Reduces TRIO funding by \$25 million.<sup>10</sup>
  - A portion of TRIO funds are designated for the CCAMPIS Program, about \$16 million in FY 2010.<sup>11</sup>

The proposed legislation also recommends reducing or eliminating funding sources for a number of federal employment and training, community development and social services programs, and supports that work directly or indirectly to assist low-income student parents in pursuing postsecondary degrees and credentials.

- **Employment and training programs at the Department of Labor, including programs covered under the Workforce Investment Act, Title I, which support a variety of job search, job training and related activities for job seekers:**
  - Estimates vary from \$2 billion<sup>12</sup> to almost \$4 billion,<sup>13</sup> including WIA formula grants to states (\$1.4 billion reduction.)<sup>14</sup>
  
- **Other community, economic development and social service funding streams for low-income individuals and families, including:**
  - **Community Development Block Grant:** a \$2.8 billion<sup>15</sup> block grant to states administered by the Department of Housing and Urban Development to support a variety of community-building activities related to housing, economic development and limited social services.
    - Reduces funding by \$2.5 billion<sup>16</sup>
  - **Community Services Block Grant:** a \$700 million<sup>17</sup> block grant to states intended to reduce poverty and revive low-income communities, usually working through local community action agencies (CAAs)
    - Reduces funding by \$305 million<sup>18</sup>

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## References

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<sup>1</sup> James R. Horney, Danilo Trisi and Arloc Sherman, March 1, 2011, “House Bill Means Fewer Children in Head Start, Less Help for Students to Attend College, Less Job Training, and Less Funding for Clean Water,” <http://www.cbpp.org/cms/index.cfm?fa=view&id=3405> (accessed March 7, 2011).

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations, “FY 2011 Continuing Resolution Reductions,” [http://appropriations.house.gov/\\_files/ProgramCutsFY2011ContinuingResolution.pdf](http://appropriations.house.gov/_files/ProgramCutsFY2011ContinuingResolution.pdf) (accessed March 7, 2011).

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> James R. Horney, Danilo Trisi and Arloc Sherman, March 1, 2011, “House Bill Means Fewer Children in Head Start, Less Help for Students to Attend College, Less Job Training, and Less Funding for Clean Water,” <http://www.cbpp.org/cms/index.cfm?fa=view&id=3405> (accessed March 7, 2011).

<sup>6</sup> “FY 2011 CTE Funding Fight,” Association for Career and Technical Education, <http://www.acteonline.org/saveCTEfunding.aspx> (accessed March 15, 2011).

<sup>7</sup> “House Budget Bill Would Make Deep Cuts in Head Start and Child Care,” National Women’s Law Center, <http://www.nwlc.org/resource/house-budget-bill-would-make-deep-cuts-head-start-and-child-care> (accessed March 7, 2011).

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> Federal Trio Programs – Home Page, U.S. Department of Education, Office of Postsecondary Education, <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/trio/index.html> (accessed March 7, 2011).

<sup>10</sup> U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations, “FY 2011 Continuing Resolution Reductions,” [http://appropriations.house.gov/\\_files/ProgramCutsFY2011ContinuingResolution.pdf](http://appropriations.house.gov/_files/ProgramCutsFY2011ContinuingResolution.pdf) (accessed March 7, 2011).

<sup>11</sup> Child Care Access Means Parents in School Program – Web Page, U.S. Department of Education, Office of Postsecondary Education, <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/campisp/funding.html> (accessed March 7, 2011).

<sup>12</sup> James R. Horney, Danilo Trisi and Arloc Sherman, March 1, 2011, “House Bill Means Fewer Children in Head Start, Less Help for Students to Attend College, Less Job Training, and Less Funding for Clean Water,” <http://www.cbpp.org/cms/index.cfm?fa=view&id=3405> (accessed March 7, 2011).

<sup>13</sup> “House CR Drastically Cuts Workforce Funding,” National Skills Coalition, <http://www.nationalskillscoalition.org/homepage-archive/house-cr-would-dramatically.html> (accessed March 7, 2011).

<sup>14</sup> James R. Horney, Danilo Trisi and Arloc Sherman, March 1, 2011, “House Bill Means Fewer Children in Head Start, Less Help for Students to Attend College, Less Job Training, and Less Funding for Clean Water,” <http://www.cbpp.org/cms/index.cfm?fa=view&id=3405> (accessed March 7, 2011).

<sup>15</sup> Programs – Web Page, U.S. Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance, <https://www.cfda.gov/index?s=program&mode=form&tab=step1&id=8b305079dda233f9ad667682b814de9> (accessed March 7, 2011).

<sup>16</sup> James R. Horney, Danilo Trisi and Arloc Sherman, March 1, 2011, “House Bill Means Fewer Children in Head Start, Less Help for Students to Attend College, Less Job Training, and Less Funding for Clean Water,” <http://www.cbpp.org/cms/index.cfm?fa=view&id=3405> (accessed March 7, 2011).

<sup>17</sup> Coalition on Human Needs, February 25, 2011, “A Better Budget for All: Saving Our Economy and Helping Those in Need,” <http://www.chn.org/pdf/2011/BetterBudget4AllReport.pdf> (accessed March 7, 2011).

<sup>18</sup> Ibid.