



Coalition on Homelessness  
and Housing in Ohio  
**COHHIO**

**NEWS ADVISORY**  
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## **Ohio Housing and Social Services Experts Oppose Bush Budget**

COLUMBUS - Out of concern for growing inequity of the federal tax cuts and for the increased burdens that will be placed on low-income Ohioans, COHHIO and members of the Ohio Federal Budget Coalition oppose President Bush's proposed 2008 budget, one that COHHIO Executive Director Bill Faith says "does real harm to programs that benefit low-income Ohioans."

The proposed HUD budget represents an eight percent decrease from the FY 07 funding levels. These cuts would be transferred in HUD's Ohio allocations, Faith said.

The budget also includes severe cuts to a variety of services including the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), the Head Start program, Food Stamps, low-income energy assistance and weatherization, child care, job training, and Medicare and Medicaid. The budget seeks to further cut services for average American families, including health care and education to pay for tax cuts for the very wealthy while failing to fix the Alternative Minimum Tax that affects more and more middle class families every year.

The savings that would be achieved by these cuts in each of the next five years would be less than the cost of the tax cuts just for households with incomes above \$1 million. In 2012, the President's budget would cut domestic programs by \$41 billion; the cost of tax cuts for households with incomes above \$1 million would be \$73 billion.

"In essence, the budget would use the resources from these cuts, which would affect millions of low- and middle-income families to defray a portion of the costs of the President's tax cuts, which provide very large tax benefits to the wealthiest families in the country," Faith said.

For response to the impact the proposed 2008 Federal budget would have on Ohio programs, please contact the following members of the Ohio Federal Budget Coalition, including:

**Food/Nutrition Implications:** Lisa Hamler Fugitt, Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks, 614-221-4336

*"In the President's State of the Union address just a few weeks ago, he emphasized a shared priority to keep Americans healthy, stressing, "Government has an obligation to care for the elderly, the disabled and poor children." Yet just two weeks later, his budget proposed to eliminate the Commodity Supplemental Food Program, which provides 45 pounds of monthly food packages to nearly 500,000 very low-income seniors -- impacting over 15,000 elderly Ohioans who are at nutritional risk. The President's budget is*

*misguided and will take the food off the plates of low-income Ohioans while giving further tax cuts to millionaires.”*

**Energy Implications:** David Rinebolt, Ohio Partners for Affordable Energy 614-975-8692

*“The Bush administration budget reduces funding for low-income energy assistance by 47 percent and weatherization by 27 percent. Too many families and children are suffering from the cold. If this stands, many more will choose between heating and eating.”*

**Health care implications:** Cathy Levine, UHCAN (Universal Health Care Action of Ohio), 614-456-0060

*“These Medicaid cuts will push thousands of children and vulnerable adults off health care coverage and into the ranks of the uninsured. While Ohio is uniting to expand coverage to over 1.3 million uninsured, the President is pulling the rug from under us.”*

**Tax Implications:** Ericka Thoms, The Center for Community Solutions, 216-781-2944

*“The President’s budget doesn’t reflect Ohio values and priorities and would intensify problems . . . Ohio would see over \$400 million less in federal funds thereby putting additional strain on an already strained state budget.”*

**Labor implications:** Jennifer Farmer, SEIU District 1199, 614-461-1199

*“From its extremely large tax cuts for the most affluent Americans, to its shifting of financial burdens to future generations, the President's budget is severely misguided. The budget is especially harmful for low- and middle-income Americans, who will be hardest hit by budget cuts in areas from education to protection of the environment and assistance to the poor.”*

**Implications for children:** Amy Swanson, Voices for Ohio’s Children, 216-881-7860

*“The State of Ohio continues to struggle to resolve its most pressing problems of school funding and health coverage to provide a better, more promising life for its citizens. Now, the president has proposed cutting these funds, leaving our state government holding the bag.”*

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