

Latinos and the Federal Budget: Don't Undercut Our Future

Like all Americans, Latinos' top concern is the health of our economy. If Congress deals recklessly with the federal budget, it could cause more job losses and permanent damage to children, vulnerable people, and our economy.

We urge Congress to stop the devastating automatic budget cuts due to hit on March 1. Any further deficit reduction should come from closing tax loopholes that benefit the top 2% and wealthy corporations, *not* by cutting federal programs that invest in Latino children and working families.

Key points

Rebuild the economy. The last thing we need after a recession is more spending cuts and tax increases that slow down the economy and put a drag on job creation. For Latinos, who still face a 10% unemployment rate in 2013, it is as if the recession never ended. Deficit reduction should occur when unemployment is low.

Stop the arbitrary automatic cuts to vital programs. If Congress insists on more deficit reduction this year, they should do it by closing tax loopholes that benefit the top 2% and wealthy corporations, *not* by cutting federal programs that invest in Hispanic children and working families.

Protect vulnerable people. Lawmakers should not use Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid as bargaining chips in budget negotiations. Latino seniors depend on these programs the most. Any changes to make programs more efficient should not hurt vulnerable people and working families.

Invest in the future. Making up one in four students enrolled in America's public schools, Latino children are our nation's future workers and taxpayers. Investing in quality education and health care will ensure the future prosperity of the entire country.

Impact on Latinos of automatic cuts to federal programs, effective March 1

Head Start—36% of Head Start preschoolers are Hispanic. Cuts would kick out 70,000 children, including 25,000 Latino kids.

Child Care Block Grant—20% of young children who receive a child care subsidy are Latino. Cuts mean that 52,000 fewer children nationwide will be served, including 10,500 Latino kids.

Education Title I—37% of Latino students attend a high-poverty public school. Cuts would eliminate extra help in reading and math for 1.2 million children.

Job Training—30% of all youth enrolled in federal job training programs are Latino. Cuts would eliminate job training services for 270,000 adults and youth.

Rental Assistance—15% of households receiving a rental subsidy are Hispanic. If cuts go through, 121,000 households, 18,000 of which are Latino, will lose tenant-based rental assistance.

Nutrition Assistance—42% of women and infant children (WIC) nutrition program participants are Latino. If cuts go through, 600,000 mothers and children would be dropped, including 250,000 Latinos.