



News Release

For Immediate Release

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President's Proposed Budget Eliminates Funding for Needed Programs

Westby, WI – Couleecap is dismayed that President Trump's proposed budget would have disastrous effects on people in our area. "In our four-county service area, 1 in 3 people are considered low income. When the President proposes to eliminate funding for these programs he is cutting the very programs many families in our local communities rely on," said Hetti Brown, Couleecap Executive Director.

For the second year in a row the Trump Administration has proposed the elimination of funding for programs such as:

- The Community Services Block Grant (CSBG), threatening the existence of about 1,000 local Community Action Agencies (CAAs) including Couleecap. Couleecap serves over 27,000 people each year in Crawford, La Crosse, Monroe, and Vernon counties. Elimination of CSBG funds would mean a reduction in Couleecap programs, services, and community education throughout our area.
- The Department of Energy's Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP). A program proven to cut energy bills and improve health for our country's poorest families. Last year Couleecap provided weatherization services to 224 homes. This program reduces families' energy bills by an average of 20 to 30 percent and has been shown to reduce health care costs for both program participants and insurers by improving family health outcomes primarily through the reduction of severity in respiratory conditions.
- The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) in Fiscal Year 2019 will put millions of the most vulnerable Americans at risk. In recent years, LIHEAP has helped over six million families stay warm and cool, and keep the lights on. Locally, Couleecap partners with County Human Service agencies to provide Furnace Emergency services. Since the beginning of the heating season in October 2017, Couleecap has received 209 referrals for emergency furnace repairs or replacement.



- The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) provides funds to local governments to address community needs such as neighborhood revitalization and home rehabilitation, homeless prevention and intervention, and economic development.

“These programs provide real assistance to local families,” said Brown. “We hear it daily, ‘Your program is a lifesaver’ and ‘I can’t thank you enough’. We know there is tremendous need in our community. Eliminating the very programs that help those in need is clearly not the direction in which our country should be heading.”

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About Couleecap

Couleecap, Inc. is a private non-profit 501c3 charitable organization. Couleecap helps people in need with housing, food, transportation, and more. Created in 1966, we are a community action program that fights poverty and promotes self-sufficiency in Crawford, La Crosse, Monroe, and Vernon counties. Learn more at www.couleecap.org.

