Congressional Research Service
Informing the legislative debate since 1914

Federal Benefits and Services for People with Low Income: Overview of Spending Trends, FY2008-FY2015

Updated July 29, 2016

Congressional Research Service
https://crsreports.congress.gov
R44574

CRS REPORT
Prepared for Members and
Committees of Congress

Summary

The Congressional Research Service (CRS) regularly receives requests about the number, size, and programmatic details of federal benefits and services targeted toward low-income populations. This report is the most recent in a series that attempts to identify and discuss such programs, focusing on aggregate spending trends. The report looks at federal low-income spending from FY2008 (at the onset of the 2007-2009 recession) through FY2015 (after implementation of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, or ACA).

Programs discussed here provide health care, cash aid, food assistance, education, housing and development, social services, employment and training, and energy assistance to low-income people and communities. Despite the common feature of an explicit low-income focus, these programs are extremely diverse in their purpose, design, and target population. They do not include social insurance (e.g., Social Security, Medicare, Unemployment Compensation), which is meant to be universal, or tax provisions, with the exception of two targeted tax credits.

Key findings include the following:

- In nominal dollars (not adjusted for inflation), federal spending for low-income assistance programs grew from $561 billion in FY2008 to $848 billion in FY2015, a 51% increase over the eight-year period.
- This increased spending occurred in two distinct episodes. First, after a sharp spike in FY2009 affecting all categories of benefits and services, low-income spending peaked at $763 billion in FY2011, largely in response to the recession. The second episode was driven almost entirely by health care. Spending growth from FY2013 ($744 billion) to FY2015 ($848 billion) was primarily due to the ACA Medicaid expansion.
- Most low-income spending is for noncash benefits and services; health care is the largest category and Medicaid the largest individual program. In FY2015, noncash benefits and services accounted for 82% of all low-income assistance and cash aid comprised 18%. Health care dominates federal spending for low-income programs, accounting for more than half (52%) of such spending in FY2015. Medicaid alone comprised 45% of all low-income spending that year.
- This report identifies a large number of programs intended to assist low-income people, but spending is concentrated among a few. The four largest programs—Medicaid, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Supplemental Security Income, and the Earned Income Tax Credit—together accounted for 68% of all low-income spending in FY2015, and the top 10 programs comprised 83%. After the top four, these programs include (in descending size) Federal Pell Grants, the Medicare Part D Low-Income Drug Subsidy, the Additional Child Tax Credit, Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, and Title I-A Education for the Disadvantaged grants.
- Spending patterns described here do not reflect congressional decisions about the aggregate size of low-income spending that should occur each year. The size of each program is a function of its design and budgetary classification (mandatory versus discretionary), congressional budget and appropriations processes, external influences affecting the cost of goods and services, and other factors. This report tells a story—that low-income spending has grown sharply in recent years and is dominated by health care—but given the diversity among programs that serve low-income people, further generalizations should be made with care.

Contents

Introduction 1
Important Caveats 2
Trends in Low-Income Spending, FY2008-FY2015 3
Overall 3
By Category 5
The 10 Largest Programs 7
The Dominance of Health Care 13
Are ACA Premium Credits and Subsidies "Low-Income" Benefits? 13
Trends in Non-health Care Low-Income Spending, FY2008-FY2015 14
Overall 15
By Category 15
Conclusion 16

Figures

Figure 1. Federal Spending on Low-Income Benefits and Services, ARRA and Non-ARRA, FY2008-FY2015 4
Figure 2. Federal Spending on Low-Income Benefits and Services, by Category, FY2008-FY2015 6
Figure 3. Percentage of Federal Spending on Low-Income Benefits and Services, by Category, FY2015 7
Figure 4. Federal Spending on Low-Income Benefits and Services, by Size of Program, FY2015 8
Figure 5. Federal Spending on Low-Income Non-health Benefits and Services, by Category, FY2008-FY2015 15

Tables

Table 1. Federal Spending on Low-Income Benefits and Services, by Category, FY2008-FY2013 4
Table 2. Percentage of Federal Spending on Low-Income Benefits and Services, by Category, FY2008-FY2015 6
Table 3. Federal Spending on the 10 Largest Low-Income Programs, FY2008-FY2015 9
Table 4. Key Features of the 10 Largest Programs 12
Table 5. Percentage of Federal Spending on Low-Income Non-health Benefits and Services, by Category, FY2008-FY2015 16

Table B-1. Individual Programs Included in This Report's Spending Totals 24
Table B-2. Federal Spending on Low-Income Benefits and Services, by Program and Budgetary Classification, FY2008-FY2015 32
Table B-3. Target Populations and Concepts Used to Determine Individual Income Eligibility Criteria and/or Target Federal Resources, by Program 39

Table B-4. Types of Grants or Awards, and Eligible Immediate Grantees or Beneficiaries, by Program 47

Appendixes

Appendix A. Methodology 19
Appendix B. Detailed Program Tables 23
Appendix C. Related Reading 54

Contacts

Author Information 55
Acknowledgments 55

Introduction

Federal programs intended to help poor and low-income people are of ongoing interest to Congress. The federal government spends billions of dollars annually on a wide range of low-income benefits and services and lawmakers routinely conduct oversight and consider legislation related to these programs. Deliberations typically focus on individual programs or their overarching authorizing laws. However, Members and staff also look at low-income policy broadly and have questions about low-income programs and spending *in the aggregate*. For example, how much does the federal government spend altogether each year on programs specifically intended for low-income people? How has this spending changed over time? How is spending allocated among various categories of low-income benefits and services? These questions may appear straightforward but their answers are complex.

This is the third in a series of CRS reports that address these questions.[1] The first task—seemingly simple but in fact highly challenging—was to identify which federal activities can be characterized as "low-income" programs; that is, programs that are not intended to be universal but that specifically target benefits or services toward low-income people or communities. A second task was to identify a consistent and reliable source of spending data, so that dollar amounts for individual programs could be meaningfully combined and compared. Finally, programs were grouped into categories (e.g., health care, cash aid, food assistance, etc.), a relatively straightforward process for most programs but more complicated for those with multiple purposes. **Appendix A** explains how CRS addressed these challenges.

This report focuses primarily on spending trends, both overall and by category. The report includes some limited programmatic details; however, previous versions provide more extensive information on the specifics of each program included in the spending totals.[2]

The report begins with a discussion of aggregate trends in low-income spending from FY2008 through FY2015. It then looks at trends by category and in the 10 largest low-income programs (which now comprise more than 80% of total low-income spending). Medicaid is the single largest program discussed in the report, and health care is the largest category (due to the size of Medicaid). The report briefly discusses the dominance of health care and explains the decision not to include spending for premium credits and cost-sharing subsidies under the ACA.[3] The report continues with a description of trends in spending for *non-health* low-income programs, both overall and by category. A series of appendices explains the methodology used for the report (**Appendix A**), provides spending and limited information for each of the programs included (**Appendix B**), and identifies additional reports that might be of interest (**Appendix C**).

Key findings appear in the Summary, immediately before the table of contents.

[1] The first two reports in the series are CRS Report R41625, *Federal Benefits and Services for People with Low Income: Programs, Policy, and Spending, FY2008-FY2009*, by Karen Spar; and CRS Report R43863, *Federal Benefits and Services for People with Low Income: Programs and Spending, FY2008-FY2013*, by Karen Spar and Gene Falk.

[2] See footnote 1. Both earlier reports include brief overviews of the categories and short fact sheets on each included program; see CRS Report R43863 for the most recent information. Also see **Table B-1** for links to program-specific CRS reports.

[3] FY2014 was the first year for such spending under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA, P.L. 111-148, as amended). Although spending for premium credits and cost-sharing subsidies is not included here, the report does include spending under the ACA Medicaid expansion.

Important Caveats

To draw accurate conclusions from the information in this report, readers should know the following:

- Programs included here are not *social insurance*. That term refers to programs intended to insure Americans against the loss of wages and work-related benefits due to retirement, disability, or temporary unemployment (e.g., Social Security, Medicare, Unemployment Insurance). Social insurance benefits are generally entitlements earned through work, financed largely through contributions from employers and employees. Social insurance plays a key antipoverty role but its benefits are meant to be universal and not restricted to those with low incomes.
- Programs in this report cannot be collectively characterized as *welfare*. Welfare is typically thought of as government assistance to help poor people pay for necessities such as food, shelter, and medical care. As defined in this report, low-income programs are much broader, including in-kind benefits and such activities as education, social services, and community development, among others.[4]
- While most of the largest programs in this report are *open-ended entitlements*, which entitle all eligible people to be served, the overwhelming majority are *discretionary* and serve only a portion of the potentially eligible population, subject to the availability of appropriations.
- Key target populations for low-income programs, including most of the largest, are the *elderly, disabled*, and *families with children*. A separate CRS analysis found that two groups—families with children and families with a disabled member—accounted for 78% of the dollars received in FY2012 from nine large low-income programs.[5] Other target populations for programs included here are veterans, students, homeless people, refugees, and Indians.
- Low-income does not necessarily mean *poor*, as the federal government officially defines that term. Programs in this report use a variety of criteria to determine eligibility, including multiples of the official federal poverty guidelines and other measures altogether. Some programs target assistance toward low-income communities, with no income eligibility test for participating individuals.[6] However, again looking at nine large programs in FY2012, CRS found that both the likelihood of benefit receipt and the amount of benefits received were highest among households with the lowest incomes.[7]

---

[4] See **Appendix B** for a list of all programs included in the spending totals discussed in this report.

[5] See CRS Report R44327, *Need-Tested Benefits: Estimated Eligibility and Benefit Receipt by Families and Individuals*, by Gene Falk et al. The nine programs examined did not include Medicaid. Programs included were the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Earned Income Tax Credit, Supplemental Security Income, Housing Assistance (Section 8 and Public Housing), Additional Child Tax Credit, Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC), cash aid under Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, Child Care and Development Fund, and Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program.

[6] For a discussion of measures and concepts used in low-income programs to determine eligibility and target resources to low-income communities, see the sections titled "Defining Individual Eligibility for Benefits and Services" and "Targeting Federal Resources According to Need" in CRS Report R41625, *Federal Benefits and Services for People with Low Income: Programs, Policy, and Spending, FY2008-FY2009*, by Karen Spar.

[7] See footnote 5.

- While this report discusses trends in *federal* spending, a significant amount of *non-federal* spending (primarily state and local) is also associated with some of the programs included here.[8] Thus, amounts discussed do not reflect all *public* spending for low-income programs.
- Unless noted otherwise, all spending amounts cited in this report are nominal dollars and not adjusted for inflation.

Trends in Low-Income Spending, FY2008-FY2015

The following sections discuss trends in federal low-income spending overall, by category, and for the 10 largest programs. As noted above, "low-income" spending is defined here to include spending only for programs that are explicitly targeted on people or communities with low incomes. In general, spending refers to obligations (as explained in **Appendix A**).

Overall

The eight-year period under review—FY2008 through FY2015—starts just before the "Great Recession" of 2007-2009.[9] The national unemployment rate stood at 4.7% in the first month of this period and more than doubled two years later, reaching a peak of 10% in October 2009.[10] The rate then gradually declined and by the last month of the period under review, September 2015, unemployment was down to 5.1%. The poverty rate also increased from 2008 (13.2%) and peaked in 2010 (15.1%). However, unlike the unemployment rate, poverty declined only slightly from its peak and remained at 14.8% in 2014 (most recent year for which data are available).[11]

Federal spending for low-income programs totaled $561 billion in FY2008 and spiked to $707 billion the following year, as the recession took hold. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA, P.L. 111-5)[12] responded to the economic downturn with an infusion of cash and contributed nearly 60% of the increased spending on low-income programs between FY2008 and FY2009 (see **Figure 1**). Low-income program caseloads also grew during that period as unemployment rose and incomes declined, making more people eligible for low-income benefits.

Federal low-income spending continued to grow and eventually peaked at $764 billion in FY2011. It fell to $724 billion in FY2012 but never returned to pre-recession levels,[13] and it ticked up again in FY2013 ($744 billion). Spending rose sharply in both FY2014 ($794 billion) and FY2015 ($848 billion), largely due to the Medicaid expansion included in the Patient

[8] For a brief description of non-federal spending in federal low-income programs, see the section titled "Matching and Related Requirements" in CRS Report R41625, *Federal Benefits and Services for People with Low Income: Programs, Policy, and Spending, FY2008-FY2009*, by Karen Spar.

[9] The National Bureau of Economic Research dates the recession as starting in December 2007 and ending in June 2009.

[10] Bureau of Labor Statistics, Labor Force Statistics from the Current Population Survey, http://data.bls.gov/timeseries/LNS14000000. Unemployment data are provided for context about the time-period reviewed in the report; however, readers are reminded that Unemployment Insurance is a form of universal social insurance and not included in the numbers or discussion in this report.

[11] See CRS Report R44211, *Poverty in the United States in 2014: In Brief*, by Joseph Dalaker.

[12] For an overview of ARRA, see CRS Report R40537, *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (P.L. 111-5): Summary and Legislative History*, by Clinton T. Brass et al..

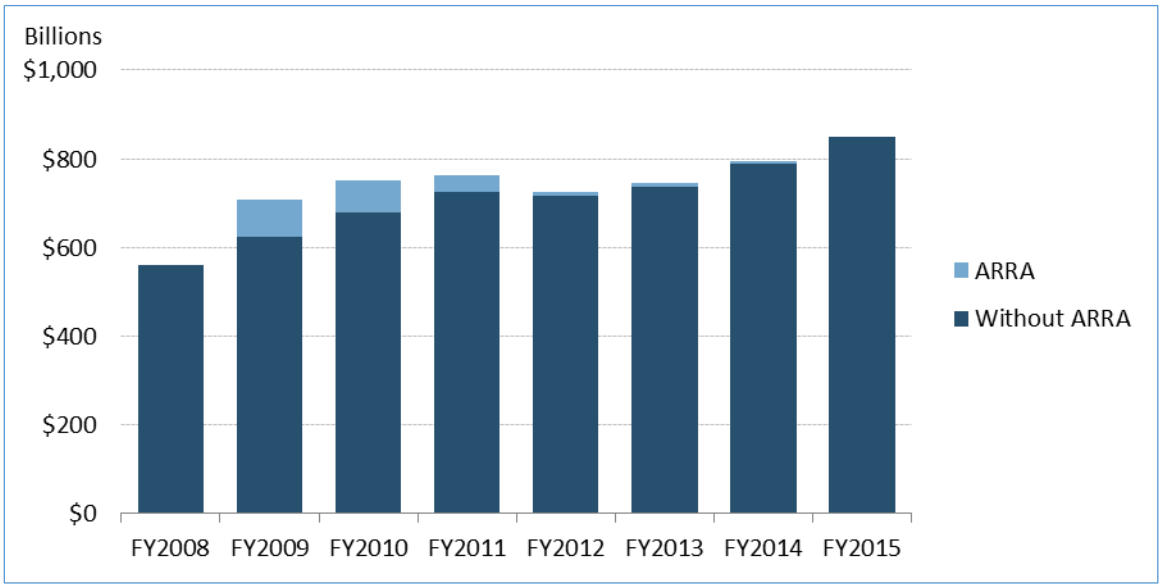
[13] This remains true even when adjusting dollars for inflation. In current (FY2015) dollars, spending for low-income programs would have totaled $623 billion in FY2008 and exceeded that amount in every subsequent year through FY2015.

Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA, P.L. 111-148, as amended), which took effect in FY2014.

Overall, spending on low-income programs in nominal dollars was 51% higher in FY2015 than in FY2008. FY2015 spending was 11% higher than the initial post-recession peak in FY2011, and it was almost 14% higher than in FY2013 just before the ACA Medicaid expansion took effect (see **Table 1**).

Figure 1. Federal Spending on Low-Income Benefits and Services, ARRA and Non-ARRA, FY2008-FY2015

(nominal dollars in billions)



Source: Prepared by the Congressional Research Service (CRS) from obligations data contained in the U.S. Budget Appendix for each of FY2010-FY2017. See **Appendix A** for additional details.

Note: ARRA = American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, P.L. 111-5,

Table 1. Federal Spending on Low-Income Benefits and Services, by Category, FY2008-FY2013

(nominal dollars in billions)

Categories	FY2008	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015
Health Care	$259	$319	$347	$352	$328	$344	$389	$444
Cash Aid	116	130	145	149	142	150	155	155
Food Assistance	59	78	94	101	105	107	102	103
Education	42	58	59	67	59	55	54	52
Housing and Development	40	60	52	46	44	41	45	45
Social Services	36	44	40	37	37	37	38	39
Employment and Training	6	9	8	6	6	6	6	6
Energy Assistance	3	10	6	5	4	3	4	4

Categories	FY2008	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015
Non-health Categories, Subtotal	*302*	*388*	*403*	*411*	*396*	*400*	*404*	*404*
Total	**561**	**707**	**750**	**764**	**724**	**744**	**794**	**848**

Source: Prepared by the Congressional Research Service (CRS) from obligations data contained in the U.S. Budget Appendix for each of FY2010-FY2017. See **Appendix A** for additional details and **Table B-2** for individual program amounts.

By Category

Health care dominates federal spending for low-income programs, accounting for nearly half of such spending each year from FY2008 through FY2014 and more than half (52%) in FY2015 (see **Table 2**). Given its size, health care spending largely drives the pattern for low-income spending overall; however, the pattern is not necessarily the same in all eight years for all other categories of benefits and services (see **Figure 2**).

As shown in **Table 1**, spending for low-income health programs totaled $259 billion in FY2008 and jumped to $319 billion the following year. Health care spending initially peaked in FY2011 at $352 billion and dropped to $328 billion in FY2012. However, spending in this category resumed its upward climb the next year and eventually reached $444 billion in FY2015.

Cash aid trails far behind health care but has consistently been the second largest category of spending during the years covered in this report, rising steadily (except for a one-year drop in FY2012) from $116 billion in FY2008 to $155 billion in FY2015. However, the share of low-income spending devoted to cash aid in FY2015 (18%) was down slightly from most previous years, when it hovered at or near 20%.

The third largest category—food assistance—totaled $103 billion in FY2015, just below its FY2013 peak of $107 billion but significantly higher than its pre-recession level of $59 billion in FY2008. As a share of all low-income spending, food assistance accounted for 12% in FY2015, up from 10.5% in FY2008 but below its peak share of 14.5% in FY2012.

Both in dollar size and as a percentage of all low-income spending, the five remaining categories are dwarfed by the three largest (see **Figure 3**). While obligations for each of these categories were higher in FY2015 than in FY2008, they all saw even higher spending levels in some of the intervening years, primarily as a result of ARRA. Moreover, each of the bottom five categories consumed a smaller share of total low-income spending in FY2015 than in FY2008.

It is noteworthy that total federal obligations for low-income programs ticked upward in FY2013, which was the first year affected by sequestration under the Budget Control Act of 2011 (BCA, P.L. 112-25). Many of the large mandatory low-income programs are exempt from sequestration and tend to be in the top three categories (health care, cash aid, and food assistance), which all saw increased spending between FY2012 and FY2013.[14] However, the bottom five categories largely include programs that are discretionary and more likely to be reduced by sequestration. In fact, these categories all saw somewhat lower spending in FY2013. (See "The Dominance of Health Care" for additional discussion of health care spending and "Trends in Non-health Care Low-Income Spending, FY2008-FY2015" for discussion of the other categories.)

[14] None of the 10 largest programs included in this report are subject to sequestration under the BCA except Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers and Title I-A Education for the Disadvantaged Grants. See (archived) CRS Report R42050, *Budget "Sequestration" and Selected Program Exemptions and Special Rules*, coordinated by Karen Spar.

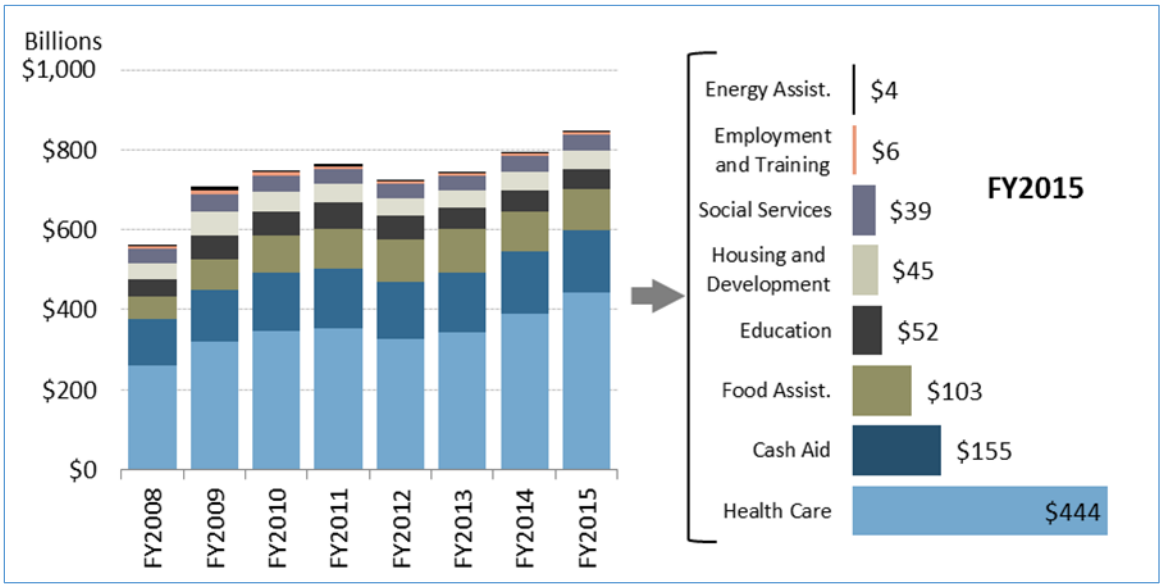
Table 2. Percentage of Federal Spending on Low-Income Benefits and Services, by Category, FY2008-FY2015

Categories	FY2008	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015
Health Care	46.2%	45.1%	46.3%	46.1%	45.3%	46.2%	49.0%	52.4%
Cash Aid	20.7	18.3	19.4	19.5	19.7	20.2	19.6	18.2
Food Assistance	10.5	11.0	12.5	13.3	14.5	14.4	12.9	12.2
Education	7.5	8.2	7.8	8.7	8.1	7.4	6.8	6.2
Housing and Development	7.1	8.5	6.9	6.0	6.1	5.6	5.7	5.3
Social Services	6.4	6.2	5.3	4.8	5.1	4.9	4.8	4.6
Employment and Training	1.1	1.2	1.0	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8
Energy Assistance	0.5	1.5	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.4
Non-health Categories, Subtotal	*53.8*	*54.9*	*53.7*	*53.9*	*54.7*	*53.8*	*51.0*	*47.6*
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**

Source: Prepared by the Congressional Research Service (CRS) from obligations data contained in the U.S. Budget Appendix for each of FY2010-FY2017. See **Appendix A** for additional details.

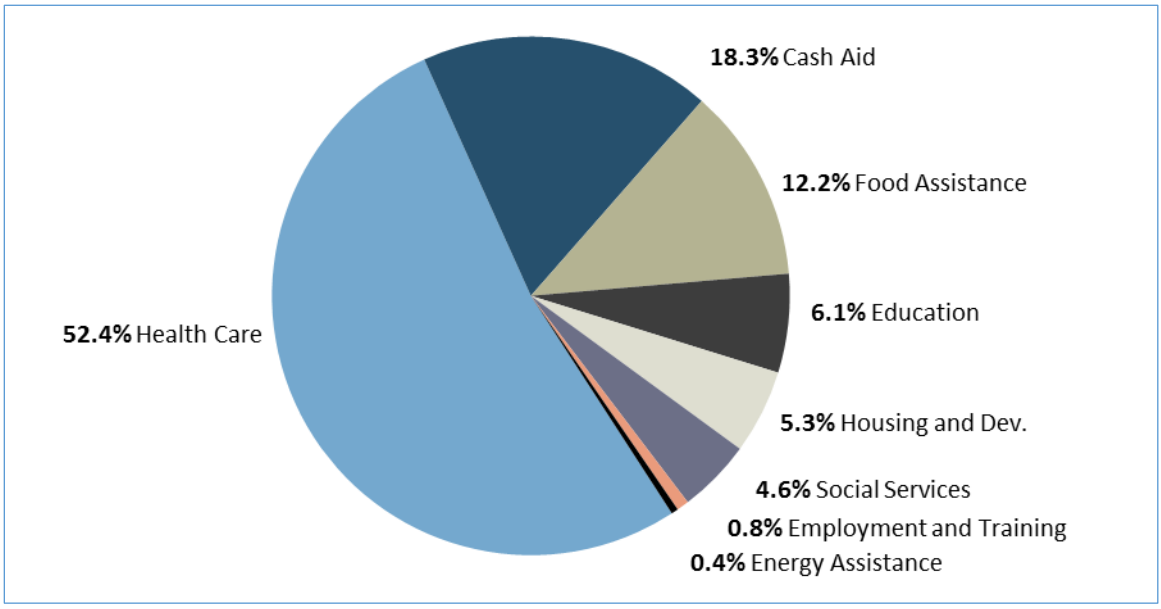
Figure 2. Federal Spending on Low-Income Benefits and Services, by Category, FY2008-FY2015

(nominal dollars in billions)



Source: Prepared by the Congressional Research Service (CRS) from obligations data contained in the U.S. Budget Appendix for each of FY2010-FY2017. See **Appendix A** for additional details.

Figure 3. Percentage of Federal Spending on Low-Income Benefits and Services, by Category, FY2015



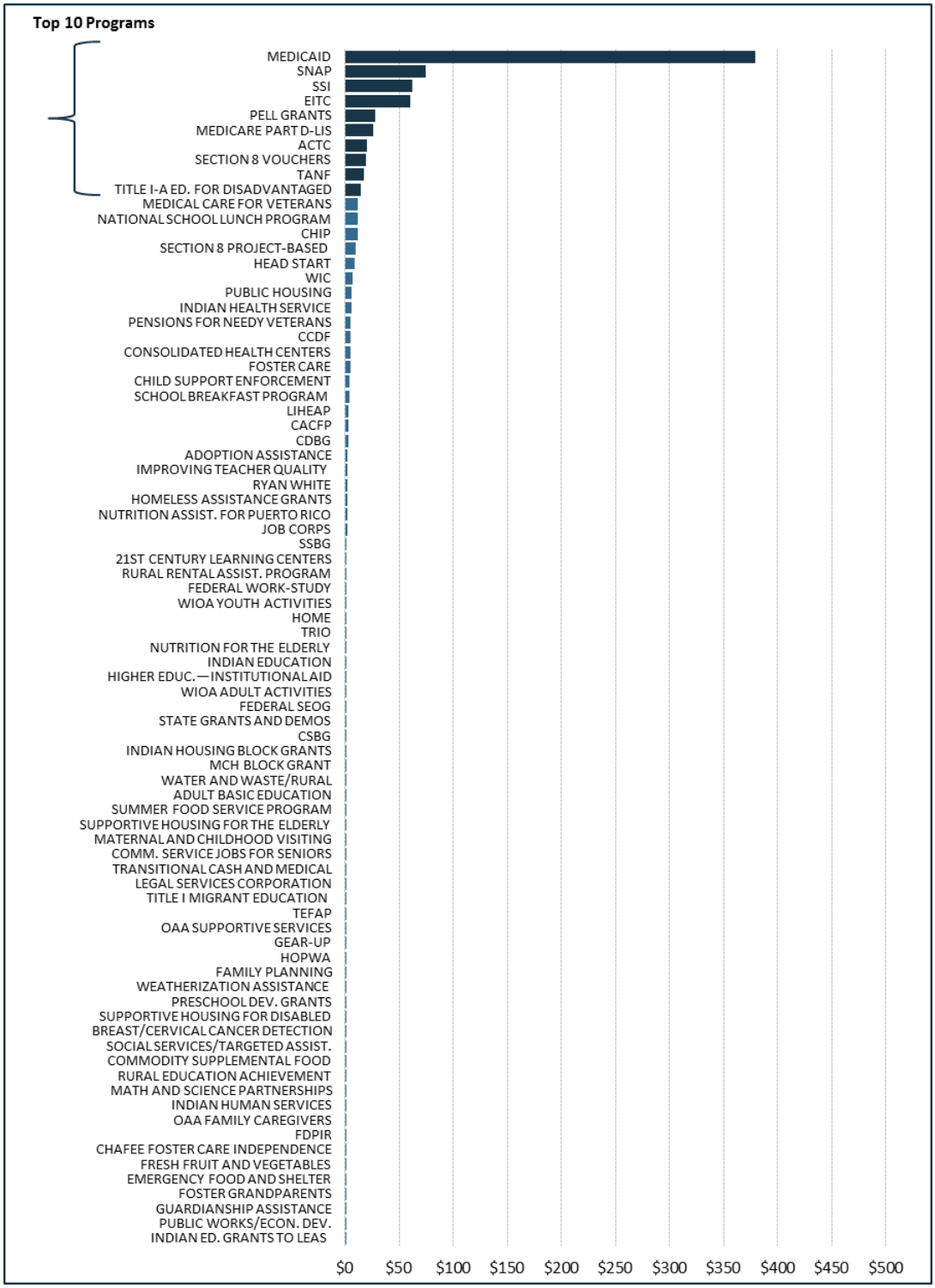
Source: Prepared by the Congressional Research Service (CRS) from obligations data contained in the U.S. Budget Appendix for each of FY2010-FY2017. See **Appendix A** for additional details.

The 10 Largest Programs

This report covers a large number of programs within the categories shown above. It is important to note that only a few programs account for the vast majority of federal low-income spending (see **Figure 4**) and the dominance of these programs is growing. In FY2015, the four largest programs accounted for 68% of all low-income obligations, up from 61% in FY2008; the top 10 programs comprised nearly 83% in FY2015, compared to more than 78% in FY2008. The single largest program—Medicaid—alone accounted for almost 45% of all low-income spending in FY2015, an increase from 38% in FY2008 (see **Table 3**).

Figure 4. Federal Spending on Low-Income Benefits and Services, by Size of Program, FY2015

(nominal dollars in billions)



Source: Prepared by the Congressional Research Service (CRS) from obligations data contained in the U.S. Budget Appendix for each of FY2010-FY2017. See **Appendix A** for additional details.

Table 3. Federal Spending on the 10 Largest Low-Income Programs, FY2008-FY2015

(nominal dollars in billions)

Program	FY2008	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015
Medicaid	$214.0	$265.1	$290.5	$295.8	$270.9	$286.9	$329.0	$378.9
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)	$37.5	$53.8	$68.5	$75.3	$78.2	$79.7	$74.1	$74.2
Supplemental Security Income	$48.9	$52.4	$54.5	$59.9	$53.8	$59.8	$62.2	$62.1
Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) (refundable component)	$40.6	$42.4	$54.7	$55.7	$54.9	$57.5	$60.1	$60.1
Top Four, Subtotal	**$341.1**	**$413.7**	**$468.2**	**$486.6**	**$457.7**	**$483.9**	**$525.4**	**$575.3**
Top Four as Percentage of Total Low-Income Spending	**60.8%**	**58.5%**	**62.4%**	**63.7%**	**63.2%**	**65.0%**	**66.2%**	**67.8%**
Medicaid as Percentage of Total Low-Income Spending	**38.1%**	**37.5%**	**38.7%**	**38.7%**	**37.4%**	**38.6%**	**41.5%**	**44.7%**
Federal Pell Grants	$18.0	$26.0	$32.9	$41.5	$34.3	$31.9	$29.8	$28.2
Voluntary Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit—Low-Income Subsidy	$18.1	$19.6	$21.1	$22.2	$22.5	$23.2	$24.3	$25.8
Additional Child Tax Credit (refundable portion)	$16.7	$24.3	$22.7	$22.7	$22.1	$21.6	$21.5	$20.6
Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers	$15.6	$16.3	$18.1	$18.5	$18.3	$17.9	$19.2	$19.3
TANF	$17.5	$18.8	$21.6	$17.3	$17.3	$17.3	$17.3	$17.4
Education for the Disadvantaged—Grants to Local Educational Agencies (Title I-A)	$13.4	$21.5	$14.5	$14.5	$14.5	$13.8	$14.4	$14.4

Program	FY2008	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015
Top 10, Total	**$440.2**	**$540.1**	**$599.1**	**$623.2**	**$586.8**	**$609.6**	**$651.9**	**$701.0**
Top 10 as Percentage of Total Low-Income Spending	**78.4%**	**76.4%**	**79.9%**	**81.6%**	**81.0%**	**81.9%**	**82.1%**	**82.7%**

Source: Prepared by the Congressional Research Service (CRS) from obligations data contained in U.S. Budget Appendix for each of FY2010-FY2017. See **Appendix A** for additional details. See "Total" row in **Table 1** for "Total Low-Income Spending" amounts for each fiscal year.

Notes: Amounts shown for TANF include obligations in the following categories: cash aid, social services, and employment and training. Amounts shown for SNAP include obligations primarily in the food assistance category but also include obligations in the employment and training category.

Medicaid spending spiked between FY2008 and FY2009, growing by almost 24% that year alone. More people had become eligible for Medicaid as a result of the economic downturn, and the economic stimulus law (ARRA) temporarily increased the federal share of state Medicaid expenditures.[15] Medicaid spending continued to climb in both FY2010 and FY2011 but dropped in FY2012 as the enhanced federal matching rate under ARRA was phased out. Most recently, the ACA gave states the option of expanding Medicaid to a broader population with a higher federal matching rate,[16] and spending subsequently rose sharply in both FY2014 and FY2015.[17] Federal Medicaid obligations in FY2015 totaled $379 billion, a 77% increase from FY2008 ($214 billion).

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as food stamps) is the second largest program discussed in this report and saw the largest growth rate of any of the top 10 programs; SNAP nearly doubled in size from FY2008 ($38 billion) to FY2015 ($74 billion). The recession of 2007-2009 brought new applicants to the program, and ARRA temporarily expanded SNAP benefits.[18] SNAP spending peaked in FY2013 at almost $80 billion.

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) is the third largest program included here. SSI grew by almost 27% during the period under review, with spending of $62 billion in FY2015 compared to $49 billion in FY2008. However, among the four largest low-income programs SSI saw the slowest rate of growth over the FY2008-FY2015 period.

Rounding out the top four programs is the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), which grew by almost 48% between FY2008 ($41 billion) and FY2015 ($60 billion). ARRA included two temporary expansions of the EITC (i.e., a larger credit for families with three or more children, and an increase in the income level at which benefits phase out for married couples with

[15] See Table B-1 in CRS Report R43847, *Medicaid's Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP)*, by Alison Mitchell.

[16] Under the ACA Medicaid expansion, states receive an enhanced federal matching rate resulting in the federal government paying the vast majority of costs associated with the expansion. For FY2014 and FY2015, states received a 100% federal matching rate for the cost of individuals who were newly eligible for Medicaid due to the expansion.

[17] See CRS In Focus IF10399, *Overview of the ACA Medicaid Expansion*, by Alison Mitchell. Although the ACA Medicaid expansion was the main reason for the large growth in Medicaid spending, the so-called "woodwork effect" also contributed to increased spending within Medicaid. This is the term for uninsured individuals who are eligible for Medicaid without the expansion but who decide to enroll in the program due to increased media attention and outreach efforts associated with the ACA. See CRS Report R42640, *Medicaid Financing and Expenditures*, by Alison Mitchell.

[18] See CRS Report R41374, *Reducing SNAP (Food Stamp) Benefits Provided by the ARRA: P.L. 111-226 and P.L. 111-296*, by Randy Alison Aussenberg, Jim Monke, and Gene Falk.

children). These expansions were extended several times after ARRA and made permanent in December 2015 (P.L. 114-113).[19]

The next four programs in the top 10 begin with Pell Grants, which grew by 56% between FY2008 ($18 billion) and FY2015 ($28 billion). However, obligations for Pell Grants actually peaked in FY2011 at $42 billion and subsequently declined to the FY2015 level. ARRA provided short-term supplemental funding for Pell Grants in FY2009 and FY2010,[20] and significant programmatic changes were enacted over the years that affected the size of the program.[21]

The next programs, in descending size based on FY2015 obligations, are the Medicare Part D low-income drug subsidy, which rose steadily over the period and was 43% larger in FY2015 ($26 billion) than in FY2008 ($17 billion); the Additional Child Tax Credit (ACTC), which saw spending grow by 23% over the period, from $17 billion in FY2008 to $21 billion in FY2015 (although ACTC spending actually peaked in FY2009 at $24 billion); and Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers, which grew by 24% (from $16 billion in FY2008 to $19 billion in FY2015).

The final two programs in the top 10 are Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and Education for the Disadvantaged Grants to Local Educational Agencies (Title I-A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act). TANF is the only one of the top 10 programs for which spending declined by the end of the FY2008-FY2015 period; in nominal dollars, TANF obligations declined from $17.5 billion to $17.4 billion. TANF spending was highest in FY2009 and FY2010 ($19 billion and $22 billion, respectively) as a result of additional funds provided through ARRA for basic assistance, emergency aid, and employment-related activities under TANF.[22] Title I-A education grants grew from $13 billion in FY2008 to $14 billion in FY2015. This program also saw a short-term spike in funding as a result of ARRA, and totaled $21.5 billion in FY2009.[23]

Among the 10 largest programs, seven are funded by mandatory spending. Of those seven, all but one are open-ended entitlements to individuals, which means their spending levels are determined by how many people are eligible and apply for the program, regardless of the number, rather than a fixed amount that is specified for the program and then apportioned among participants. One mandatory program—TANF—is a capped entitlement to states (rather than to individuals), which means that states are entitled to receive a fixed amount each year that is established in the authorizing law. The remaining three programs are discretionary, with funding determined annually by Congress through the appropriations process.

Table 4 provides an overview of key features of each of the 10 largest programs.

[19] See CRS Report R43805, *The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC): An Overview*, by Gene Falk and Margot L. Crandall-Hollick.

[20] See CRS Report R40151, *Funding for Education in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (P.L. 111-5)*, by Rebecca R. Skinner, David P. Smole, and Ann Lordeman.

[21] See CRS Report R42446, *Federal Pell Grant Program of the Higher Education Act: How the Program Works and Recent Legislative Changes*, by Cassandria Dortch.

[22] See CRS Report R41078, *The TANF Emergency Contingency Fund*, by Gene Falk.

[23] See CRS Report R40151, *Funding for Education in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (P.L. 111-5)*, by Rebecca R. Skinner, David P. Smole, and Ann Lordeman.

Table 4. Key Features of the 10 Largest Programs

Program	Key Features
Medicaid	• Mandatory spending, open-ended. • Serves elderly, disabled, families with children, and (in certain states) nonelderly nondisabled adults. • Uses federal poverty guidelines to determine eligibility, automatic eligibility for certain groups. • Formula grant to states; cost-sharing formula determines federal share.
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program	• Mandatory spending, open-ended. • Serves low-income households; limits participation of able-bodied adults without dependents. • Uses federal poverty guidelines to determine eligibility, automatic eligibility for certain groups. • Direct benefits to individuals; matching grants to states for administrative costs. • Benefits adjusted annually for inflation
Supplemental Security Income	• Mandatory spending, open-ended. • Serves elderly and disabled. • Sets specific dollar thresholds for eligibility. • Direct benefits to individuals; states may supplement federal payment. • Benefits adjusted annually for inflation.
Earned Income Tax Credit	• Mandatory spending, open-ended. • Serves workers with earnings; largest benefits for families with children. • Phases out benefits at specific dollar thresholds. • Direct benefits to individuals. • Maximum benefit phase-out thresholds adjusted annually for inflation.
Pell Grants	• Discretionary and open-ended mandatory components. • Serves postsecondary students. • No individual income eligibility threshold; benefits based on available resources and cost of education ("need analysis" system). • Direct benefits to individuals.
Medicare Part D, Low-Income Subsidy	• Mandatory spending, open-ended. • Serves elderly and disabled Medicare beneficiaries. • Uses federal poverty guidelines to determine eligibility, automatic eligibility for certain groups. • Direct benefits to individuals.
Additional Child Tax Credit	• Mandatory spending, open-ended. • Serves families with children. • Phases out benefits at specific dollar thresholds. • Direct benefits to individuals.
Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers	• Discretionary spending. • Serves families, with priorities defined by local public housing authorities. • Uses income limits based on local area median income to determine eligibility. • Formula grants to local public housing authorities; allocations based on use and cost of vouchers (voucher costs largely driven by family income and market rents).

Program	Key Features
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families	• Mandatory spending, capped. • Serves families with children. • States set their own eligibility criteria. • Formula grants to states; national total and state allocations based on historical expenditures (early to mid-1990s) under predecessor program.
Title I-A Education for the Disadvantaged	• Discretionary spending. • Serves students in schools with high concentrations of low-income students. • No individual income eligibility determination; students need not be low-income. • Formula grants to local educational agencies; uses population-based and other allocation factors.

Source: Prepared by the Congressional Research Service (CRS).

The Dominance of Health Care

Health care dominates federal low-income spending, as shown. This category consumed about 45%-46% of all low-income spending from FY2008 through FY2013, and its share jumped to 49% in FY2014 and 52% in FY2015. Almost two-thirds (65%) of all new low-income spending between FY2008 and FY2015 was for health care. However, one single program—Medicaid—explains the dominance of the health care category; Medicaid comprised almost 83% of low-income health spending in FY2008 and 85% in FY2015.

In addition to Medicaid, only one other health care program is included among the 10 largest examined in this report. That program is the Medicare Part D low-income drug subsidy, which is the 6th largest program but a fraction (about 7%) of the size of Medicaid. Spending for this program was higher in nominal dollars in FY2015 than in FY2008, but its share of health spending had declined slightly, from nearly 7% in FY2008 to less than 6% in FY2015. In fact, as Medicaid consumed a greater share of low-income health spending over the period, most programs in the category saw their share decline, even as nominal spending amounts increased. Exceptions were Consolidated Health Centers and the State Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), both of which increased slightly as a share of low-income health spending. Two programs saw slight decreases in obligations: both Family Planning and the Maternal and Child Health Block Grant had lower spending in FY2015 than they had in FY2008. Remaining programs in the health care category include Medical Care for Veterans without Service-Connected Disabilities, the Indian Health Service, the Ryan White HIV/AIDS program, and several smaller programs.

Are ACA Premium Credits and Subsidies "Low-Income" Benefits?

A primary goal of the ACA was to increase access to health care. Among other things, the law requires individuals to maintain health insurance coverage or pay a fine for noncompliance (a provision known as the individual mandate). To help make the purchase of insurance affordable, the law provides subsidies to eligible individuals. Depending on their income and other factors, individuals without access to subsidized health insurance may be eligible for premium tax credits and cost-sharing subsidies.[24] Both the individual mandate and the subsidies took effect in 2014.

[24] See CRS Report R44425, *Eligibility and Determination of Health Insurance Premium Tax Credits and Cost-Sharing Subsidies: In Brief*, by Bernadette Fernandez.

The ACA premium tax credit is refundable, which means up to the full amount can be claimed by an eligible individual who owes little or no federal income tax. It may be applied only toward the cost of purchasing a private health plan through a health insurance exchange. In addition, cost-sharing subsidies may reduce cost-sharing limits (i.e., the cap on annual out-of-pocket expenses) and cost-sharing requirements (e.g., annual deductibles) under private insurance plans purchased through an exchange.

As discussed in the methodology appendix to this report (**Appendix A**), there is no universal definition of "low-income" and programs characterized as serving low-income people rely on widely differing income eligibility levels. To be eligible for ACA premium credits, individuals must meet certain insurance-related requirements and have incomes *no lower than* 100% of the federal poverty guidelines and as high as 400% of poverty.[25] Individuals eligible for the premium tax credit who meet certain insurance-related criteria are also eligible for cost-sharing subsidies if their incomes are no higher than 250% of the federal poverty guidelines.

FY2014 was the first fiscal year in which federal spending occurred under the ACA premium credit and cost-sharing subsidies. Obligations in that year totaled $13 billion and rose to $30 billion in FY2015; they are projected to reach $58 billion in FY2017.[26] If these obligations were included in the spending amounts in this report, the health category would total $474 billion, rather than $444 billion, and would comprise 54%, rather than 52%, of all low-income spending in FY2015.

The ACA provisions are distinct from other programs included in this report because there is a lower bound on income eligibility; in other words, those with income below the poverty level are generally not eligible for these provisions, largely because they are assumed to have Medicaid or other subsidized coverage. Future editions of this report might include all or a portion of spending under these provisions. However, as of mid-2016 insufficient information is available to determine the extent to which these provisions are benefitting those at the lower end of the income eligibility spectrum, rather than those with incomes as high as 400% of poverty in the case of premium credits or 250% for cost-sharing subsidies. Thus, these ACA benefits are not included in the spending totals presented in this version of the report.

Trends in Non-health Care Low-Income Spending, FY2008-FY2015

As the health care category has grown as a share of all low-income spending, a declining share has gone to the remaining categories of benefits and services: cash aid, food assistance, education, housing and development, social services, employment and training, and energy assistance. Because health care dominates low-income spending and masks trends in the other

[25] There are exceptions to the lower bound income threshold of 100% of the federal poverty guidelines. One is for lawfully present aliens with incomes below 100% of poverty, who are not eligible for Medicaid for the first five years that they are lawfully present in the United States. The ACA allows such lawfully present aliens to be eligible for premium credits. Also note that income is measured under the ACA using the Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) definition; see CRS Report R43861, *The Use of Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) in Federal Health Programs*, coordinated by Evelyne P. Baumrucker.

[26] FY2014 obligations break down as follows: $11 billion for premium credits and $2 billion for cost-sharing subsidies (Office of Management and Budget, *FY2016 Budget Appendix*, p. 1046). FY2015 obligations break down as follows: $24 billion for premium credits, $5 billion for cost-sharing subsidies, and $1 billion for the "basic health program," which states may establish instead of offering eligible individuals coverage through an exchange (Office of Management and Budget, *FY2017 Budget Appendix*, pp. 1061-1062).

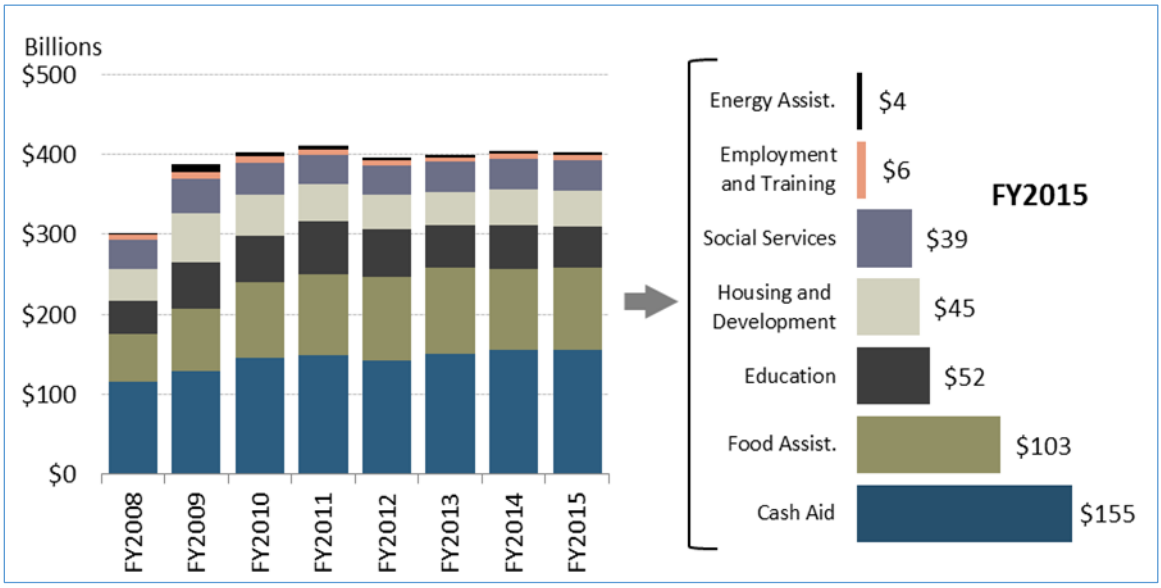
categories, the following sections discuss spending solely for non-health programs, overall and by category.

Overall

Federal obligations for non-health low-income programs totaled $302 billion in FY2008 and rose by 33% to $404 billion in FY2015 (see **Table 1**); this compares with a 71% increase in low-income *health* obligations over the same period. Most of the growth in non-health spending occurred in the first year of the period. Specifically, non-health low-income spending grew by 28% between FY2008 and FY2009 and then rose slowly until its peak in FY2011. Spending declined by 4% in FY2012 and remained relatively flat in the subsequent years. Non-health low-income spending in FY2015 was almost 2% lower than the FY2011 peak (see **Figure 5**).

Figure 5. Federal Spending on Low-Income Non-health Benefits and Services, by Category, FY2008-FY2015

(nominal dollars in billions)



Source: Prepared by the Congressional Research Service (CRS) from obligations data contained in the U.S. Budget Appendix for each of FY2010-FY2017. See **Appendix A** for additional details.

By Category

Despite an increase in nominal spending for most non-health categories over the eight-year period, food assistance is the only category for which obligations grew *as a share* of non-health spending from FY2008 to FY2015. As food assistance has consumed a greater share, the remaining categories have each comprised a smaller share of all non-health low-income spending (see **Table 5**).

Specifically, food assistance represented less than 20% of non-health low-income spending in FY2008 but consumed almost 26% in FY2015. Spending in nominal dollars for this category grew by more than 75% during the period, from $59 billion in FY2008 to $103 billion in FY2015 (with peak spending of $107 billion in FY2013). The food assistance category includes SNAP, the second largest program included in this report, which saw a near-doubling of spending over the

period. (See discussion of SNAP in "The 10 Largest Programs" section.) SNAP accounted for more than 70% of all food assistance obligations in FY2015.

Cash assistance is the largest of the non-health categories of low-income benefits and services; it represented 38% of all non-health spending in both FY2008 and FY2015, although it consumed a slightly smaller share in some of the intervening years. Five programs are included in this category and four of them are among the 10 largest programs included in the report (as discussed in "The 10 Largest Programs" section). Spending for cash assistance under TANF was largely unchanged in nominal dollars over the period,[27] but the remaining programs in this category all saw some spending growth. Nonetheless, as a share of non-health low-income spending cash assistance was the same in both FY2008 and FY2015.

The bottom five categories of benefits and services collectively and individually accounted for a smaller share of non-health low-income spending in FY2015 than in FY2008. Together, these categories—education, housing and development, social services, employment and training, and energy assistance—represented almost 42% of non-health obligations in FY2008. By FY2015, this share had declined to 36%. Each of the categories saw ARRA-related spending increases in FY2009, but this additional spending subsequently tapered off. Four of the five categories (employment and training being the exception) had higher spending in nominal dollars in FY2015 than in FY2008. However, when adjusted for inflation social services and employment and training had declined by almost 3% and almost 7%, respectively.

Table 5. Percentage of Federal Spending on Low-Income Non-health Benefits and Services, by Category, FY2008-FY2015

Categories	FY2008	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015
Cash Aid	38.5%	33.4%	36.1%	36.2%	35.9%	37.6%	38.4%	38.3%
Food Assistance	19.5	20.0	23.3	24.6	26.5	26.8	25.2	25.6
Education	13.9	15.0	14.6	16.2	14.8	13.8	13.3	12.9
Housing and Development	13.1	15.5	12.9	11.2	11.1	10.4	11.2	11.0
Social Services	11.9	11.3	9.9	9.0	9.3	9.2	9.4	9.7
Employment and Training	2.1	2.2	1.9	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.6
Energy Assistance	1.0	2.7	1.4	1.2	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Prepared by the Congressional Research Service (CRS) from obligations data contained in the U.S. Budget Appendix for each of FY2010-FY2017. See **Appendix A** for additional details.

Conclusion

In nominal dollars, federal spending for low-income programs rose by half (51%) over the eight-year period from FY2008 through FY2015. This growth was fueled initially by responses to the recession, as ARRA pumped additional money into the economy and high unemployment and declining incomes qualified more people for benefits. The economy slowly improved and

[27] TANF is one of the 10 largest programs in this report; however, only a portion of TANF spending is included in the cash assistance category. TANF spending is apportioned among three categories: cash assistance, social services, and employment and training. Total spending for TANF declined over the period, by less than 1%.

stimulus spending subsided; however, overall spending levels did not return to pre-recession levels. Congress enacted the ACA in 2010, which authorized an expansion of Medicaid and further drove up low-income spending in FY2014 and FY2015.

Health care is the largest category of low-income benefits; it now accounts for more than half of such spending due to the disproportionate size of Medicaid. In its rate of growth, health care is second only to food assistance, which grew slightly faster than health care over the eight-year period. Spending for the other non-health categories also rose over the period but at a slower rate. Further, most of the increased spending in non-health categories occurred in the early years of the period in direct response to the recession. Food assistance is the only non-health category to have increased its share of low-income spending from FY2008 to FY2015. Other categories either remained flat or declined as a share of spending.

These spending patterns do not reflect congressional decisions about the amount or composition of low-income spending that should occur *in the aggregate* in any given year. Programs included in these spending totals were created independently of one another, at different times and in response to different perceived policy problems. Their size is a function of their design and budgetary classification (mandatory, including whether open-ended or capped, versus discretionary); congressional budget and appropriations processes; external influences affecting the cost of goods and services; and numerous other economic, demographic, social, and political factors.

Important distinctions among low-income programs are masked when looking at total spending. For example, most low-income health spending occurs under Medicaid, but the category also includes programs targeted on the specific needs of certain elderly individuals, veterans, women and children, Indians, refugees, individuals living with HIV or AIDS, people living in medically underserved areas, and others. Moreover, Medicaid itself is a multitude of programs, with each state operating its own program within federal parameters and providing both primary and acute health care, in addition to long-term services and supports, to a diverse population including children, pregnant women, adults, individuals with disabilities, and the elderly.

Cash aid is the category that most resembles traditional perceptions of "welfare." This category includes cash assistance under TANF, which was the successor to the New Deal-era program of Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC). However, cash assistance under TANF is a relatively small program within this category ($6.4 billion in FY2015), which also includes the much larger EITC and ACTC ($81 billion combined in FY2015). These two refundable tax credits are available only to people who are working and primarily benefit working families with children. The cash aid category also includes SSI ($62 billion in FY2015), which is exclusively for low-income elderly and disabled individuals, and pensions for needy veterans.

While food assistance does not directly provide cash, SNAP subsidizes the purchase of food and arguably frees up income that would otherwise be needed for this basic necessity. SNAP, like Medicaid, is an open-ended entitlement to individuals, so that anyone eligible is served if they apply. On the other hand, housing assistance—which also frees up income otherwise required for a necessity—is made up primarily of discretionary programs, such as Section 8 and Public Housing, and serves a relatively small fraction of eligible households.[28]

Collectively, the programs in this report provide income support through cash or near-cash benefits, but also provide services (e.g., education, community development, social services,

[28] CRS found that about 18% of eligible individuals received subsidized housing assistance in FY2012. See CRS Report R44327, *Need-Tested Benefits: Estimated Eligibility and Benefit Receipt by Families and Individuals*, by Gene Falk et al.

employment and training) intended to improve the well-being and self-sufficiency of low-income people and communities. Some benefits are provided directly to individuals but many are delivered through state and local governments and private nonprofit organizations. In addition to income eligibility criteria, some programs impose other requirements on beneficiaries, including rules regarding work or participation in training.

In summary, programs included in this report are extremely diverse in their purpose, design, and target population. The report tells a story—that low-income spending has grown sharply in recent years and is dominated by spending for health care—but given the diversity among programs that serve low-income people, further generalizations require additional information and should be made with care.

Appendix A. Methodology

Selection of Low-Income Programs

Programs were selected for inclusion in this report series[29] if they (1) have provisions that base an individual's eligibility or priority for service on a measure (or proxy) of low income; (2) target resources in some way (e.g., through allocation formulas, variable matching rates) using a measure (or proxy) of low income; or (3) prioritize services to low-income segments of a larger target population. No universal definition or specific dollar amount was used to define *low income* for purposes of this report. However, most programs use a multiple of the federal poverty guidelines or other measures to target resources toward people and communities at the low end of the income distribution.

A few programs without an explicit low-income provision were included because either their target population is disproportionately poor or their purpose clearly indicates a presumption that participants will be low-income. Such programs that disproportionately serve low-income people include the Indian Health Service, Homeless Assistance Grants, Indian Education programs, Title I Migrant Education, and Indian Human Services. Programs with purposes that presume a low-income target population include Adult Basic Education and the Social Services Block Grant.

Federal student loan programs were initially considered for inclusion because they determine benefit levels through the same need-analysis system used for Pell Grants and several smaller postsecondary education programs. However, this system results in students from relatively well-off families receiving assistance, as there is no absolute income ceiling on eligibility. Pell Grants are structured in such a way that the majority of recipients are low-income and the lowest-income students receive the largest benefits. Student loan programs are not as specifically targeted and therefore are not included in the report.

Deliberations about whether to include the Additional Child Tax Credit (ACTC) reached a different conclusion. The regular Child Tax Credit (CTC) is a nonrefundable credit and phases out at relatively high income levels. The ACTC is a refundable credit that allows families with no or insufficient tax liability to get all or part of the benefit they would otherwise receive from the CTC. Because of the refundable nature and other design features of the ACTC, it serves predominantly lower-income families. For example, for tax year 2013, 89% of returns that claimed the ACTC were filed by families with adjusted gross income (AGI) below $40,000 and 88% of the credit went to such families.[30] Thus, the ACTC is included in the report.

As explained earlier in "Are ACA Premium Credits and Subsidies "Low-Income" Benefits?", premium credits and cost-sharing subsidies provided under the ACA are not included in this report. FY2014 is the first year in which spending occurred under these provisions and data are not yet available on the incomes of those who received the benefits. Individuals with incomes below 100% of the federal poverty guidelines are generally precluded from benefiting, and eligibility goes as high as 400% of poverty for the premium credits and 250% for cost-sharing

[29] The series includes CRS Report R41625, *Federal Benefits and Services for People with Low Income: Programs, Policy, and Spending, FY2008-FY2009*, by Karen Spar, published in 2011; CRS Report R43863, *Federal Benefits and Services for People with Low Income: Programs and Spending, FY2008-FY2013*, by Karen Spar and Gene Falk, published in 2015; and this report.

[30] Internal Revenue Service, *Statistics of Income (SOI) Tax Stats – Individual Income Tax Returns Publication 1304*, Table 3.3. The most recent data available are for 2013.

subsidies. As income data become available, the question of whether to include these obligations in future versions of the report will be revisited.

Because the report includes only mandatory and discretionary spending programs, it does not include tax provisions except mandatory spending for the refundable portion of the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and the refundable ACTC.

Two programs have been added since the previous report in this series was published in 2015. Guardianship Assistance under Title IV-E of the Social Security Act had seen spending since FY2010; however, obligations for that program did not reach that report's $100 million threshold for inclusion until FY2015. Preschool Development Grants had been inadvertently overlooked in previous reports in the series, although spending under that program (and its predecessor) had exceeded the $100 million threshold since the program began in FY2011. Preschool Development Grants have now been added to the spending totals in all relevant years.

Categorization of Programs

Most programs are easily assigned to broad categories, such as health care, cash aid, food assistance, or education. A few, however, have multiple purposes or allowable activities. For some of these programs, spending can be disaggregated into the relevant categories. For example, using state reporting of actual expenditures, it is possible to estimate the amount of TANF obligations attributable to cash aid, social services, and employment and training. Other programs cannot be disaggregated and must be assigned to a single category. For example, Transitional Cash and Medical Services for Refugees was categorized as health care, and Indian Human Services was categorized as social services although it also provides cash and housing assistance.

The social services category, in general, is not well-defined and some analysts might assign some programs—and therefore dollars—differently. Head Start, for example, could be considered an education program because its purpose is to promote school readiness; however, it supports a very broad range of activities (including activities for children ages 0-3 in its Early Head Start component) that can best be characterized collectively as social services. Foster Care and Adoption Assistance both give cash to families or other care providers, but income support is not these programs' purpose or sole use of funding. Foster Care subsidizes maintenance payments and administrative activities (including case planning) on behalf of children who cannot remain safely at home, and Adoption Assistance helps facilitate the adoption of children who would otherwise lack permanent homes. Thus, these programs, as well as Guardianship Assistance, were categorized as social services and not cash aid. Likewise, Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting was included in social services, rather than health care, because of the broad range of its intended purposes.

Selection of Spending Measure

New obligations incurred in the indicated fiscal year were chosen as the measure of spending for this report, although for many programs readers may be more accustomed to seeing budget authority (primarily appropriations) or outlays. These spending concepts are related. Congress and the President enact *budget authority* through appropriations measures or authorizing laws. Budget authority in turn allows federal agencies to incur *obligations*, through actions such as entering into contracts, employing personnel, and submitting purchase orders. *Outlays* represent the actual payment of these obligations, usually in the form of electronic transfers or checks issued by the Treasury Department.[31] Obligations are used in this report because they are the most

[31] See CRS Report 98-410, *Basic Federal Budgeting Terminology*, by Bill Heniff Jr.

consistent measure available at the necessary level of detail for the majority of programs. The source of obligations data is the U.S. Budget Appendix for the second fiscal year (e.g., FY2017 budget appendix for final FY2015 obligations, FY2016 budget appendix for final FY2014 obligations).

Obligations were not available or not appropriate, for reasons explained below, for a small number of programs. Because obligations were not available at the necessary program level, appropriations were used for the following: Transitional Cash and Medical Services for Refugees, Breast/Cervical Cancer Early Detection, the Title I Migrant Education Program, Preschool Development Grants, Social Services and Targeted Assistance for Refugees, and Foster Grandparents.

For veterans' medical care, the U.S. Budget Appendix shows obligations for the entire program and not solely the income-tested component. For the 2011 and 2015 reports in this series, CRS calculated estimated obligations for Priority Group 5 veterans (needy veterans without service-connected disabilities), using data from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) on obligations for Priority Groups 1-6 and 7-8 and the number of patients receiving care by individual priority group. For this report, however, CRS obtained data directly from the VA on expenditures specifically for Priority Group 5 veterans.

The U.S. Budget Appendix also does not show obligations solely for the low-income subsidy portion of the Medicare Part D prescription drug program. Therefore, this report uses aggregate reimbursements for the low-income subsidy for the calendar year (instead of fiscal year), available from the annual report of the Medicare trustees.[32]

As noted above, TANF obligations provided in the U.S. Budget Appendix were disaggregated into the categories of cash aid, social services, and employment and training based on states' reporting to the Department of Health and Human Services of their actual expenditures.

The U.S. Budget Appendix includes obligations for the Section 502 single-family rural housing loan program in combination with other programs in an aggregate amount for the Rural Housing Insurance Fund Account. Thus, loan subsidy budget authority (also found in the U.S. Budget Appendix) was used for the Section 502 program in the 2015 report and this report. In the 2011 report, loan subsidy outlays were used, adjusted for re-estimates provided in the Federal Credit Supplement to the U.S. Budget for the relevant years; however, budget authority has since been chosen as a simpler and more consistent measure.

Finally, this report uses obligations from the U.S. Budget Appendix for the ACTC in FY2009 to FY2015. However, for FY2008 ACTC obligations shown in the U.S. Budget Appendix also include an unspecified amount for a one-time $300 per child tax rebate, authorized by the Economic Stimulus Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-185), that was not targeted on low-income families. That figure, which overstates the amount spent for the ACTC alone, was used in the 2011 report with appropriate caveats. For the 2015 report and this report, however, data from the Internal Revenue Service Statistics of Income for tax year 2007 are used to provide a more accurate picture of the ACTC in FY2008.

[32] *2016 Annual Report of the Boards of Trustees of the Federal Hospital Insurance and Federal Supplementary Medical Insurance Trust Funds*, June 2016, Table IV.B10.

Spending Threshold

Programs are included in this report if they had obligations in *any* year from FY2008 through FY2015 of at least $100 million. To simplify the analysis without significantly changing the overall picture, smaller programs were excluded, even if they met the low-income criteria. A few programs had spending above the threshold in some years but not in others.[33] Spending totals cited throughout this report include these programs only for the years in which their obligations equaled or exceeded $100 million. In other words, each year's spending total is a snapshot of spending *in that year* for low-income programs that had obligations totaling at least $100 million *in that year*. (See Appendix **Table B-2** for all spending amounts for all programs in each year.)

Comparison with Predecessor CRS Report Series

From 1979 to 2006, CRS issued a series of reports, typically every other year, called *Cash and Noncash Benefits for Persons with Limited Income*. That series was conceived and produced (except for the last edition in 2006) by Vee Burke, Specialist in Social Policy, who retired from CRS in 2004. In 2011, CRS began a new series of reports intended to replace the *Cash and Noncash* series. This report is the third in that series.

The new report series uses different methodologies to select and categorize programs and measure spending; therefore, it cannot be considered an update of *Cash and Noncash* for various reasons. For example, the older series did not include certain programs that are now included, such as the low-income subsidy under Medicare Part D, Title I-A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, and Community Development Block Grants. The older series also had no minimum spending threshold, so it included smaller programs that are not included here. In addition, the older series included student loans, which are no longer included for reasons explained above. Several programs were also categorized differently in the previous series (e.g., Head Start was categorized as education, Foster Care and Adoption Assistance as cash aid, and Homeless Assistance Grants as social services). The older series used different measures of spending for different programs, while the new series uses obligations wherever possible. The older series also provided estimates of state-local spending, which are not included here because a consistent and reliable source is not available. Finally, the older series traced spending back to 1968, which is beyond the scope of the current series. Changes in programs and appropriations accounts over time make it virtually impossible to trace obligations backward with precision.

[33] These programs include the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations, the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program, Indian Education Grants to Local Education Agencies, Education for Homeless Children and Youth, College Access Challenge Grants, Single-Family Rural Housing Loans, the Tax Credit Assistance Program, and Guardianship Assistance. See **Table B-2**.

Appendix B. Detailed Program Tables

The following tables provide specific information about programs included in this report. Programs are organized by category and listed within categories according to their Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) number.

Table B-1 lists all programs included in the report and indicates the federal administering agency and CFDA number for each program. The table also identifies a more detailed CRS report for each program, where available.

Table B-2 shows obligations (or another measure of spending, as noted) for each program from FY2008 through FY2015. The table also indicates each program's budgetary classification (mandatory or discretionary).

Table B-3 identifies, for each program, the general target population and the concept(s) used to determine individual income eligibility and (if relevant) the concept used to target federal resources broadly based on need. The table indicates the general concept used but not the specific application. For example, the table might indicate that federal poverty guidelines (FPG) are used as a concept in determining income eligibility for a particular program but it does not indicate the specific percentage of FPG that is used. Likewise, the table might show that a program uses formula allocation factors to direct federal resources toward areas with the greatest need but it does not identify the specific factors or their weighting. Readers are referred to the CRS reports listed in **Table B-1** or agency websites for these details.

Table B-4 shows the type of federal assistance provided (typically formula grants, competitive or discretionary grants, or direct benefits) and the immediate recipients of this assistance. As noted in the table, *immediate* recipient refers to the level of government or the organization that directly receives the federal grant or award. Many programs require that funds be further distributed (by formula or other criteria) to other units of government or organizations. For example, federal grants may be awarded by formula to states, but states are then required to subaward these funds to local governments or other entities. Those subawards are not shown in the table. The table also indicates whether a program has provisions for participation by U.S. territories or residents or organizations located within the territories. The specific details of these provisions are not provided in the table; readers are referred to statutory language or federal agency websites for this information.

Both **Table B-3** and **Table B-4** were originally prepared for inclusion in the first of the current report series, which included more detailed discussions of the concepts presented. See CRS Report R41625, *Federal Benefits and Services for People with Low Income: Programs, Policy, and Spending, FY2008-FY2009*.

Table B-1. Individual Programs Included in This Report's Spending Totals

Program	Federal Administering Agency	CFDA #	CRS Report
		Health	
Medical Care for Veterans without Service-Connected Disability	VA	64.009	CRS Report R42747, *Health Care for Veterans: Answers to Frequently Asked Questions*, by Sidath Viranga Panangala
Family Planning	HHS	93.217	CRS Report RL33644, *Title X (Public Health Service Act) Family Planning Program*, by Angela Napili
Consolidated Health Centers	HHS	93.224, 93.527	CRS Report R43937, *Federal Health Centers: An Overview*, by Elayne J. Heisler
State Grants and Demonstrations	HHS	93.536, 93.537, 93.767, 93.784, 93.791	CRS Report R43328, *Medicaid Coverage of Long-Term Services and Supports*, by Kirsten J. Colello
Transitional Cash and Medical Services for Refugees	HHS	93.566	CRS Report RL31269, *Refugee Admissions and Resettlement Policy*, by Andorra Bruno
Breast/Cervical Cancer Early Detection	HHS	93.744, 93.919	
State Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)	HHS	93.767	CRS Report R43627, *State Children's Health Insurance Program: An Overview*, by Evelyne P. Baumrucker and Alison Mitchell
Voluntary Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit—Low-Income Subsidy	HHS	93.770	CRS Report R40611, *Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Benefit*, by Suzanne M. Kirchhoff and Patricia A. Davis
Medicaid	HHS	93.778	CRS Report R43357, *Medicaid: An Overview*, coordinated by Alison Mitchell
Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program	HHS	93.917	CRS Report R44282, *The Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program: Overview and Impact of the Affordable Care Act*, by Judith A. Johnson and Elayne J. Heisler
Maternal and Child Health Block Grant	HHS	93.994	CRS Report R42428, *The Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant: Background and Funding*, by Carmen Solomon-Fears
Indian Health Service (IHS)	HHS	none	CRS Report R43330, *The Indian Health Service (IHS): An Overview*, by Elayne J. Heisler

Program	Federal Administering Agency	CFDA #	CRS Report
		Cash Aid	
Pensions for Needy Veterans	VA	64.104, 64.105	CRS Report RS22804, *Veterans' Benefits: Pension Benefit Programs*, by Scott D. Szymendera and Carol D. Davis
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	HHS	93.558	CRS Report RL32760, *The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Block Grant: Responses to Frequently Asked Questions*, by Gene Falk
Supplemental Security Income (SSI)	SSA	96.006	CRS Report RL32279, *Primer on Disability Benefits: Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI)*, by William R. Morton
Additional Child Tax Credit (ACTC)	IRS	none	CRS Report R41873, *The Child Tax Credit: Current Law and Legislative History*, by Margot L. Crandall-Hollick
Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)	IRS	none	CRS Report R43805, *The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC): An Overview*, by Gene Falk and Margot L. Crandall-Hollick
		Food Assistance	
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)	USDA	10.551	CRS Report R42505, *Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP): A Primer on Eligibility and Benefits*, by Randy Alison Aussenberg
School Breakfast Program (free/reduced price components)	USDA	10.553	CRS Report R43783, *School Meals Programs and Other USDA Child Nutrition Programs: A Primer*, by Randy Alison Aussenberg
National School Lunch Program (free/reduced price components)	USDA	10.555	CRS Report R43783, *School Meals Programs and Other USDA Child Nutrition Programs: A Primer*, by Randy Alison Aussenberg
Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC)	USDA	10.557	CRS Report R44115, *A Primer on WIC: The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children*, by Randy Alison Aussenberg
Child and Adult Care Food Program (lower-income components)	USDA	10.558	CRS Report R43783, *School Meals Programs and Other USDA Child Nutrition Programs: A Primer*, by Randy Alison Aussenberg
Summer Food Service Program	USDA	10.559	CRS Report R43783, *School Meals Programs and Other USDA Child Nutrition Programs: A Primer*, by Randy Alison Aussenberg
Commodity Supplemental Food Program	USDA	10.565	CRS Report R42353, *Domestic Food Assistance: Summary of Programs*, by Randy Alison Aussenberg and Kirsten J. Colello

Program	Federal Administering Agency	CFDA #	CRS Report
Nutrition Assistance for Puerto Rico	USDA	10.566	CRS Report R43332, *SNAP and Related Nutrition Provisions of the 2014 Farm Bill (P.L. 113-79)*, by Randy Alison Aussenberg
Food Distribution Program for Indian Reservations	USDA	10.567	CRS Report R43332, *SNAP and Related Nutrition Provisions of the 2014 Farm Bill (P.L. 113-79)*, by Randy Alison Aussenberg
The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)	USDA	10.568, 10.569	CRS Report R42353, *Domestic Food Assistance: Summary of Programs*, by Randy Alison Aussenberg and Kirsten J. Colello
Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program	USDA	10.582	CRS Report R43783, *School Meals Programs and Other USDA Child Nutrition Programs: A Primer*, by Randy Alison Aussenberg
Nutrition Program for the Elderly	HHS	93.045, 93.053	CRS Report R42353, *Domestic Food Assistance: Summary of Programs*, by Randy Alison Aussenberg and Kirsten J. Colello
		Education	
Indian Education	DOI	15.026, 15.027, 15.028, 15.042, 15.043, 15.044, 15.046, 15.047, 15.058, 15.059, 15.060, 15.114, 15.130, 15.149, 15.151	CRS Report RL34205, *Indian Elementary-Secondary Education: Programs, Background, and Issues*, by Cassandria Dortch
Adult Basic Education Grants to States	ED	84.002	CRS Report R43789, *Adult Education and Family Literacy Act: Major Statutory Provisions*, by Benjamin Collins
Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant	ED	84.007	CRS Report RL31618, *Campus-Based Student Financial Aid Programs Under the Higher Education Act*, by Alexandra Hegji and David P. Smole
Education for the Disadvantaged—Grants to Local Educational Agencies (Title I-A)	ED	84.010	CRS Report R44297, *Reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act: Highlights of the Every Student Succeeds Act*, by Rebecca R. Skinner and Jeffrey J. Kuenzi
Title I Migrant Education Program	ED	84.011	
Higher Education—Institutional Aid and Developing Institutions	ED	84.031, 84.120, 84.382	CRS Report R43237, *Programs for Minority-Serving Institutions Under the Higher Education Act*, by Alexandra Hegji
Federal Work-Study	ED	84.033	CRS Report RL31618, *Campus-Based Student Financial Aid Programs Under the Higher Education Act*, by Alexandra Hegji and David P. Smole

Program	Federal Administering Agency	CFDA #	CRS Report
Federal TRIO Programs	ED	84.042, 84.044, 84.047, 84.066, 84.103, 84.217	CRS Report R42724, *The TRIO Programs: A Primer*, by Cassandria Dortch
Indian Education Grants to Local Educational Agencies	ED	84.060	CRS Report RL34205, *Indian Elementary-Secondary Education: Programs, Background, and Issues*, by Cassandria Dortch
Federal Pell Grants	ED	84.063	CRS Report R42446, *Federal Pell Grant Program of the Higher Education Act: How the Program Works and Recent Legislative Changes*, by Cassandria Dortch
Education for Homeless Children and Youth	ED	84.196	CRS Report RL30442, *Homelessness: Targeted Federal Programs and Recent Legislation*, coordinated by Libby Perl
21st Century Community Learning Centers	ED	84.287	CRS Report R44297, *Reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act: Highlights of the Every Student Succeeds Act*, by Rebecca R. Skinner and Jeffrey J. Kuenzi
Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR-UP)	ED	84.334	CRS Report R43351, *The Higher Education Act (HEA): A Primer*, by Alexandra Hegji
Rural Education Achievement Program	ED	84.358	CRS Report R44297, *Reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act: Highlights of the Every Student Succeeds Act*, by Rebecca R. Skinner and Jeffrey J. Kuenzi
Mathematics and Science Partnerships	ED	84.366	CRS Report R42642, *Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Education: A Primer*, by Heather B. Gonzalez and Jeffrey J. Kuenzi
Improving Teacher Quality State Grants	ED	84.367	
College Access Challenge Grants	ED	84.378	CRS Report R43351, *The Higher Education Act (HEA): A Primer*, by Alexandra Hegji
Preschool Development Grants	ED/HHS	84.419A, 84.419B	CRS Report R44008, *Preschool Development Grants and Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge Grants: A Primer*, by Kyrie E. Dragoo and Gail McCallion
Reading First and Early Reading First	ED	none (formerly 84.357 and 84.359)	
Academic Competitiveness and Smart Grant Program	ED	none (formerly 84.375 and 84.376)	CRS Report RL34452, *The Ensuring Continued Access to Student Loans Act of 2008*, by David P. Smole

Program	Federal Administering Agency	CFDA #	CRS Report
Housing and Development			
Single-Family Rural Housing Loans	USDA	10.410	CRS Report RL31837, *An Overview of USDA Rural Development Programs*, by Tadlock Cowan
Rural Rental Assistance Program	USDA	10.427	CRS Report RL31837, *An Overview of USDA Rural Development Programs*, by Tadlock Cowan
Water and Waste Disposal for Rural Communities	USDA	10.760	CRS Report RL30478, *Federally Supported Water Supply and Wastewater Treatment Programs*, coordinated by Claudia Copeland
Public Works and Economic Development	DOC	11.300	CRS Report R41241, *Economic Development Administration: A Review of Elements of Its Statutory History*, by Eugene Boyd
Supportive Housing for the Elderly	HUD	14.157	CRS Report RL33508, *Section 202 and Other HUD Rental Housing Programs for Low-Income Elderly Residents*, by Libby Perl
Supportive Housing for Persons with Disabilities	HUD	14.181	CRS Report RL34728, *Section 811 and Other HUD Housing Programs for Persons with Disabilities*, by Libby Perl
Section 8 Project-Based Rental Assistance	HUD	14.195	CRS Report RL32284, *An Overview of the Section 8 Housing Programs: Housing Choice Vouchers and Project-Based Rental Assistance*, by Maggie McCarty
Community Development Block Grants	HUD	14.218, 14.225, 14.228	CRS Report R43520, *Community Development Block Grants and Related Programs: A Primer*, by Eugene Boyd
Homeless Assistance Grants	HUD	14.231, 14.267	CRS Report RL33764, *The HUD Homeless Assistance Grants: Programs Authorized by the HEARTH Act*, by Libby Perl
Home Investment Partnerships Program (HOME)	HUD	14.239	CRS Report R40118, *An Overview of the HOME Investment Partnerships Program*, by Katie Jones
Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA)	HUD	14.241	CRS Report RL34318, *Housing for Persons Living with HIV/AIDS*, by Libby Perl
Public Housing	HUD	14.850, 14.866, 14.872, 14.889	CRS Report R41654, *Introduction to Public Housing*, by Maggie McCarty
Indian Housing Block Grants	HUD	14.867	CRS Report R43307, *The Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (NAHASDA): Background and Funding*, by Katie Jones

Program	Federal Administering Agency	CFDA #	CRS Report
Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers	HUD	14.871	CRS Report RL32284, *An Overview of the Section 8 Housing Programs: Housing Choice Vouchers and Project-Based Rental Assistance*, by Maggie McCarty
Neighborhood Stabilization Program-1	HUD	none	CRS Report RS22919, *Community Development Block Grants: Neighborhood Stabilization Program; Assistance to Communities Affected by Foreclosures*, by Eugene Boyd
Grants to States for Low-Income Housing in Lieu of Low-Income Housing Credit Allocations	Treasury	none	CRS Report R40537, *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (P.L. 111-5): Summary and Legislative History*, by Clinton T. Brass et al.
Tax Credit Assistance Program	HUD	none	
		Social Services	
Indian Human Services	DOI	15.025, 15.113, 15.141, 15.144	
Older Americans Act Grants for Supportive Services and Senior Centers	HHS	93.044	CRS Report R43414, *Older Americans Act: Background and Overview*, by Kirsten J. Colello and Angela Napili
Older Americans Act Family Caregiver Program	HHS	93.052	CRS Report R43414, *Older Americans Act: Background and Overview*, by Kirsten J. Colello and Angela Napili
Guardianship Assistance	HHS	93.090	CRS Report R43458, *Child Welfare: An Overview of Federal Programs and Their Current Funding*, by Emilie Stoltzfus
Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program	HHS	93.505	CRS Report R43930, *Maternal and Infant Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Program: Background and Funding*, by Adrienne L. Fernandes-Alcantara
Child Support Enforcement	HHS	93.563	CRS Report RS22380, *Child Support Enforcement: Program Basics*, by Carmen Solomon-Fears
Community Services Block Grant	HHS	93.569	CRS Report RL32872, *Community Services Block Grants (CSBG): Background and Funding*, by Karen Spar
Child Care and Development Fund	HHS	93.575, 93.596	CRS Report R44528, *Trends in Child Care Spending from the CCDF and TANF*, by Karen E. Lynch
Head Start	HHS	93.600	CRS Report RL30952, *Head Start: Background and Funding*, by Karen E. Lynch
Foster Care	HHS	93.658	CRS Report R43458, *Child Welfare: An Overview of Federal Programs and Their Current Funding*, by Emilie Stoltzfus

Program	Federal Administering Agency	CFDA #	CRS Report
Adoption Assistance	HHS	93.659	CRS Report R43458, *Child Welfare: An Overview of Federal Programs and Their Current Funding*, by Emilie Stoltzfus
Social Services Block Grant	HHS	93.667	CRS Report 94-953, *Social Services Block Grant: Background and Funding*, by Karen E. Lynch
Chafee Foster Care Independence Program	HHS	93.674	CRS Report RL34499, *Youth Transitioning from Foster Care: Background and Federal Programs*, by Adrienne L. Fernandes-Alcantara
Emergency Food and Shelter Program	FEMA	97.024	CRS Report RL30442, *Homelessness: Targeted Federal Programs and Recent Legislation*, coordinated by Libby Perl
Legal Services Corporation	LSC	none	CRS Report RL34016, *Legal Services Corporation: Background and Funding*, by Carmen Solomon-Fears
Employment and Training			
Community Service Employment for Older Americans	DOL	17.235	CRS Report R43414, *Older Americans Act: Background and Overview*, by Kirsten J. Colello and Angela Napili
Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Adult Activities	DOL	17.258	CRS Report R44252, *The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act and the One-Stop Delivery System*, by David H. Bradley
Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Youth Activities	DOL	17.259	CRS Report R40929, *Vulnerable Youth: Employment and Job Training Programs*, by Adrienne L. Fernandes-Alcantara
Social Services and Targeted Assistance for Refugees	HHS	93.566, 93.584	CRS Report RL31269, *Refugee Admissions and Resettlement Policy*, by Andorra Bruno
Foster Grandparents	CNCS	94.011	CRS Report RL33931, *The Corporation for National and Community Service: Overview of Programs and Funding*, by Abigail R. Overbay and Benjamin Collins
Job Corps	DOL	none	CRS Report R40929, *Vulnerable Youth: Employment and Job Training Programs*, by Adrienne L. Fernandes-Alcantara
Energy Assistance			
Weatherization Assistance Program	DOE	81.042	CRS Report R42147, *DOE Weatherization Program: A Review of Funding, Performance, and Cost-Effectiveness Studies*, by Fred Sissine
Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)	HHS	93.568	CRS Report RL31865, *LIHEAP: Program and Funding*, by Libby Perl

Source: Prepared by the Congressional Research Service (CRS).

Notes: CFDA = Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance. VA = Department of Veterans Affairs. HHS = Department of Health and Human Services. SSA = Social Security Administration. IRS = Internal Revenue

Service. USDA = Department of Agriculture. DOI = Department of the Interior. ED = Education Department. DOC = Department of Commerce. HUD = Department of Housing and Urban Development. Treasury = Department of the Treasury. FEMA = Federal Emergency Management Agency. LSC = Legal Services Corporation. DOL = Department of Labor. CNCS = Corporation for National and Community Service. DOE = Department of Energy.

Table B-2. Federal Spending on Low-Income Benefits and Services, by Program and Budgetary Classification, FY2008-FY2015

(new obligations unless otherwise noted; nominal dollars in millions)

Program	Budgetary Classification	FY2008	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015
Health Care									
Medical Care for Veterans without Service-Connected Disability[a]	Discretionary	10,246	11,201	11,780	12,000	11,970	11,737	11,921	13,087
Family Planning	Discretionary	300	307	316	298	294	278	286	286
Consolidated Health Centers[b]	Discretionary	2,021	3,665	3,049	3,295	3,384	2,882	3,587	4,701
State Grants and Demonstrations	Mandatory	556	625	418	758	416	534	524	680
Transitional Cash and Medical Services for Refugees[c]	Discretionary	296	282	353	353	323	401	391	383
Breast/Cervical Cancer Early Detection[c]	Discretionary	201	206	210	206	213	197	207	207
State Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)	Mandatory	6,360	9,534	10,717	8,740	9,362	9,357	10,111	11,353
Voluntary Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit—Low-Income Subsidy[d]	Mandatory	18,100	19,600	21,100	22,200	22,500	23,200	24,300	25,800
Medicaid[e]	Mandatory	214,015	265,058	290,461	295,836	270,914	286,920	329,019	378,896
Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program	Discretionary	2,141	2,227	2,286	2,310	2,367	2,220	2,290	2,318
Maternal and Child Health Block Grant	Discretionary	666	662	661	656	639	605	632	637
Indian Health Service	Discretionary	4,347	5,416	5,668	5,544	5,729	5,661	5,910	6,074
Subtotal, Health Care[f]		*259,249*	*318,783*	*347,019*	*352,196*	*328,111*	*343,992*	*389,178*	*444,422*
Cash Aid									
Pensions for Needy Veterans	Mandatory	3,777	4,134	4,345	4,294	4,892	5,195	5,258	5,497
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) (cash aid)[g]	Mandatory	6,364	6,341	9,118	6,594	6,737	6,263	6,340	6,366
Supplemental Security Income	Mandatory	48,926	52,446	54,463	59,854	53,773	59,756	62,159	62,055
Additional Child Tax Credit (refundable portion)	Mandatory	16,690	24,284	22,659	22,691	22,106	21,608	21,490	20,592
Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) (refundable component)	Mandatory	40,600	42,418	54,712	55,652	54,890	57,513	60,087	60,084
Subtotal, Cash Aid[h]		*116,357*	*129,623*	*145,297*	*149,085*	*142,398*	*150,335*	*155,334*	*154,594*

Program	Budgetary Classification	FY2008	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015
Food Assistance									
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)[i]	Mandatory	37,179	53,396	68,192	74,943	77,828	79,365	73,721	73,615
School Breakfast Program (free/reduced price components)	Mandatory	2,307	2,513	2,811	2,987	3,256	3,514	3,618	3,956
National School Lunch Program (free/reduced price components)	Mandatory	7,863	8,498	9,462	9,831	9,984	10,549	10,801	11,515
Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC)[j]	Discretionary	6,400	7,028	7,245	7,300	7,168	6,945	7,019	6,774
Child and Adult Care Food Program (lower-income components)	Mandatory	2,029	2,217	2,358	2,499	2,616	2,799	2,920	3,154
Summer Food Service Program	Mandatory	312	356	374	377	400	437	464	517
Commodity Supplemental Food Program	Discretionary	141	165	183	196	189	187	180	198
Nutrition Assistance for Puerto Rico[k]	Mandatory	1,623	2,000	2,000	2,001	2,000	2,001	1,903	1,951
Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)[l]	Mandatory	[88]	119	114	[97]	103	100	119	143
The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)[m]	Both	240	425	359	298	309	312	318	370
Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program	Mandatory	*	[45]	[80]	115	157	165	166	139
Nutrition Program for the Elderly[n]	Discretionary	756	905	817	820	814	765	807	812
Subtotal, Food Assistance[o]		*58,850*	*77,622*	*93,915*	*101,367*	*104,824*	*107,139*	*102,036*	*103,144*
Education									
Indian Education	Discretionary	684	699	784	753	803	766	747	808
Adult Basic Education Grants to States	Discretionary	569	585	641	607	606	576	575	593
Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant	Discretionary	759	760	759	740	738	698	736	733
Education for the Disadvantaged—Grants to Local Educational Agencies (Title I-A)[p]	Discretionary	13,352	21,495	14,526	14,472	14,490	13,757	14,383	14,410
Title I Migrant Education Program[c]	Discretionary	380	395	395	394	393	373	375	375
Higher Education—Institutional Aid and Developing Institutions	Both	755	801	764	833	816	780	792	777
Federal Work-Study[q]	Discretionary	989	1,156	995	986	986	934	978	990

Program	Budgetary Classification	FY2008	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015
Federal TRIO Programs	Both	885	905	910	883	840	796	838	840
Indian Education Grants to Local Educational Agencies	Discretionary	[97]	[99]	104	104	106	100	100	100
Federal Pell Grants[r]	Both	18,000	26,019	32,905	41,458	34,308	31,887	29,808	28,153
Education for Homeless Children and Youth[s]	Discretionary	[64]	135	[65]	[65]	[65]	[62]	[65]	[65]
21st Century Community Learning Centers	Discretionary	1,082	1,127	1,166	1,157	1,150	1,091	1,146	1,149
Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR-UP)	Discretionary	303	313	323	303	302	286	302	302
Rural Education Achievement Program	Discretionary	172	174	175	175	179	170	170	170
Mathematics and Science Partnerships	Discretionary	182	176	180	179	148	141	150	152
Improving Teacher Quality State Grants	Discretionary	2,946	2,687	2,955	2,460	2,450	2,334	2,341	2,370
College Access Challenge Grants	Mandatory	[66]	[66]	145	150	128	[72]	[69]	0
Preschool Development Grants[c t]	Discretionary	*	*	*	497	133	370	250	250
Reading First and Early Reading First	Discretionary	560	129	0	0	0	0	0	0
Academic Competitiveness and Smart Grant Program	Mandatory	297	690	918	350	0	0	0	0
Subtotal, Education[u]		*41,915*	*58,246*	*58,645*	*66,501*	*58,576*	*55,059*	*53,691*	*52,172*
Housing and Development									
Single-Family Rural Housing Loans[v]	Discretionary	178	279	277	[70]	[43]	[50]	[50]	[50]
Rural Rental Assistance Program	Discretionary	479	902	979	954	905	837	1,110	1,088
Water and Waste Disposal for Rural Communities[w]	Discretionary	685	1,370	1,443	648	583	524	685	604
Public Works and Economic Development[x]	Discretionary	170	285	149	115	129	[97]	133	101
Supportive Housing for the Elderly	Discretionary	778	800	580	509	1,056	389	362	456
Supportive Housing for Persons with Disabilities	Discretionary	256	284	216	149	243	102	209	207
Section 8 Project-Based Rental Assistance[y]	Discretionary	7,004	9,390	8,991	9,444	9,311	8,818	9,870	9,810
Community Development Block Grants[z]	Discretionary	3,645	4,733	3,956	3,341	3,245	2,971	3,213	2,664

Program	Budgetary Classification	FY2008	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015
Homeless Assistance Grants[aa]	Discretionary	1,538	2,861	1,813	1,888	2,079	2,086	1,957	2,109
Home Investment Partnerships Program (HOME)	Discretionary	1,647	1,911	1,857	1,485	1,208	919	1,023	848
Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA)	Discretionary	310	318	314	352	352	302	349	290
Public Housing[bb]	Discretionary	6,894	10,843	7,360	6,999	5,847	5,954	6,383	6,421
Indian Housing Block Grants[cc]	Discretionary	556	1,149	762	663	691	627	665	653
Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers	Discretionary	15,552	16,289	18,071	18,510	18,316	17,897	19,181	19,333
Neighborhood Stabilization Program-1[dd]	Mandatory	*	3,920	1,980	969	0	0	0	0
Grants to States for Low-Income Housing in Lieu of Low-Income Housing Credit Allocations[ee]	Mandatory	*	2,465	3,083	160	0	0	0	0
Tax Credit Assistance Program[ff]	Discretionary	*	2,250	0	[10]	0	0	0	0
Subtotal, Housing and Development[gg]		*39,692*	*60,049*	*51,831*	*46,186*	*43,965*	*41,426*	*45,140*	*44,584*
Social Services									
Indian Human Services	Discretionary	118	115	118	115	110	100	135	150
Older Americans Act Grants for Supportive Services and Senior Centers	Discretionary	351	361	368	369	367	348	348	348
Older Americans Act Family Caregiver Program	Discretionary	153	154	154	154	154	146	145	146
Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program	Mandatory	*	*	100	250	344	378	394	430
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) (social services)[hh]	Mandatory	9,411	10,594	9,837	8,828	8,913	9,491	9,295	9,332
Child Support Enforcement	Mandatory	4,585	4,719	5,044	4,671	4,179	4,278	4,324	4,347
Community Services Block Grant[ii]	Discretionary	654	1,692	708	678	677	635	667	674
Child Care and Development Fund[jj]	Both	4,979	7,034	5,083	5,152	5,218	5,140	5,288	5,379
Head Start[kk]	Discretionary	6,877	9,077	8,757	7,559	7,968	7,573	8,105	8,717
Foster Care	Mandatory	4,525	4,705	4,603	4,456	4,180	4,133	4,746	4,669
Adoption Assistance	Mandatory	2,038	2,324	2,438	2,362	2,296	2,278	2,450	2,473

Program	Budgetary Classification	FY2008	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015
Guardianship Assistance	Mandatory	*	*	[11]	[29]	[74]	[77]	[90]	101
Social Services Block Grant	Mandatory	1,700	2,300	1,700	1,700	1,700	1,613	1,577	1,576
Chafee Foster Care Independence Program	Mandatory	140	140	140	140	140	140	140	140
Emergency Food and Shelter Program[ll]	Discretionary	153	300	200	121	120	114	120	120
Legal Services Corporation	Discretionary	351	392	422	406	351	343	368	378
Subtotal, Social Services[mm]		*36,035*	*43,907*	*39,672*	*36,961*	*36,717*	*36,710*	*38,102*	*38,980*
Employment and Training									
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) (employment and training component)	Mandatory	351	367	344	354	334	368	400	630
Community Service Employment for Older Americans	Discretionary	504	708	820	454	448	429	440	384
Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Adult Activities[nn,oo]	Discretionary	827	1,357	862	766	773	731	766	775
Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Youth Activities[pp,oo]	Discretionary	984	2,218	994	946	902	856	898	906
Social Services and Targeted Assistance for Refugees[c]	Discretionary	203	203	203	202	152	198	198	198
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) (employment and training)[qq]	Mandatory	1,694	1,826	2,682	1,845	1,683	1,579	1,696	1,703
Foster Grandparents[c]	Discretionary	109	109	111	111	111	105	108	108
Job Corps[rr]	Discretionary	1,558	1,804	1,713	1,777	1,735	1,718	1,984	1,751
Subtotal, Employment and Training[ss]		*6,230*	*8,592*	*7,729*	*6,455*	*6,138*	*5,984*	*6,490*	*6,455*
Energy Assistance									
Weatherization Assistance Program[tt]	Discretionary	291	5,240	517	234	126	182	234	255
Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)	Discretionary	2,590	5,100	5,100	4,701	3,472	3,255	3,401	3,395
Subtotal, Energy Assistance[uu]		*2,881*	*10,340*	*5,617*	*4,935*	*3,598*	*3,437*	*3,635*	*3,650*

Program	Budgetary Classification	FY2008	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015
TOTALS[vv]		$561,209	$707,162	$749,725	$763,686	$724,327	$744,082	$793,606	$848,001

Source: Prepared by the Congressional Research Service (CRS) from obligations data contained in the U.S. Budget Appendix for each of FY2010-FY2017, unless otherwise noted. See **Appendix A** for additional details on spending measures.

Notes: Amounts shown in brackets are below the $100 million threshold used in this report and are not included in totals. * = Program not yet established. ARRA = American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

a. Amounts shown are expenditures on behalf of Priority Group 5 veterans (needy veterans without service-connected disabilities), provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

b. Amounts shown include the following under ARRA: FY2009 = $1,519 million; FY2010 = $908 million; FY2011 = $74 million.

c. Amounts shown are budget authority.

d. Amounts shown are aggregate reimbursements for calendar year, from the 2016 Medicare trustees report (Table IV.B10.)

e. Amounts shown include the following under ARRA: FY2009 = $32,888 million; FY2010 = $39,670 million; FY2011 = $26,181 million.

f. Subtotal amounts shown include the following under ARRA: FY2009 = $34,701 million; FY2010 = $40,578 million; FY2011= $26,255 million.

g. Amounts shown are estimated obligations for cash aid and administration under TANF, based on state reporting of actual expenditures. Amounts include the following under ARRA: FY2009 = $210 million; FY2010 = $1,995 million.

h. Subtotal amounts shown include the following under ARRA: FY2009 = $210 million; FY2010 = $1,995 million.

i. Amounts shown include the following under ARRA: FY2009 = $4,478 million; FY2010 = $10,764 million; FY2011 = $11,896 million; FY2012 = $8,177 million; FY2013 = $5,933 million; FY2014 = $5,629.

j. Amounts shown include the following under ARRA: FY2009 = $72 million; FY2010 = $64 million.

k. Amounts shown include the following under ARRA: FY2009 = $240 million; FY2010 = $254 million; FY2012 = $165 million; FY2013 = $128 million; FY2014 = $167 million.

l. Amounts shown include the following under ARRA: FY2009 = $4 million; FY2010 = $1 million.

m. Amounts shown include the following under ARRA: FY2009 = $125 million; FY2010 = $55 million.

n. Amounts shown include the following under ARRA: FY2009 = $97 million.

o. Subtotal amounts shown include the following under ARRA: FY2009 = $5,016 million; FY2010 = $11,138 million; FY2011 = $11,896; FY2012 = $8,342; FY2013 = $6,061 million; FY2014 = $5,796 million.

p. Amounts shown include the following under ARRA: FY2009 = $9,936 million; FY2010 = $64 million.

q. Amounts shown include the following under ARRA: FY2009 = $200 million.

r. Amounts shown include the following under ARRA: FY2009 = $8,497 million; FY2010 = $7,786 million.

s. Amounts shown include the following under ARRA: FY2009 = $70 million.

t. Amounts shown in FY2011, FY2012, and FY2013 are under predecessor program, Early Learning Challenge Grants.

u. Subtotal amounts shown include the following under ARRA: FY2009 = $18,703 million; FY2010 = $7,850 million.

v. Amounts shown are subsidy budget authority. Amounts include the following under ARRA: FY2009 = $131 million; FY2010 = $59 million.

w. Amounts shown include the following under ARRA: FY2009 = $631 million; FY2010 = $556 million.

x. Amounts shown include the following under ARRA: FY2009 = $147 million.

y. Amounts shown include the following under ARRA: FY2009 = $1,991 million; FY2010 = $19 million.

z. Amounts shown include the following under ARRA: FY2009 = $965 million; FY2010 = $18 million.

aa. Amounts shown include the following under ARRA: FY2009 = $1,485 million; FY2010 = $7 million.

bb. Amounts shown include the following under ARRA: FY2009 = $3,977 million; FY2010 = $16 million.

cc. Amounts shown include the following under ARRA: FY2009 = $500 million; FY2010 = $6 million; FY2011= $3 million.

dd. Amounts shown include the following under ARRA: FY2010 = $1,980 million.

ee. Amounts shown include the following under ARRA: FY2009 = $2,465 million; FY2010 = $3,083 million.

ff. Amounts shown include the following under ARRA: FY2009 = $2,250 million.

gg. Subtotal amounts shown include the following under ARRA: FY2009 = $14,542 million; FY2010 = $5,744 million; FY2011 = $3 million.

hh. Amounts shown are estimated obligations for social services under TANF, based on state reporting of actual expenditures. Amounts include the following under ARRA: FY2009 = $346 million; FY2010 = $2,210 million.

ii. Amounts shown include the following under ARRA: FY2009 = $992 million; FY2010 = $8 million.

jj. Amounts shown include the following under ARRA: FY2009 = $1,990 million; FY2010 = $10 million.

kk. Amounts shown include the following under ARRA: FY2009 = $578 million; FY2010 = $1,523 million.

ll. Amounts shown include the following under ARRA: FY2009 = $100 million.

mm. Subtotal amounts shown include the following under ARRA: FY2009 = $4,006 million; FY2010 = $3,661 million.

nn. Amounts shown include the following under ARRA: FY2009 = $495 million.

oo. The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) replaced the Workforce Investment Act (WIA), effective July 1, 2015.

pp. Amounts shown include the following under ARRA: FY2009 = $1,182 million.

qq. Amounts shown are estimated obligations for employment and training under TANF, based on state reporting of actual expenditures. Amounts include the following under ARRA: FY2009 = $60 million; FY2010 = $587 million.

rr. Amounts shown include the following under ARRA: FY2009 = $148 million; FY2010 = $102 million.

ss. Subtotal amounts shown include the following under ARRA: FY2009 = $1,885 million; FY2010 = $689 million.

tt. Amounts shown include the following under ARRA: FY2009 = $4,748 million; FY2010 = $228 million.

uu. Subtotal amounts shown include the following under ARRA: FY2009 = $4,748 million; FY2010 = $228 million.

vv. Total amounts shown include the following under ARRA: FY2009 = $83,811 million; FY2010 = $71,883 million; FY2011 = $38,154 million; FY2012 = $8,342 million; FY2013 = $6,061 million; FY2014 = $5,796 million.

Table B-3. Target Populations and Concepts Used to Determine Individual Income Eligibility Criteria and/or Target Federal Resources, by Program

(see Notes for explanation of concepts presented in table)

Program	Target Population	Concept(s) Used to Determine Individual Income Eligibility	Concept(s) Used to Target Federal Resources
Health			
Medical Care for Veterans without Service-Connected Disability	Needy veterans without service-connected disabilities.	Specific dollar amounts.	None.
Family Planning	Low-income individuals.	FPG.	None.
Consolidated Health Centers	"Medically underserved" groups.	FPG.	Eligibility limited to areas or populations designated by the Secretary as "medically underserved."
State Grants and Demonstrations	Varies by program. In general, selected individuals eligible for Medicaid.	FPG, automatic eligibility for specific categorical groups.	Federal-state cost-sharing rules for certain programs.
Transitional Cash and Medical Services for Refugees	Refugees, asylees, other humanitarian cases, trafficking victims, unaccompanied refugee minor children.	Automatic eligibility for specific categorical groups.	Formula allocation factors.
Breast/Cervical Cancer Early Detection	Low-income uninsured and underserved women of specified ages.	FPG	None.
State Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)	Uninsured low-income children.	FPG, automatic eligibility for specific categorical groups.	Formula allocation factors.
Voluntary Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit—Low-Income Subsidy	Low-income seniors and people with disabilities.	FPG, automatic eligibility for specific categorical groups.	None.
Medicaid	Low-income families with dependent children; aged, blind and disabled individuals; nonelderly nondisabled individuals in certain states.	FPG, automatic eligibility for specific categorical groups.	Federal-state cost-sharing rules.
Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program	Uninsured or underinsured people living with HIV or AIDS.	FPG.	Formula allocation factors.
Maternal and Child Health Block Grant	Mothers and children.	FPG.	Formula allocation factors.
Indian Health Service (IHS)	American Indians and Alaskan Natives.	Automatic eligibility for specific categorical groups.	Assistance generally provided to eligible individuals in IHS service delivery areas.

Program	Target Population	Concept(s) Used to Determine Individual Income Eligibility	Concept(s) Used to Target Federal Resources
Cash Aid			
Pensions for Needy Veterans	Needy veterans, their dependents and survivors.	Specific dollar amounts.	None.
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	Needy families with children.	Defined by states.	None.
Supplemental Security Income (SSI)	Low-income aged, blind, and disabled individuals.	Specific dollar amounts.	None.
Additional Child Tax Credit (ACTC)	Working families with children below specified ages.	Specific calculations determine when families incur tax liability and become eligible for nonrefundable Child Tax Credit instead of ACTC.	None.
Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)	Working families with children below specified ages, and childless adults.	Specific dollar amounts.	None.
Food Assistance			
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)	Low-income households.	FPG, automatic eligibility for specific categorical groups.	None.
School Breakfast Program (free/reduced price components)	Low-income children.	FPG, automatic eligibility for specific categorical groups.	Cost-sharing rules; federal reimbursement varies by family income of participating child.
National School Lunch Program (free/reduced price components)	Low-income children.	FPG, automatic eligibility for specific categorical groups.	Cost-sharing rules; federal reimbursement varies by family income of participating child.
Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC)	Low-income women, infants, and young children who are at nutritional risk.	FPG, automatic eligibility for specific categorical groups.	Formula allocation factors.
Child and Adult Care Food Program (lower-income components)	Low-income children and chronically impaired and elderly adults.	FPG, automatic eligibility for specific categorical groups.	Cost-sharing rules; federal reimbursement varies by family income of participating child or adult.
Summer Food Service Program	Low-income children.	FPG, automatic eligibility for specific categorical groups.	Cost-sharing rules; federal reimbursement varies by family income of participating child.
Commodity Supplemental Food Program	Low-income elderly individuals, pregnant and postpartum and breastfeeding women, infants, and young children.	FPG, automatic eligibility for specific categorical groups.	Formula allocation factors.

Program	Target Population	Concept(s) Used to Determine Individual Income Eligibility	Concept(s) Used to Target Federal Resources
Nutrition Assistance for Puerto Rico	Needy persons living in Puerto Rico.	Defined by Puerto Rico.	None. Eligibility is limited to Puerto Rico.
Food Distribution Program for Indian Reservations	Low-income households living on reservations and American Indian households living on or near reservations.	FPG; automatic eligibility for specific categorical groups.	None. Program only operates on or near Indian reservations.
The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)	Low-income individuals.	Defined by states.	Formula allocation factors.
Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program	Students in elementary schools with high proportion of low-income children.	None.	Formula allocation factors; program is limited to schools that meet need-related tests.
Nutrition Program for the Elderly	Older individuals.	FPG.	Formula allocation factors.
Education			
Indian Education	American Indian and Alaskan Native children and postsecondary students.	Automatic eligibility for specific categorical groups.	Depending on the program, assistance provided through recognized tribes.
Adult Basic Education Grants to States	Adults who lack basic education skills or cannot speak, write, or read English.	Automatic eligibility for specific categorical groups.	Formula allocation factors.
Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant	Low-income undergraduate students.	"Need analysis" system.	Formula allocation factors.
Education for the Disadvantaged—Grants to Local Educational Agencies (Title I-A)	Low-achieving elementary and secondary students.	None.	Formula allocation factors.
Title I Migrant Education Program	Migratory children.	Automatic eligibility for specific categorical groups.	Formula allocation factors.
Higher Education—Institutional Aid and Developing Institutions	Low-income and minority postsecondary students.	None.	Eligibility limited to institutions that meet need-related tests.
Federal Work-Study	Postsecondary students.	"Need analysis" system.	Formula allocation factors.
Federal TRIO Programs	Low-income secondary and postsecondary students who are first-generation college students.	FPG, automatic eligibility for specific categorical groups.	None.
Indian Education Grants to Local Educational Agencies	Indian students, including preschoolers, in schools that enroll a certain	None.	Formula allocation factors; program is limited

Program	Target Population	Concept(s) Used to Determine Individual Income Eligibility	Concept(s) Used to Target Federal Resources
	threshold of Indian children.		to schools that meet need-related tests.
Federal Pell Grants	Low-income postsecondary students.	"Need analysis" system.	None.
Education for Homeless Children and Youth	Homeless children and youth.	Automatic eligibility for specific categorical groups.	Formula allocation factors.
21st Century Community Learning Centers	Children who attend high-poverty and low-performing schools.	None.	Funds must be used to serve children in schools that meet need-related tests.
Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR-UP)	Low-income secondary school students.	Automatic eligibility for specific categorical groups.	Funds must be used to serve cohorts of students in at least one grade level at schools that meet need-related tests.
Rural Education Achievement Program	Students in rural and rural low-income school districts.	None.	Eligibility for certain grants limited to local educational agencies that meet need-related test.
Mathematics and Science Partnerships	Teachers and students in high-need local educational agencies.	None.	Eligibility limited to partnerships that meet need-related tests.
Improving Teacher Quality State Grants	Elementary school teachers and principals.	None.	Formula allocation factors; eligibility for certain grants limited to partnerships that meet need-related tests.
College Access Challenge Grants	Low-income students and their families.	None; priority based on FPG.	Formula allocation factors.
Preschool Development Grants	Preschool children from low-income families.	FPG.	None
Reading First and Early Reading First	Low-income children from preschool through grade 3.	Automatic eligibility for specific categorical groups.	Formula allocation factors (Reading First).
Academic Competitiveness and Smart Grant Program	Needy undergraduate students pursuing a rigorous curriculum or majoring in selected subjects.	Automatic eligibility for specific categorical groups.	None.
Housing and Development			
Single-Family Rural Housing Loans	Low-income households in rural areas.	AMI.	None.
Rural Rental Assistance Program	Low-income households in rural areas.	AMI.	Formula allocation factors.
Water and Waste Disposal for Rural Communities	Residents of poor rural communities.	None.	Formula allocation factors; cost-sharing rules.

Program	Target Population	Concept(s) Used to Determine Individual Income Eligibility	Concept(s) Used to Target Federal Resources
Public Works and Economic Development	Residents of distressed communities.	None.	Eligibility is limited to projects located in areas that meet need-related tests; cost-sharing rules.
Supportive Housing for the Elderly	Low-income households with at least one elderly member.	AMI.	Formula allocation factors.
Supportive Housing for Persons with Disabilities	Low-income households with at least one member with a disability.	AMI.	Formula allocation factors.
Section 8 Project-Based Rental Assistance	Low-income families (which may include single individuals).	AMI.	Assistance is limited to projects under contract with the federal government.
Community Development Block Grants	Low- and moderate-income residents of targeted communities.	None. (However, a specified percentage of funds must be used to benefit low- and moderate-income individuals, defined using AMI.)	Formula allocation factors.
Homeless Assistance Grants	Homeless individuals and families.	Automatic eligibility for specific categorical groups.	Emergency Solutions Grant uses formula allocation factors.
Home Investment Partnerships Program (HOME)	Low-income homeowners, homebuyers, and renters.	AMI.	Formula allocation factors.
Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA)	Low-income individuals who are HIV-positive or have AIDS.	AMI.	Formula allocation factors.
Public Housing	Low-income families, elderly and disabled individuals.	AMI.	Assistance is limited to publicly owned housing projects.
Indian Housing Block Grants	Low-income Indian families living on reservations or other Indian lands, certain specified non-Indians also living on reservations or other Indian lands.	Automatic eligibility for specific categorical groups.	Formula allocation factors; eligibility limited to recognized Indian tribes.
Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers	Low-income families (which may include single individuals).	AMI.	Formula allocation factors.
Neighborhood Stabilization Program-1	Low-income individuals and families.	AMI.	Formula allocation factors.

Program	Target Population	Concept(s) Used to Determine Individual Income Eligibility	Concept(s) Used to Target Federal Resources
Grants to States for Low-Income Housing in Lieu of Low-Income Housing Credit Allocations	Low-income households.	AMI.	Eligibility limited to projects in which a specified percentage of units were rent-restricted and served a specified percentage of low-income households.
Tax Credit Assistance Program	Low-income households.	AMI.	Eligibility limited to projects in which a specified percentage of units were rent-restricted and served a specified percentage of low-income households.
Social Services			
Indian Human Services	American Indian children and adults with various needs.	Automatic eligibility for specific categorical groups.	None.
Older Americans Act Grants for Supportive Services and Senior Centers	Older individuals.	FPG.	Formula allocation factors.
Older Americans Act Family Caregiver Program	Family and other caregivers for older individuals and grandparents or other relative caregivers for children with disabilities.	FPG, automatic eligibility for specific categorical groups.	Formula allocation factors.
Guardianship Assistance	Foster children living with relative guardians.	Automatic eligibility for specific categorical groups.	Federal-state cost-sharing rules.
Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program	Families with young children.	Automatic eligibility for specific categorical groups.	Services provided in communities with high concentrations of poverty, or other risk factors.
Child Support Enforcement	Custodial parents and their children.	Automatic eligibility for specific categorical groups.	None.
Community Services Block Grant	Low-income individuals and families.	FPG.	Formula allocation factors.
Child Care and Development Fund	Low-income children and their families.	SMI, automatic eligibility for specific categorical groups.	Formula allocation factors; federal-state cost-sharing rules for certain funds.
Head Start	Low-income infants, toddlers and preschool children, and pregnant women.	FPG, automatic eligibility for specific categorical groups.	Formula allocation factors.

Program	Target Population	Concept(s) Used to Determine Individual Income Eligibility	Concept(s) Used to Target Federal Resources
Foster Care	Children who cannot remain safely in their own homes.	Automatic eligibility for specific categorical groups.	Federal-state cost-sharing rules.
Adoption Assistance	Children with special needs that make it difficult for them to be placed with adoptive families.	Automatic eligibility for specific categorical groups.	Federal-state cost-sharing rules.
Social Services Block Grant	Defined by states.	Defined by states. (FPG used for certain funds.)	Formula allocation factors.
Chafee Foster Care Independence Program	Current and former foster youth.	Automatic eligibility for specific categorical groups.	Formula allocation factors.
Emergency Food and Shelter Program	Homeless and hungry individuals.	Defined by local administering boards.	Eligibility is limited to jurisdictions that meet need-related tests.
Legal Services Corporation	Low-income individuals.	FPG.	Formula allocation factors.
Employment and Training			
Community Service Employment for Older Americans	Low-income unemployed individuals above a specified age.	FPG, priority for specific categorical groups.	Formula allocation factors.
Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Adult Activities	Adults for career services. For training services, adults who need services to become employed or obtain and retain a job that allows for self-sufficiency.	None for career services. For training services, priority for specific categorical groups.	Formula allocation factors.
Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Youth Activities	Certain low-income "in-school" youth (generally aged 14-21), and certain "out-of-school" youth (age 16-24).	FPG, LLSIL, and automatic eligibility for specific categorical groups.	Formula allocation factors.
Social Services and Targeted Assistance for Refugees	Refugees, asylees, other humanitarian cases, and trafficking victims.	Automatic eligibility for specific categorical groups.	Formula allocation factors.
Foster Grandparents	Low-income older individuals.	FPG.	None.
Job Corps	Low-income youth who need and can benefit from the program.	FPG, automatic eligibility for specific categorical groups.	None.
Energy Assistance			
Weatherization Assistance Program	Low-income households.	FPG, automatic eligibility for specific categorical groups.	Formula allocation factors.

Program	Target Population	Concept(s) Used to Determine Individual Income Eligibility	Concept(s) Used to Target Federal Resources
Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)	Low-income households.	FPG, SMI, automatic eligibility for specific categorical groups.	Formula allocation factors.

Source: Prepared by the Congressional Research Service (CRS).

Notes: The term "low-income" is used generically in the column headed "Target Population."

The column headed "Concept(s) Used to Determine Individual Income Eligibility" indicates whether measures such as the federal poverty guidelines (FPG), area median income (AMI), state median income (SMI), lower living standard income level (LLSIL), or some other measure (including specific dollar amounts) are used in the process of determining income eligibility for a program. The column also indicates whether categories of people are "automatically eligible" for a particular program. However, the column does not describe the specific application of the concept. For example, it shows whether the federal poverty guidelines are used as a concept in determining eligibility but does not indicate what percentage of the poverty guidelines is used; it also shows that certain categorical groups are automatically eligible but does not identify the characteristics of these groups. Note that "need analysis" refers to the system used by the Department of Education to determine a student's benefit levels under certain higher education programs based on that student's family income and other factors.

The column headed "Concept(s) Used to Target Federal Resources" indicates whether, and how, a program targets federal resources toward low-income areas or populations, such as through formula allocation factors, cost-sharing rules, limitations on assistance to specific areas or entities, or other mechanisms. However, the column does not describe the specific application of these concepts. For example, the column might show that a program targets federal resources through use of formula allocation factors, but it does not indicate the specific allocation factors used (an example of an allocation factor might be the relative population of children age 5 or under living in poverty). Likewise, the column might show that federal-state cost-sharing rules are used but does not indicate the specifics of such rules (an example might be the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage, or FMAP, which bases federal matching rates on state per capita income, with the federal share of a particular program larger for states with lower per capita incomes, and vice versa).

Readers should note that this table was originally prepared for inclusion in CRS Report R41625, *Federal Benefits and Services for People with Low Income: Programs, Policy, and Spending, FY2008-FY2009*. For a more detailed discussion of the concepts presented here, see the sections in that report titled "Defining Individual Eligibility for Benefits and Services" and "Targeting Federal Resources According to Need."

Table B-4. Types of Grants or Awards, and Eligible Immediate Grantees or Beneficiaries, by Program

(see Notes for explanation of concepts presented in table)

Program	Grant or Award Types	Eligible Immediate Grantees or Beneficiaries
	Health	
Medical Care for Veterans without Service-Connected Disability	Direct benefits.	Eligible veterans served at VA facilities or through contracts with the VA.
Family Planning	Competitive grants.	Public and private nonprofit agencies. Includes provisions for territories.
Consolidated Health Centers	Competitive grants.	Public and private nonprofit agencies.
State Grants and Demonstrations	Varies by program; formula and competitive grants.	Varies by program; states and health care providers. Includes provisions for territories.
Transitional Cash and Medical Services for Refugees	Formula and discretionary grants.	Formula grants: states. Discretionary grants: "state-alternative" programs and voluntary agencies. Includes provisions for territories.
State Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)	Formula grants.	States. Includes provisions for territories.
Voluntary Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit—Low-Income Subsidy	Direct benefits (through contracts with participating prescription drug plans).	Eligible beneficiaries enrolled in participating prescription drug plans.
Medicaid	Formula grants (reimbursement for eligible expenditures).	States. Includes provisions for territories.
Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program	Formula and competitive grants.	Formula grants: eligible metropolitan areas, "transitional grant" areas and states. Competitive grants: qualified health centers, family planning clinics, hemophilia centers, rural health clinics, Indian Health Service facilities, and certain other health facilities and organizations; public and private nonprofit organizations; and dental schools. Includes provisions for territories.
Breast/Cervical Cancer Early Detection	Competitive grants.	States. Includes provisions for territories.
Maternal and Child Health Block Grant	Formula grants.	States. Includes provisions for territories.
Indian Health Service	Direct benefits.	Eligible American Indians or Alaskan Natives served at IHS or tribal health facilities or through contracts.

Program	Grant or Award Types	Eligible Immediate Grantees or Beneficiaries
Cash Aid		
Pensions for Needy Veterans	Direct benefits.	Eligible veterans, their dependents and survivors.
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	Formula grants (basic block grant, contingency fund) and competitive grants (promoting healthy marriage and strengthening fatherhood).	Formula grants: states. Competitive grants: public and private nonprofit organizations. Includes provisions for territories.
Supplemental Security Income (SSI)	Direct benefits.	Eligible individuals.
Additional Child Tax Credit (ACTC)	Direct benefits.	Eligible individuals.
Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)	Direct benefits.	Eligible individuals.
Food Assistance		
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)	Direct benefits and formula grants (reimbursement for eligible expenditures).	Direct benefits: eligible households. Formula grants: states. Includes provisions for territories.
School Breakfast Program (free/reduced price components)	Formula grants (reimbursement for eligible expenditures).	State educational agencies. Includes provisions for territories.
National School Lunch Program (free/reduced price components)	Formula grants (reimbursement for eligible expenditures).	State educational agencies. Includes provisions for territories.
Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC)	Formula grants.	States. Includes provisions for territories.
Child and Adult Care Food Program (lower-income components)	Formula grants.	States. Includes provisions for territories.
Summer Food Service Program	Formula grants.	State educational agencies. Includes provisions for territories.
Commodity Supplemental Food Program	Formula grants and commodity support.	States. Includes provisions for territories.
Nutrition Assistance for Puerto Rico	Formula grants.	Puerto Rico.
Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)	Formula grants.	States and Indian tribal organizations.
The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)	Formula grants and commodity support.	States.
Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program	Formula grants.	States. Includes provisions for territories.
Nutrition Program for the Elderly	Formula grants.	States. Includes provisions for territories.
Education		
Indian Education	Formula grants.	Bureau of Indian Education schools, public schools, tribally controlled colleges and universities.
Adult Basic Education Grants to States	Formula grants.	States. Includes provisions for territories.
Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant	Formula grants.	Institutions of higher education. Includes provisions for Palau.

Program	Grant or Award Types	Eligible Immediate Grantees or Beneficiaries
Education for the Disadvantaged—Grants to Local Educational Agencies (Title I-A)	Formula grants.	Local educational agencies. Includes provisions for territories.
Title I Migrant Education Program	Formula grants.	State educational agencies. Includes provision for Puerto Rico.
Higher Education—Institutional Aid and Developing Institutions	Formula and competitive grants.	Institutions of higher education. Includes provisions for territories.
Federal Work-Study	Formula grants.	Institutions of higher education. Includes provisions for Palau.
Federal TRIO Programs	Competitive grants.	Institutions of higher education, public and private organizations, secondary schools, and consortia of such entities. Includes provisions for territories.
Indian Education Grants to Local Educational Agencies	Formula grants.	Local educational agencies, Bureau of Indian Education schools, tribes.
Federal Pell Grants	Direct benefits (through payments to participating institutions of higher education).	Eligible students at participating institutions. Includes provisions for territories.
Education for Homeless Children and Youth	Formula grants.	State educational agencies. Includes provisions for territories.
21st Century Community Learning Centers	Formula grants.	State educational agencies. Includes provisions for territories.
Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR-UP)	Competitive grants.	States and partnerships consisting of at least one degree-granting institution of higher education and one or more local agencies and, if desired, at least two other partners such as community organizations, businesses, and public or private agencies or organizations. Includes provisions for territories.
Rural Education Achievement Program	Formula grants.	Small local educational agencies and states on behalf of local educational agencies that do not meet small-size thresholds. Includes provisions for territories.
Mathematics and Science Partnerships	Formula grants.	State educational agencies.
Improving Teacher Quality State Grants	Formula grants.	State educational agencies and state agencies of higher education. Includes provisions for territories.
College Access Challenge Grants	Formula grants.	States or philanthropic organizations. Includes provisions for territories.

Program	Grant or Award Types	Eligible Immediate Grantees or Beneficiaries
Reading First and Early Reading First	Formula grants (Reading First) and competitive grants (Early Reading First).	Formula: state educational agencies. Competitive: local educational agencies eligible under Title I-A, one or more public or private organizations acting on behalf of programs that serve preschool children in an area served by a Title I-A-eligible local educational agency, or a consortium of the above. Includes provisions for territories.
Academic Competitiveness and Smart Grant Program	Direct benefits (through payments to participating institutions of higher education).	Eligible students at participating institutions. Includes provisions for territories.
Preschool Development Grants	Competitive grants.	States.
Housing and Development		
Single-Family Rural Housing Loans	Direct benefits.	Eligible individuals.
Rural Rental Assistance Program	Contracts with property owners.	Participating owners on behalf of eligible households.
Water and Waste Disposal for Rural Communities	Loans and formula grants.	Local governments, public and private nonprofit organizations. Includes provisions for territories.
Public Works and Economic Development	Competitive grants.	Designated economic development districts, states, local governments, institutions of higher education, public and private nonprofit organizations and associations acting in cooperation with local governments. Includes provisions for territories.
Supportive Housing for the Elderly	Competitive grants (from amounts allocated among HUD multifamily "hubs" according to a formula).	Private nonprofit organizations and for-profit general partnerships where the sole general partner is a nonprofit organization. Includes provisions for territories.
Supportive Housing for Persons with Disabilities	Competitive grants (from amounts allocated among HUD field offices according to a formula).	Private nonprofit organizations and for-profit general partnerships where the sole general partner is a nonprofit organization. Includes provisions for territories.
Section 8 Project-Based Rental Assistance	Contracts with property owners.	Participating owners on behalf of eligible households.
Community Development Block Grants	Formula grants.	"Entitlement communities" (i.e., cities and urban counties of specified sizes), and states on behalf of non-entitlement communities. Includes provisions for territories.

Program	Grant or Award Types	Eligible Immediate Grantees or Beneficiaries
Homeless Assistance Grants	Competitive grants (Continuum of Care) and formula grants (Emergency Solutions Grant).	Competitive grants: states, local governments, public housing authorities, and private nonprofit organizations. Formula grants: states, metropolitan cities and urban counties. Includes provisions for territories.
Home Investment Partnerships Program (HOME)	Formula grants.	States and local participating jurisdictions (i.e., metropolitan cities or urban counties that meet minimum funding thresholds). Includes provisions for territories.
Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA)	Formula and competitive grants.	Formula grants: states and eligible metropolitan statistical areas that meet minimum AIDS case requirements. Competitive grants: states, local governments, and private nonprofit agencies. Includes provisions for territories.
Public Housing	Formula grants (operating and capital funds) and competitive grants (Choice Neighborhoods).	Public housing authorities.
Indian Housing Block Grants	Formula grants.	Federally recognized Indian tribes or their tribally designated housing entity; state recognized Indian tribes that were funded under prior law.
Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers	Formula grants.	Public housing authorities.
Neighborhood Stabilization Program-1	Formula grants.	States and local governments. Includes provisions for territories.
Grants to States for Low-Income Housing in Lieu of Low-Income Housing Credit Allocations	Formula grants.	State housing credit agencies. Includes provisions for territories.
Tax Credit Assistance Program	Formula grants.	State housing credit agencies. Includes provisions for Puerto Rico.
Social Services		
Indian Human Services	Discretionary grants.	Federally recognized Indian tribes and tribal organizations.
Older Americans Act Grants for Supportive Services and Senior Centers	Formula grants.	State agencies on aging. Includes provisions for territories.
Older Americans Act Family Caregiver Program	Formula grants.	State agencies on aging. Includes provisions for territories.
Guardianship Assistance	Formula grants (reimbursement for eligible expenditures).	States. Includes provisions for territories.
Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program	Formula and competitive grants.	States and nonprofit organizations. Includes provisions for territories.
Child Support Enforcement	Formula grants (reimbursement for eligible expenditures).	States. Includes provisions for territories.

Program	Grant or Award Types	Eligible Immediate Grantees or Beneficiaries
Community Services Block Grant	Formula grants.	States. Includes provisions for territories.
Child Care and Development Fund	Formula grants.	States. Includes provisions for territories for certain funds.
Head Start	Formula and competitive grants.	Local public and private nonprofit and for-profit entities. Includes provisions for territories.
Foster Care	Formula grants (reimbursement for eligible expenditures).	States. Includes provisions for territories.
Adoption Assistance	Formula grants (reimbursement for eligible expenditures).	States. Includes provisions for territories.
Social Services Block Grant	Formula grants.	States. Includes provisions for territories.
Chafee Foster Care Independence Program	Formula grants.	States. Includes provisions for territories.
Emergency Food and Shelter Program	Formula grants.	Local boards. Includes provisions for territories.
Legal Services Corporation	Formula grants.	Public and private nonprofit entities. Includes provisions for territories.
Employment and Training		
Community Service Employment for Older Americans	Formula grants.	States and national nonprofit organizations. Includes provisions for territories.
Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Adult Activities	Formula grants.	States. Includes provisions for territories.
Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Youth Activities	Formula grants.	States. Includes provisions for territories.
Social Services and Targeted Assistance for Refugees	Formula and competitive grants.	Formula grants: states. Competitive grants: public and private nonprofit entities.
Foster Grandparents	Discretionary grants.	Public and private nonprofit entities. Includes provisions for territories.
Job Corps	Competitive contracts and interagency agreements.	Federal, state, and local agencies; area vocational schools, residential vocational schools, or private organizations.
Energy Assistance		
Weatherization Assistance Program	Formula grants.	States. Includes provisions for territories.
Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)	Formula grants.	States. Includes provisions for territories.

Source: Prepared by the Congressional Research Service (CRS).

Notes: The column headed "Grant or Award Type" indicates the general way federal assistance is provided, typically through formula grants, competitive or discretionary grants (which may also include contracts or other

mechanisms), or direct benefits to individuals or entities. Readers should note that there is great variation among programs within these general categories, so this table should be used as a guide, primarily to distinguish programs from one another.

The column headed "Eligible Immediate Grantees or Beneficiaries" identifies the level of government or organization that directly receives the grant or award from the federal government. Many programs require that funds be further distributed to other units of government or organizations, and specify a formula or other criteria for such distribution. For example, a program may allocate funds to states according to a formula but also require that states award these funds on a competitive basis to local governments or other eligible entities. The column identifies only the initial or "immediate" grantee of the federal funds (i.e., states, in this example). "States" includes the District of Columbia. The column also indicates whether a program includes provisions for awarding funds to territories; however, the specific territories included are not shown and vary by program.

Readers should note that this table was originally prepared for inclusion in CRS Report R41625, *Federal Benefits and Services for People with Low Income: Programs, Policy, and Spending, FY2008-FY2009*. For a more detailed discussion of the concepts presented here, see the section in that report titled "Types of Federal Grants and Grantees."

Appendix C. Related Reading

The following reports provide cross-cutting information on federal low-income policy and programs. See **Table B-1** for links to CRS reports on individual programs.

CRS Report R41625, *Federal Benefits and Services for People with Low Income: Programs, Policy, and Spending, FY2008-FY2009*, by Karen Spar.

> First in the current report series. In addition to discussion of spending trends and fact sheets on each program, it includes a brief history of federal low-income policy, discussion of concepts used to define individual eligibility for benefits and services (e.g., federal poverty guidelines and others), discussion of mechanisms used to target resources on the basis of need (e.g., formula allocation factors and cost-sharing rules), discussion of the types of federal grants (formula, competitive, direct benefits to individuals) used to provide assistance, and related policies such as matching requirements.

CRS Report R43863, *Federal Benefits and Services for People with Low Income: Programs and Spending, FY2008-FY2013*, by Karen Spar and Gene Falk.

> Second in the current report series. In addition to discussion of spending trends and fact sheets on each program, it includes a brief discussion of the budgetary classification of low-income programs (discretionary versus mandatory), and analysis of spending under the 10 largest programs by population group (aged, disabled, families with children with and without adult workers, and childless adult couples with and without workers).

CRS Report R44327, *Need-Tested Benefits: Estimated Eligibility and Benefit Receipt by Families and Individuals*, by Gene Falk et al.

> Examines nine major programs in FY2012 and estimates the number of people who are eligible and who actually receive benefits, the types of families that are more likely to receive benefits, the amounts that families typically receive, whether families typically receive benefits under one or multiple programs, and the types of families that are likely to receive larger benefits.

CRS Report R44211, *Poverty in the United States in 2014: In Brief*, by Joseph Dalaker.

> Presents detailed statistics on the incidence of poverty among various demographic groups and by geography, and compares measures of poverty under the official federal poverty guidelines and the "research supplemental poverty measure."

CRS Report R43731, *Poverty: Major Themes in Past Debates and Current Proposals*, by Gene Falk and Karen Spar.

> Provides a short history of key federal policies enacted over the past century to address poverty, presents several overarching themes that have recurred in antipoverty policy debates over time, and highlights selected current proposals in the context of these themes.

Government Accountability Office, *Federal Low-Income Programs: Multiple Programs Target Diverse Populations and Needs*, GAO-15-516, July 30, 2015.

> Describes federal programs (including tax expenditures) targeted to people with low incomes; identifies the number and selected household characteristics of people in poverty; identifies the number, poverty status, and household characteristics of selected programs' recipients; and examines research on how selected programs may affect incentives to work.

Author Information

Karen Spar
Specialist in Domestic Social Policy and Division Research Coordinator

Gene Falk
Specialist in Social Policy

Acknowledgments

Amber Wilhelm prepared the graphics for this report.

Disclaimer

This document was prepared by the Congressional Research Service (CRS). CRS serves as nonpartisan shared staff to congressional committees and Members of Congress. It operates solely at the behest of and under the direction of Congress. Information in a CRS Report should not be relied upon for purposes other than public understanding of information that has been provided by CRS to Members of Congress in connection with CRS's institutional role. CRS Reports, as a work of the United States Government, are not subject to copyright protection in the United States. Any CRS Report may be reproduced and distributed in its entirety without permission from CRS. However, as a CRS Report may include copyrighted images or material from a third party, you may need to obtain the permission of the copyright holder if you wish to copy or otherwise use copyrighted material.