

# A NEW DEAL FOR YOUTH

June 2, 2022

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
Chair  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Chair  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Richard Shelby  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairs Leahy and DeLauro and Ranking Members Shelby and Granger:

On behalf of a New Deal for Youth (ND4Y), a youth-led, youth-centered, initiative from the Center on Law and Social Policy (CLASP), comprised of a cohort of changemakers from across the country, we are writing to request the Committee's support for a broad range of investments that center young people in America. This appropriations request recognizes the importance of youth-specific funding as we know that funding that isn't specifically targeted to young people is unlikely to reach this population. We are asking the committee to invest in the health, wellbeing, safety, and economic opportunities of young people in America.

## 1. SUBCOMMITTEE ON LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, EDUCATION

A New Deal for Youth urges the committee to:

- Fund youth development, education, workforce, and job trainings programs for middle and high school age youth and young adults where young people can learn “soft” skills and have paid internships, apprenticeships, and job opportunities especially in the green economy and STEM sector.
  - \$535 million to expand access to registered apprenticeships with a focus on increasing access for women, people of color, and young people.
  - \$75 million for the new National Youth Employment program to create high-quality summer and year-round job opportunities for underserved youth, as outlined in the President's budget
  - \$145 million for YouthBuild as outlined in the President's budget
  - \$15 million to test new ways to enable low-income youth with disabilities – including youth who are in foster care, involved in the justice system, or experiencing homeless – to successfully transition to employment, as outlined in the President's Budget

- \$100 million for the new Sectoral Employment through Career Training for Occupational Readiness program, as outlined in the President's budget
  - \$1.789 billion for 21st Century Community Learning Centers
- Fund free college opportunities, the elimination of student debt, and more support to access postsecondary education.
  - Increase the maximum Pell Grant
  - Increase funding for HBCUS, TCCUS, MSIs, and Community Colleges
  - Ensure that undocumented students and students covered under DACA have access to Pell Grants and other forms of federal aid
- Fund entrepreneurship development and access to financial capital and education targeted to communities of color.
  - Through the Small Business Administration, support young entrepreneurs in communities of color including by appropriating \$31 million to support women, people of color, veterans and other underserved entrepreneurs and expanding access to capital for small businesses, as outlined in the President's budget.
- Fund affordable housing options targeted to young people under age 35 and access to housing to end youth homelessness.
  - We echo the appropriations request of ND4Y partner The National Network for Youth (NN4Y):
    - \$300 million for the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act
    - \$800 million for the Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program
    - \$100 million for the Youth Homeless Demonstration Program with no more than \$2 million for Technical Assistance
    - \$300 million for the Emergency Solutions Grant program

We urge the committee to ensure that all programs receiving federal funds pay livable wages and offer access to workers unions for youth and young adults, especially youth of color. And, we urge the committee to ensure that there is youth representation in decision-making position of all federally funded programs that serve youth.

A New Deal for Youth urges the committee to make a targeted investment in youth mental health primarily within SAMHSA, HRSA, CMS.

The President's Budget proposes the establishment of a new \$7.5 billion Mental Health Transformation fund for mental health workforce development and expansion of services. We urge the committee to fully fund this program and to dedicate funding to youth and young adult mental health, including by:

- Expanding access to app- and text-based telehealth
- Funding community-based organizations to have mental health professionals on staff
- Funding research by people with lived experience
- Funding scholarships and financial aid for mental health providers to complete their training
- Funding training in gender affirming and culturally responsive healthcare
- Funding mental health services for immigrant communities
- Funding for practices that are outside Western medicine and that recognize that art, music, spirituality, and organizing are as much a part of healing as clinical treatment
- Funding for youth peer support
- Funding for youth mobile crisis services

In addition, we support the President's Budget proposal to invest \$1 billion in school counselors, nurses, social workers, school psychologists, and other health professionals in schools.

## **Immigration-Related Requests**

A New Deal for Youth urges the committee to:

- Reallocate funding to education, health services, mental health services, and schools by investing in all immigrant communities not in enforcement
  - Invest in mental health services for immigrant communities
  - Ensure undocumented students are not excluded from accessing higher education by expanding federal student aid and Pell Grants
  - Ensure all immigrant populations have access to healthcare
  - Support multi language learners with a \$1.1 billion investment for the English Language-Acquisition (eLA) program
- Provide reparations for immigrant populations
- Provide monetary relief to countries without any attachments, particularly countries in which failed and discriminatory policies and campaigns incurred forced migration.

## **2. SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE**

A New Deal for Youth urges the committee to divest from systems that are harming young people and invest in the resources that young people need to heal, develop, and thrive. We are advocating for a large-scale reallocation of resources away from police and mass incarceration and towards education, career pathways, and healing.

We urge the committee to invest in the safety of students by:

- Eliminating funding for programs that support SROS
- Investing in mental health counseling, counseling, and student mediation at the federal level
- Adopting the President's Budget recommendations of:
  - \$36.5 billion for Title I schools
  - \$100 million in grant programs to help communities develop and implement strategies that promote racial and socioeconomic diversity in their schools

We urge the committee to invest in evidence-based violence prevention services that reimagine what safety is and that holistically strengthen economic opportunities for youth and young adults living in communities, especially youth and young adults impacted by the criminal legal system. This includes:

- Funding at least \$250 million for the New Community Violence Intervention (CVI) Initiative at the CDC
- Funding restorative justice
- Restorative justice programs can be funded through Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) programs. We urge the committee to fund \$1 billion to support VAWA programs, including programs that support underserved youth, Native youth, and LGBTQIA+ youth. The President's Budget further proposed \$35 million for culturally-specific services and \$10 million for underserved populations.
- Funding a \$5 billion investment in violence prevention
- Funding juvenile justice programs that focus on diversion, community-based programs, and ending youth incarceration. The President's Budget proposed \$760 million for juvenile justice programs.

Finally, we urge the committee to decrease funding for law enforcement and immigration enforcement agencies.

## **3. SUBCOMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT**

We urge the committee to invest in:

- Funding for the Department of Education to strengthen and revamp modern civics education across public schools. The curriculum should focus on informing students about policy differences and how our government operates in the passage of laws, encouraging service-learning in our communities, registering graduating seniors to vote, and providing an overview of the role of local elected officials.
- Funding for the U.S. Postal Service to ensure mail-in ballots reach election offices in time and every vote is counted and securely delivered
  - \$10 billion in new election assistance funding to be allocated over 10 years, which will support USPS delivery capacity in underserved areas and support vote-by-mail, including by making ballots postage-free and reducing the cost of other election related mail, as outlined in the President's Budget.

#### 4. SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES

The President's proposed budget recognizes the urgency of the climate crisis and makes initial investments to address the crisis. A New Deal for Youth urges the committee to likewise recognize the urgency of the climate crisis and advance environmental justice including by authorizing funding at least equal to the \$100 million proposed by the President to address climate justice and create quality jobs.

- Fund the creation of quality green jobs, training, and educational opportunities that prioritize the needs of Black and Brown communities.
  - Fund the Civilian Climate Corps as outlined in the President's Budget:
    - \$10 million: Corporation for National and Community Service – Salaries and Expenses – Resilience and Mitigation
    - \$1.2 billion: Corporation for National and Community Service – AmeriCorps State and National
    - \$15 million: U.S. Department of Labor – Training and Employment Services – Resilience and Mitigation
    - \$31 million: DOI – National Park Service – Resources and Management – Resilience and Mitigation
    - \$10 million: DOI – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – National Wildlife Refuge – Resilience and Mitigation
    - \$7 million: DOI – Bureau of Indian Affairs – National Resource Management and Indian Youth Service Corps – Resilience and Mitigation
    - \$12 million: DOI – Bureau of Land Management – Rangeland Management and Recreation Management – Resilience and Mitigation
    - \$3 million: USDA – U.S. Forest Service – Recreation, Heritage and Wilderness – Resilience and Mitigation

In closing, we appreciate your commitment to and interest in the needs of young people. We look forward to continuing to work with the committee to address the urgent mental health needs of young people and to make meaningful investments in this generation. If you have any questions, please contact Tralonne Shorter, Director of Legislative Affairs at CLASP, [tshorter@clasp.org](mailto:tshorter@clasp.org) or Kayla Tawa, Policy Analyst, Youth Team at CLASP, [ktawa@clasp.org](mailto:ktawa@clasp.org).

Sincerely,

A New Deal for Youth Changemakers