

**Support for Children and Youth Globally**  
**Fiscal Year 2026**  
**Community Recommendations for the President's Budget Request**

June 27, 2024

Director Shalanda Young  
White House Office of Management and Budget  
725 17th Street NW  
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear Director Young,

As organizations committed to the health and well-being of children and youth, we write in support of a common-sense approach to U.S. foreign assistance that meets the critical and interconnected needs of children and youth globally. We encourage the Administration to prioritize programs that support the health, mental health, protection, safety, life skills, education, and empowerment of children and youth in the President's Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Request. We also request a meeting to discuss priorities for fiscal year 2026 and better understand how the Administration intends to meet the needs of children and youth even in a constrained budget environment.

At a time of increased conflict, climate crises and global competition, we urge you to increase the overall International Foreign Affairs Budget to expand U.S. leadership in support of the nexus of peace, development and humanitarian assistance. We encourage you to increase funding and adopt systemic structures and mechanisms that center children and youth's interests and well-being holistically within foreign assistance.

A recent analysis found that for children's issues alone, 26 accounts provide funding for programming. It is unknown how many provide funding for youth. For this reason, it is imperative that the total funding available to the 150 Account be increased over FY24 levels to ensure that young people are able to access services that support and empower them. In addition to that topline, we would like to highlight the following funding lines and accounts with demonstrated success for ensuring children can survive and thrive: **Vulnerable Children, International Basic Education, Maternal and Child Health, Nutrition, Combating Child, Early and Forced Marriage, McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program, Department of State Child Protection Compact (CPC) Partnership, ILAB, UNICEF, IDA, MRA, and PEPFAR.** Moreover, we respectfully urge the U.S. government to track spending and disaggregate data by sex, age, and disability to assess the impact of development assistance on children and youth across the life course.

The generation of young people alive today is the largest in world history. The U.S. government must prioritize children and youth globally as a key part of making effective and sustainable investments for progress today and sustainable development and security in the future. Investments in young people globally are, dollar for dollar, some of the best returns on U.S. taxpayer money that can be made. For example:

- Every \$1 invested in international education delivers as much as \$15 in economic returns.
- Every \$1 invested in scaling up early childhood development programs results in as much as \$68 in improved health, social, and economic outcomes.
- Every \$1 in youth workforce development can result in \$9 in immediate benefits and save taxpayers tens of thousands of dollars in indirect benefits.

Thank you for your efforts to date to prioritize the development of children and youth globally. We know that you face many difficult budget choices and competing priorities. The health, well-being, and economic security of an entire generation of children and youth is at stake. By investing now in their most critical needs, we can build a better present and future.

We look forward to the opportunity to work with the OMB and the Biden-Harris administration to advance these priorities in the next fiscal year and discuss the 26 accounts that provide programming related to children. We hope to share our recommendations with you and your colleagues at your earliest convenience. We encourage you to reach out to Leila Milani ([LMilani@futureswithoutviolence.org](mailto:LMilani@futureswithoutviolence.org)) or Kathy Sacco ([kathys@firstfocus.org](mailto:kathys@firstfocus.org)) with your availability so that we can continue this conversation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Pediatrics  
Basic Education Coalition  
CARE USA  
ChildFund International  
Children's Justice Fund  
EDC  
End OSEAC Survivor's Council  
FHI 360  
Futures Without Violence  
Education for All Coalition  
First Focus on Children  
Global Citizen  
Global Partners United  
International Rescue Committee  
International Youth Foundation

Kids in Need of Defense (KIND)  
Lynn's Warriors  
National Criminal Justice Training Center (NCJTC)  
Population Media Center  
RESULTS  
Right To Play International  
RISE Institute  
Room to Read  
Save the Children  
Seeds to Sew International  
SPOON  
Strategy for Humanity, LLC  
The Carly Ryan Foundation  
The Luminos Fund  
Together for Girls  
United States International Council on Disabilities  
VSO  
World Education, a division of JSI  
World Vision





