March Policy Update – AAICAMA

1. **President’s Budget** – supposed to be released on the first Monday of February but was delayed a month. This is a messaging document more than anything else, providing a starting point for negotiations about topline funding numbers.
   a. Overall proposes increases in both mandatory and discretionary funding while projecting a $3 Tril deficit reduction over the next decade by raising taxes on individuals making more than $400K and corporations
      i. The HHS budget includes an 11.5% increase in discretionary funding
   b. Major child welfare improvements/changes:
      i. Includes a $300M increase for Promoting Safe and Stable Families, nearly doubling the program. This includes more funds for the Court Improvement Program, the Regional Partnership Grants, and $50m for legal representation.
      ii. Proposes large increase in Child Welfare Services, including $30m for workforce development grants and $50 for racial equity in child welfare
      iii. Expands Chafee funding for youth aging out of foster care by $100M, from $143M to $243M
      iv. Makes the Adoption Tax Credit fully refundable and expands it for legal guardianship, another important permanency option
      v. Increases the FMAP match for Family First services, and increases FMAP for kinship placements while decreasing it for QRTP placements
   c. Other major increases to watch:
      i. Makes permanent the Child Tax Credit as enacted in ARPA
      ii. Increase of $3.3B for the SAMHSA budget, including $836M for the 988 line.
      iii. $1.1B increase in Head Start
      iv. Nearly $1B increase for Child Care and Development Block Grant
      v. $392M increase in IDEA Part C for early intervention for infants with disabilities

2. **SNAP work requirements**
   a. Statement on work requirements from Center on Budget and Policy Priorities: [Expanding Work Requirements Would Make It Harder for People to Meet Basic Needs | Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (cbpp.org)]
   b. Bill from Dusty Johnson (not Freedom Caucus, not far right, more moderate) – blessed/sanctioned by the House leadership, this is the bill to watch, will likely be replicated on Medicaid work requirements
      i. Currently if you’re a childless adult, you get kicked off SNAP after 3 months for 3 years if you’re not working or meeting reporting requirements – growing research that shows this doesn’t incentivize work, just takes away food from people.
ii. This bill would extend those work requirements for parents of children over 7, older adults 50-65 years old, takes away flexibility for governors to waive requirements

iii. Link to the bill: untitled (house.gov)

iv. Ranking member David Scott is very opposed to these ideas

3. Other legislative movement:
   a. Debt Ceiling is projected to be reached in mid-August, depending on tax collection numbers. Congress will need to raise the debt limit before then to avoid default.
   b. FARM bill – SNAP has been a key part of the negotiations on this reauthorization, with really unhelpful proposals coming out about work requirements as noted previously.
   c. Title IV-B and CAPTA are both up for reauthorization again this year, with IV-B needing to get done because of mandatory spending. There’s some movement on both of these, but nothing concrete yet.

   a. States can already waive licensing requirements for kin families on a case-by-case basis, this would allow them to create a blanket separate standard for all kin families
      i. Things like number of bedrooms, square footage, income level, training required – not basic safety standards as required under federal law.
      ii. Would require kin families to be paid the same as non-kin caregivers