



CWLA and AAICAMA Policy Update

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March 2025 Policy Update: **March 19, 2025**

Time: 12:00 PM Eastern Time

The Administration

1. **Executive Orders:** The White House has continued to release several executive orders to make policy changes in how the Executive Branch will operate. [ACLU: What is an Executive Order Explainer](#)

[Commencing the Reduction of the Federal Bureaucracy](#)

- This is the executive order that has started the shrinking of the federal Government.
- Directs termination of several offices, including CMS's Health Equity Advisory Committee.

[Continuing the Reduction of the Federal Bureaucracy](#)

- Continues to reduce the government and instructs federal agency heads to identify places to cut staff
- Terminates Interagency Council on Homelessness, funding for libraries and museums

[Restoring Public Service Loan Forgiveness](#)

- Reigns in loan forgiveness and narrows who is eligible for this program, likely taking away loan forgiveness for many social workers
- Specifies that these funds cannot be given to professionals:
 - working with undocumented immigrants,
 - providing gender affirming care,
 - engaging in DEI programming

[Designating English as the Official Language of The United States](#)

- Declares that English is now our official language, a change to long-standing policy
- "nothing in this order, however, requires or directs any change in the services provided by any agency."
 - Could have implications for funding for things like interpretation.

2. Other Executive Actions

- [Resumed Family Detention](#)
 - There are families being held in two detention facilities in Texas
- This practice was largely ended, though not abolished, under Biden
- [Rescinded ACA Eligibility for DACA Recipients](#)
 - Under Biden, allowed young immigrants to access healthcare, now being taken away
- [ACF Letter - Ending Welfare for Undocumented Immigrants](#)
 - This letter was released because of a previous Executive Order
 - We know that undocumented immigrants are not eligible for ACF benefits (TANF, IV-E, etc.)

3. **Legal Action:** Several Executive Orders have been challenged in court, including the EOs on birthright citizenship, foreign aid, gender affirming care, and more.
 - US News tracker: [How Many of Trump's Executive Orders Are Being Challenged? | National News | U.S. News](#)
 - Litigation Tracker: <https://www.justsecurity.org/107087/tracker-litigation-legal-challenges-trump-administration/>
 - Executive Order Tracker: <https://www.akingump.com/en/insights/blogs/trump-executive-order-tracker>
 - Political Appointee Tracker: <https://ourpublicservice.org/performance-measures/political-appointee-tracker/>

4. **Policy Change on Public Comments for Rulemaking**

[Policy on Adhering to the Text of the Administrative Procedure Act](#): public comments in child welfare are especially important because child welfare rulemaking is so technical and directly impacts how programs are run.

 - RFK, Jr., announced on February 28th that comments would no longer be required on most rulemaking for HHS.
 - Rescinds the Richardson Waiver from 1971.
 - Although the APA exempts the requirement for public comment on matters “relating to agency management or personnel or to public property, loans, grants, benefits, or contracts,” the Richardson Waiver required comments for these functions.
 - Effective immediately.

The Congress

1. **Appropriations:** The House unveiled a Continuing Resolution that included:
 - Funding until September 30th
 - \$13 billion in cuts, including:
 - \$7 billion in earmarks
 - Significant cuts in other programs, like SAMHSA
 - \$1 billion from the Washington, D.C. budget of D.C.’s own revenue
 - \$6 billion increase to defense
 - No assurances that the Administration will spend the funds as directed, which House Democrats were holding out for.

It passed almost entirely on party lines in the House, 217-213. The Senate passed it on March 14th, along with a stand-alone bill to reinstate DC’s budget. 10 Democratic Senators crossed party lines and voted for cloture. Cloture is the procedural move that gets past the filibuster. Now the Appropriations Committees will start working on FY 2026. The fiscal year ends on September 30th.

2. **Reconciliation Recap:** The House and Senate are continuing to move forward on reconciliation, a budget process that can move forward in the Senate with only 51 votes. The ultimate goal is to fund the extension of the 2017 tax cuts and immigration enforcement. So where are we:

Senate Budget Committee [introduced](#) and passed a smaller budget resolutions

- \$85.5 billion in spending is focused on border, defense, and energy.
- Instructing Committees to make up at least \$4 billion in savings through cuts in mandatory spending

The House Budget Committee introduced and passed one big resolution that included immigration, taxes, and other priorities.

- \$4.8 trillion in new spending over 9 years, largely on extending the 2017 Trump tax cuts.
- at least \$1.5 trillion in cuts over 9 years, instructs committees to aim for \$2 trillion.
- Raises the debt ceiling by \$4 trillion.

Where will the cuts come from?

- House Budget Committee leaked a menu of [spending reforms](#)
 - Medicaid reforms: work requirements, [per capita caps](#), reduction of FMAP
 - Elimination of SSBG, 10% TANF cut
 - SNAP work requirements, rollback of updates to thrifty food plan.
 - Immigration cuts in Child Tax Credit
- Longer explanation of cuts [here](#).

What Happens Next?

- The Senate will make changes to the House resolution and send it back to House for vote.
- Timeline: Early to midmonth April

3. **Child Welfare Policy Update:** Some helpful bills have been introduced. It is unclear what will advance this year given the extreme partisan climate right now.

[Recruiting Families Using Data Act](#) reintroduced

- Requires states to track data related to recruitment and retention of resource parents
- States must create a Family Partnership Plan to include LEx
- Passed the House

[American Dream and Promise Act](#)

- Bipartisan bill to create a pathway to citizenship for Dreamers