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Trump's 2020 budget proposal aims to cut federal funding for legal services.

Why? "fiscal responsibility" and redefining the "proper role" of federal government.

The \$410 million allocated to LSC in 2019 would be 0.001% of the proposed 4.75 trillion budget.

Federal Funds

PAYMENT TO THE LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

For payment to the Legal Services Corporation, authorized by the Legal Services Corporation Act of 1974, \$18,200,000, to be used only for the closure of the Legal Services Corporation. Provided, That the Legal Services Corporation may continue to provide benefits pay to officers and employees at a rate no greater than that provided by the Federal Government in Washington, DC (based on employees as authorized by section 2108 of title 5, United States Code, notwithstanding section 10105(a) of the Legal Services Corporation Act (52 U.S.C. 2905(a))). Provided further, That the authorities provided in section 205 of this Act shall be applicable to the Legal Services Corporation. Provided further, That, for the purposes of title 5 of this Act, the Legal Services Corporation shall be considered an agency of the United States Government.

Note.—A full-year 2019 appropriation for this account was not enacted at the time the budget was prepared. Therefore, the budget assumes this account is operating under the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2019 (Division C of P.L. 115-241, as amended). The amounts included for 2019 reflect the annualized level provided by the continuing resolution.

Program and Financing (in millions of dollars)

Identification code 001-0001-0-1-702	2018 actual	2019 est.	2020 est.
Obligations by program activity			
0001 Payment to Legal Services Corporation	427	413	18
0000 Total new obligations, unexpired accounts (budget class 41.01)	427	413	18
Budgetary resources:			
Unobligated balance			
1700 Unobligated balance brought forward, Oct 1	2	3	
Budget authority			
1700 Appropriation, discretionary	425	410	18
1700 Spending authority from offsetting collections, discretionary	3		
1700 Budget authority (total)	428	410	18
1700 Total budgetary resources available	428	413	18
1941 Memorandum (non-040) entries	3		
1941 Unexpended obligated balance, end of year			
Change in obligated balance			
Obligated obligations			
3000 Obligated obligations brought forward, Oct 1	53	35	37
3010 New obligations, unexpired accounts	427	413	18
3020 Offsets (gross)	-442	-411	-20
3050 Obligated obligations, end of year	15	37	5
3100 Memorandum (non-040) entries	53	35	37
3100 Obligated balance, start of year			
3200 Obligated balance, end of year	35	37	5
Budget authority and offsets, net:			
Discretionary			
4000 Budget authority, gross	428	410	18
4010 Offsets from new discretionary authority	289	276	16
4011 Offsets from discretionary balances	55	35	34
4020 Offsets, gross (total)	445	411	50
4030 Offsets against gross budget authority and offsets			
4030 Offsetting collections (collected) from	-3		
4100 Budget authority, net (total)	425	410	18
4100 Budget authority, net (total)	442	411	50
4100 Offsets, net (total)			

The Budget proposes to eliminate Federal funding for several independent entities, including the Legal Services Corporation (LSC), as part of the Administration's plans to move the Nation towards fiscal responsibility and to redefine the proper role of the Federal Government. The Budget requests \$18.2 million to conduct an orderly closeout of LSC in 2020.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISION—LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

None of the funds appropriated in this Act to the Legal Services Corporation shall be expended for any purpose prohibited or limited by, or contrary to any of the provisions of, sections 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, and 506 of Public Law 105-119.

MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

Federal Funds

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Marine Mammal Commission authorized by title 17 of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1461 et seq.), for the purposes of the Marine Mammal Commission's charter, \$2,449,000.

Note.—A full-year 2019 appropriation for this account was not enacted at the time the budget was prepared. Therefore, the budget assumes this account is operating under the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2019 (Division C of P.L. 115-241, as amended). The amounts included for 2019 reflect the annualized level provided by the continuing resolution.

Program and Financing (in millions of dollars)

Identification code 301-2200-0-1-302	2018 actual	2019 est.	2020 est.
Obligations by program activity			
0001 Salaries and expenses	3	2	2
Budgetary resources:			
Budget authority			
1100 Appropriation, discretionary	3	2	2
1500 Total budgetary resources available	3	2	2
Change in obligated balance:			
Obligated obligations			
3000 Obligated obligations brought forward, Oct 1	1	1	1
3010 New obligations, unexpired accounts	3	2	2
3020 Offsets (gross)	-3	-2	-2
3050 Obligated obligations, end of year	1	1	1
3100 Memorandum (non-040) entries	1	1	1
3100 Obligated balance, start of year			
3200 Obligated balance, end of year	1	1	1
Budget authority and offsets, net:			
Discretionary			
4000 Budget authority, gross	3	2	2
4010 Offsets, gross	3	2	2
4100 Offsets from new discretionary authority	3	2	2
4100 Budget authority, net (total)	3	2	2
4100 Offsets, net (total)			

The Marine Mammal Commission is charged by the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 to further the conservation of marine mammals and their environment. It provides independent, science-based oversight of domestic and international policies and actions of Federal agencies addressing human impacts on marine mammals and their ecosystems. The Budget proposes to eliminate several independent agencies, including the Commission, as part of the Administration's plans to move the Nation towards fiscal responsibility. The Budget requests \$2.4 million to conduct an orderly closeout of the agency beginning in 2020.

Object Classification (in millions of dollars)

Identification code 301-2200-0-1-302	2018 actual	2019 est.	2020 est.
Direct obligations:			
11.1 Personnel compensation—Full-time permanent	1	1	1
25.1 Advisory and assistance services	1	1	1
99.0 Direct obligations	2	2	2
99.5 Adjustment for rounding	1		
99.9 Total new obligations, unexpired accounts	3	2	2

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This is the third year in a row that Trump has recommending cancelling the single largest funder — and in some states, the primary funder — of legal aid in the country. Both previous attempts were rejected by bipartisan support in Congress.

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. @LSCtweets President Jim Sandman told me he's "optimistic" that bipartisan Congressional support will remain strong this year. @ABAesq President Bob Carlson said hundreds of attorneys will be lobbying Congress next month to maintain or even increase funding.

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In a statement, @NLADA president Jo-Ann Wallace said "Defunding LSC promises only to severely exacerbate the disparity in access to justice that already exists for families that can not afford to pay for legal services."

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