

# ***The 2010 Federal Budget***

## ***The President's Recommendations for Program Terminations and Reductions***

Southern Early Childhood Association



## Introduction

On February 26, 2009, the President submitted a proposed 2010 budget overview to Congress. That budget included significant increases in many programs of interest to early childhood educators. *You will find a brief summary of the proposal in the March 2009 edition of Public Policy Notes, page 4. That issue is archived at [www.SouthernEarlyChildhood.org](http://www.SouthernEarlyChildhood.org) on the Public Policy page.)*

On May 7, 2009, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) issued a summary of the proposed terminations and reductions in programs in order to achieve budget reductions for 2010. **Many of these programs are also of interest to early childhood educators.**

President Obama stated in his letter to Congress:

“Specifically this Budget details the pillars of the stable and broad economic growth we seek: making long overdue investments and reforms in education so that every child can compete in the global economy, undertaking health care reform so that we can control costs while boosting coverage and quality, and investing in renewable sources of energy so that we can reduce our dependence on foreign oil and become the world leader in the new clean energy economy.....Fiscal discipline is another critical pillar in this economic foundation.....We no longer can afford to tolerate investments in programs that are outdated, duplicative, ineffective or wasteful.....That is why the Budget I am sending to you includes a separate volume of terminations, reductions and savings....In it, we identify programs that do not accomplish the goals set for them, do not do so efficiently, or do a job already done by another initiative.”

Source: [www.whitehouse.gov](http://www.whitehouse.gov), Excerpted from the *President's Transmittal Letter*, May 7, 2009

The three criteria on which termination or reduction decisions were made are highlighted in the President's last statement:

- **Programs that do not accomplish the goals set for them (evidence based).**
- **Programs that do not operate efficiently.**
- **Programs that duplicate other efforts.**

## Programs of Interest to SECA

Action	Program	Agency	Total Funding Loss in 2010
Termination	<i>Character Education Program</i>	Dept of Education	12 million
Termination	<i>Civic Education</i>	Dept of Education	33 million
Termination	<i>Close-up Foundation</i>	Dept of Education	2 million
Termination	<i>Academies for American History and Civics</i>	Dept of Education	2 million
Termination	<i>Even Start</i>	Dept of Education	66 million
Termination	<i>Delta Health Initiative</i>	Dept of Health & Human Services	26 million
Termination	<i>Javits Gifted and Talented Education Program</i>	Dept of Education	7 million
Termination	<i>National Institute for Literacy</i>	Dept of Education	6 million
Termination	<i>Ready to Teach</i>	Dept of Education	11 million
Other Savings	<i>Healthy Start, Grow Smart</i>	Dept of Health & Human Services	5 million saved through inventory reduction

Following is a synopsis of each program, the rationale for the termination or reduction recommendation and information about how the program is being replaced, consolidated into other programs, or simply being eliminated in the Administration's budget. **These recommendations will require the consent of Congress before the changes occur.**

### **Character Education Program (Termination)**

The Character Education program supports the design and implementation of character education intervention. A recent review of the evidence base suggests that character education alone does not produce desired student outcomes. **The Administration proposes to re-direct this investment toward broader programs through the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities (SDFSC) National Program.** The Budget requests an additional \$111 million for the SDFSC National Programs: \$100 million of that is dedicated to a new initiative that will meet many of the goals of the Character Education program.

### **Civic Education (Termination)**

The Civic Education program provides several non-competitive grants to organizations that promote civic responsibility through teacher training and instructional materials.

### **Close-Up Fellowships (Termination)**

This program provides a non-competitive grant to the Close-Up Foundation to provide fellowships to students and their teachers to finance their participation in a one-week seminar on American government in Washington, DC.

### **Academies for American History and Civics (Termination)**

This program supports intensive workshops for teachers and students in the areas of history and civics.

**These three programs will be replaced with a new \$37 million competitive grant program targeted toward civic education. The new grant competition will require grantees to conduct rigorous evaluations and collect valid, comparable data on key outcomes.**

### **Even Start (Termination)**

Launched as a small demonstration project in 1988, Even Start combines early childhood education, adult education and parenting classes into family literacy programs for low-income children and their parents. Three national evaluations have failed to prove the effectiveness of Even Start. **The Administration has chosen to strengthen Head Start, Early Head Start, IDEA Grants for Infants and Toddlers and the Child Care Development Block Grant to meet these objectives.**

### **Delta Health Initiative (Termination)**

The Delta Health Initiative funds construction of health care facilities, training of health professionals and the purchase of equipment in Mississippi. Earmarked projects are not subject to a competitive or merit-based process. **The Government Accountability Office identified 29 other federal programs that support non-residential buildings and facilities construction.**

### **Javits Gifted and Talented Education Program (Termination)**

This program supports research, demonstration and other activities to help elementary and secondary schools meet the educational needs of gifted students. There is no evidence that this program is increasing the availability of gifted and talented programs, enhancing their quality or advancing innovation in the field. Currently about one-third of the funds support a research center, and the remainder supports grants to about 15 school districts nationwide at an average of \$400,000 per district. **Other Federal programs such as Title I, Title II professional development programs and special education may be used to support Gifted and Talented education.**

### **National Institute for Literacy (Termination)**

NIFL was created in 1991 to provide national leadership on issues related to literacy, coordinate Federal literacy services and policy and serve as a national resource for adult education and literacy programs. **The Office of Vocational and Adult Education will take primary responsibility for the adult literacy agenda under the Administration's proposal.**

### **Ready to Teach (Termination)**

RTT supports grants to telecommunications entities to carry out programs to improve teaching in core curriculum areas and to develop and distribute educational video programming. **In lieu of this program, the Administration proposes to conduct a new \$5 million grant competition (Digital Professional Development) in 2010 that would accomplish the goals of the RTT program.**

### **Healthy Start, Grow Smart (Other Savings)**

This programs prints and disseminates a series of 13 brochures in English, Spanish, Chinese and Vietnamese to Medicaid-eligible pregnant women, mothers of Medicaid-eligible pregnant women and mothers of Medicaid-enrolled babies. Each publication focuses on activities that stimulate infant brain development and build the skills these children need to be successful in school. **The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services will save \$5.1 million in this program by utilizing existing inventories of brochures in 2010. No new brochures will be printed during this budget year.**

