



Catholic Social Ministry Gathering 2019

“Let Justice Flow”: A Call to Restore and Reconcile

POLICY WEBINAR

January 24, 2019





USCCB Domestic Policy Priorities



Preserving Protections for the “Least of These” : Nutrition, Housing, and the Environment



[W]e are called to honour the poor and to give them precedence, out of the conviction that they are a true presence of Jesus in our midst. 'As you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.' (*Mt. 25:40*)."

-- Message of Pope Francis for the Second World Day of the Poor, June 13, 2018.



Upholding the Common Good

- The USCCB strongly supports programs that uphold the common good of society, especially in the protection of poor persons, immigrants and care for creation.
- The **current lack of appropriations for several government agencies and the related partial government shutdown**, calls into question whether programs that provide essential assistance will continue in the coming months or at a level that serves those in need.
- Due to the Budget Control Act of 2011, **budget caps return for FY 2020** and will compel Congress to cut about \$36 billion from non-defense discretionary spending in the coming months.
- This year, we are advocating for programs that uphold the common good and promote human life and dignity: **nutrition, affordable housing, and stewardship of creation.**



Background

Though the economy has improved and unemployment is at a historical low, this does not tell the whole story:

- Four in 10 adults say they do not have enough savings to cover a \$400 emergency expense.
- Real wages are dropping. Adjusted for inflation, weekly pay has dropped since last year.
- Close to 5 million Americans only have part-time jobs.
- Suicides in the U.S. are at an all-time high (129/day), so much that the national life expectancy is dropping.



Domestic Asks

Congress Should

- **Preserve funding for nutrition programs that alleviate hunger (AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS, FY 2019).**
- **Increase funding for programs that provide decent and affordable housing (TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS, FY 2019).**
- **Preserve funding for programs that safeguard the environment (DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS, FY 2019).**
- **Pass bi-partisan legislation to address climate change and carbon emissions (ENERGY INNOVATION AND CARBON DIVIDEND ACT OF 2019).**



Hunger and Nutrition

“The primary goals of agricultural policies should be providing food for all people and reducing poverty among farmers and farm workers in this country and abroad.”--U.S. Bishops, *For I Was Hungry and You Gave Me Food*

- Food security : access by all people at all times to enough food for an active, healthy life
- Food security is increasing, BUT 15 million households are still food insecure
- Partial shutdown is likely to impact funding for nutrition programs, if it continues
- Return of budget caps threatens future funding



Hunger and Nutrition

Preserve Funding for Nutrition Programs That Alleviate Hunger

- **Women, Infants and Children Program (WIC)**
 - Provides food vouchers, health care referrals, and nutrition education for low-income pregnant, breastfeeding, and non-breastfeeding postpartum women, and to infants and children up to age five
- **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)**
 - Enables millions of eligible, low-income individuals and families to purchase nutritious food
- **The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)**
 - Distributes USDA-purchased food for use by local hunger-relief organizations
- **Commodity Supplemental Food Assistance Program (CSFP)**
 - Provides USDA-purchased foods to low-income senior citizens and in some cases low-income infants and children up to age six and low-income pregnant and postpartum women
- **Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)**
 - Provides nutritious meals and snacks to adults and children in day care settings



Affordable Housing

- There is an Affordable Housing Crisis
 - The supply of low-cost rental units doesn't meet the need
 - The gap between housing costs & incomes is too wide
 - 3 out of 4 Households who are eligible for help, don't receive it
- Federal housing assistance has decreased since 2010
- Trump Administration proposed further reductions & raising rents for lowest income households
- A step in the right direction: Congress provided 10% increase to HUD's budget last year (FY18)
- Shutdown is impacting housing programs & putting tens of thousands of low-income renters at risk of losing stable housing



Affordable Housing

Increase Funding for HUD & USDA Affordable Housing and Community Development Programs

- Programs That Improve & Grow Low-Cost Housing Supply
 - HOME Investment Partnership
 - Community Development Block Grants
 - Section 514, 515, 516: Rural Rental Housing
- Programs That Provide Assistance to Individuals & Families Who Are Struggling
 - Public Housing Program
 - Tenant-based Rental Assistance
 - Project-based Rental Assistance
- Programs That Direct Resources to People Who Are Vulnerable
 - Section 202: Supportive Housing for the Elderly
 - Section 811: Supportive Housing for Persons with Disabilities
 - HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing
 - McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grants



Funding for EPA and DOI

- The federal government plays a critical role in helping society 'till and keep' (*Gn 2:15*) the bountiful natural resources of the United States for the good of all.
- Every year Congress must approve funding for government agencies, including the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Department of Interior (DOI), which are entrusted to environmental stewardship.
- Without essential funding the EPA and DOI are unable to clean up hazardous waste at Superfund sites, inspect power plants for emissions compliance, keep National Parks open and review toxic substances and pesticides impacting people and their communities, among other services.
- **Ask: Maintain or increase funding based on FY 2018 levels for DOI and EPA (\$8.05 billion).**



Bi-partisan Climate Legislation

“Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019”

- A carbon fee and dividend is a market-based mechanism that reduces carbon pollution by placing a fee on carbon emissions and returning dividends to taxpayers.
- Last year’s Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act, the first bipartisan carbon pricing proposal since 2009, would have led to a 45% carbon emissions reduction by 2030 raising an estimated \$80 billion in revenues resulting in low-and middle-income households receiving more in rebates than they pay in taxes.
- **Ask: Support bi-partisan carbon legislation that curbs the impact of climate change, encourages carbon free energy, and maintains economic vitality for families and communities.**



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Resources: Visit: <http://www.usccb.org/about/domestic-social-development/index.cfm>

Just Wages and Human Flourishing: USCCB Labor Day Statement 2019: <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/labor-employment/labor-day-statement-2018.cfm>

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International Policy Priorities

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Dave Cronin, Government Affairs Specialist, CRS



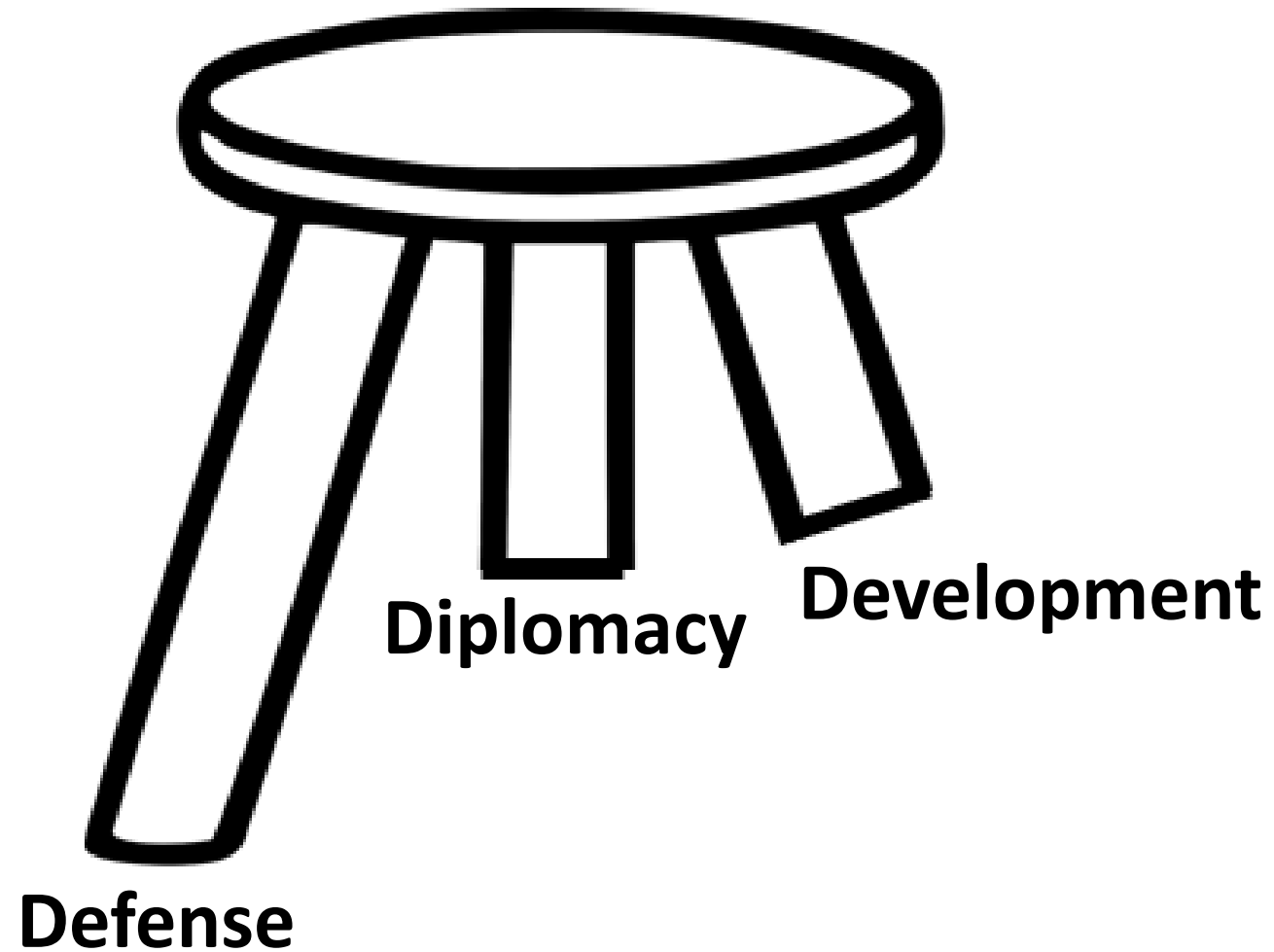


International Asks

- Preserve funding for fiscal year 2020 to at least fiscal year 2019 proposed levels for **poverty-reducing development and humanitarian programs**.
- Ask Congress to maintain **strong and vibrant investments in diplomacy**.
- Urge Congress to reintroduce and pass the **Global Fragility and Violence Reduction Act** (As Passed Last Year HR 5273).



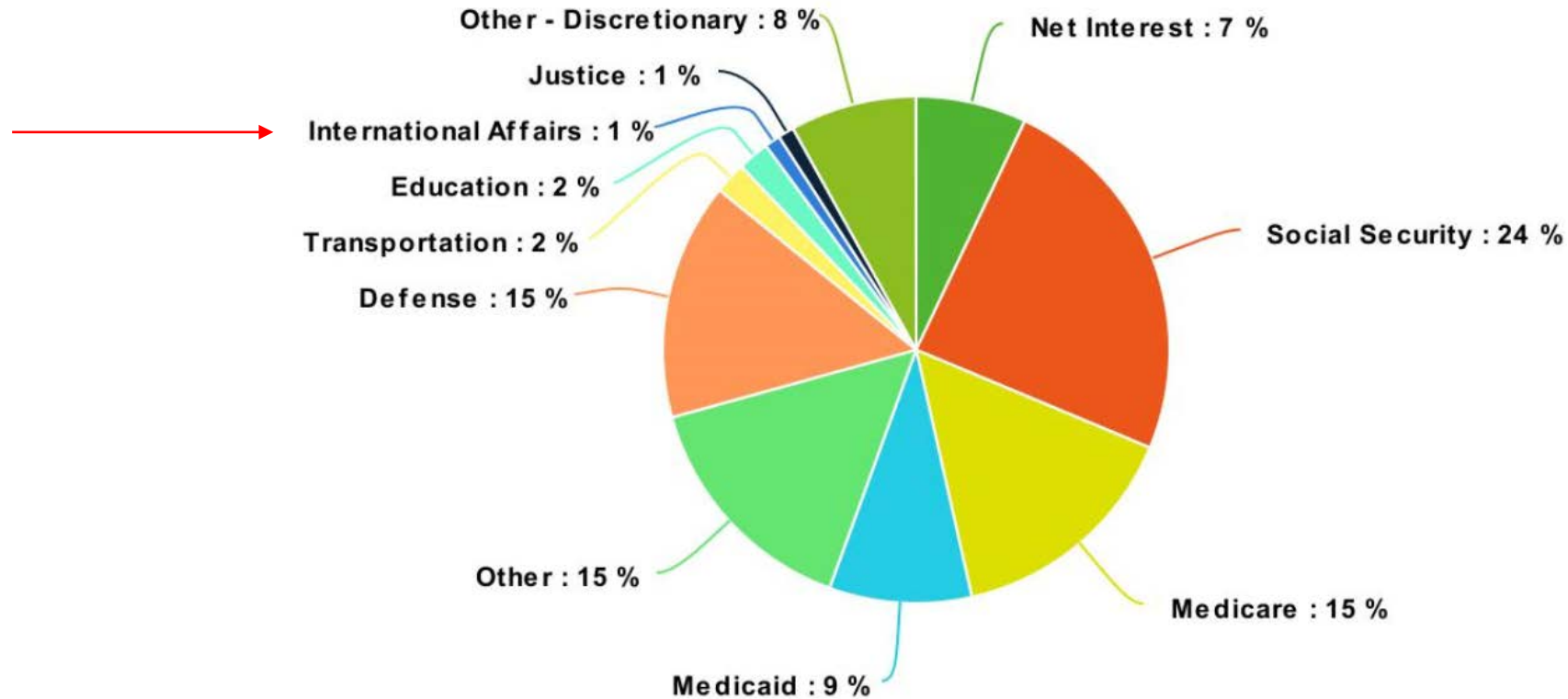
U.S. Foreign Policy





U.S. Federal Spending: FY 2017

Congressional Budget Office, March 2018



Total Federal Spending: \$4 trillion



International Poverty-Reducing Development and Humanitarian Accounts



1% Does a World of Good

Appropriations Accounts (\$ in thousands) (OCO included) *	FY 18 Omnibus	Administration's FY 19 Request	FY 19 House Bill	FY 19 Senate Bill	USCCB/CRS FY 19 Request
<i>State, Foreign Operations (SFOPs)</i>	21,788,823	15,128,395	21,991,464	22,312,524	23,001,549
Maternal and Child Health (including GAVI)	829,500	619,600	845,000	829,500	845,000
Nutrition	125,000	78,500	145,000	135,000	145,000
Vulnerable Children (orphans and displaced children)	23,000	-----	23,000	25,000	25,000
HIV/AIDS (USAID)	330,000	0	330,000	330,000	330,000
Malaria	755,000	674,000	755,000	755,000	755,000
Tuberculosis	261,000	178,400	302,000	275,000	302,000
Neglected Tropical Diseases	100,000	75,000	-----	105,950	105,950
Global Health Security ⁱ	72,550	72,500	172,550	100,000	172,550
HIV/AIDS (DOS/PEPFAR)	5,670,000	4,775,100	5,670,000	5,720,000	5,720,000
Development Assistance (including Water, Basic Ed) ⁱⁱ	3,000,000	-----	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000
International Disaster Assistance	4,285,312	3,557,412	4,285,312	4,385,312	4,385,312
Migration and Refugee Assistance	3,359,000	2,800,375	3,360,000	3,432,000	3,432,000
Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance	1,000	0	0	1,000	50,000
Complex Crises Fund	30,000	0	0	30,000	30,000
Millennium Challenge Account	905,000	800,000	905,000	905,000	905,000
Atrocities Prevention Board (ESF & INCLE)	5,750	0	-----	5,750	5,750
Contributions to International Peacekeeping Activities	1,382,080	1,196,108	1,589,496	1,683,881	1,683,881
Peacekeeping Operations	537,925	291,400	490,400	477,425	490,400
Green Climate Fund (Treasury)	0	0	0	0	500,000
U.S. Institute of Peace	37,884	20,000	37,884	37,884	37,884
Anti-Trafficking in Persons (DA, ESF, AEECA, INCLE)	78,822	-----	80,822	78,822	80,822
<i>Agricultural (Ag)</i>	1,923,626	0	1,707,626	1,926,255	2,110,255
Food for Peace (Title II) ⁱⁱⁱ	1,716,000	0	1,500,000	1,716,000	1,716,000
McGovern-Dole	207,626	0	207,626	210,255	210,255
<i>Labor, Health and Human Services (LHHS)</i>	86,125	18,500	18,500	86,125	86,125
Bureau of International Labor Affairs (DOL/ILAB)	86,125	18,500	18,500	86,125	86,125
COMBINED TOTAL	23,798,574	15,156,895	23,717,590	24,324,904	25,013,929





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Migration Policy Priorities

- Ashley Feasley, Director of Policy and Public Affairs, Migration and Refugee Services



Migration Asks

- **Find a Bipartisan Solution to Protect Dreamers that Offers a Path to Citizenship.**
- **Find a Permanent Legal Solution for TPS Holders.**
- **Maintain Protections for Unaccompanied Children and Asylum Seekers.**



Who Are TPS Holders and Dreamers?

- **Dreamers** - over 1.8 million young people brought to the U.S. by their parents.
 - Only 700,000 currently have Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) protection.
- **TPS Holders** - Over 300,000 people currently have TPS protections, which provide a reprieve from deportation and work authorization.
 - Currently almost all of these people are facing an expiration of their TPS status in late 2019 and in early 2020.

Photo Credit: CNS/David Maung





Why Do Dreamers and TPS Holders Need Permanent Solutions?

- Current protections are expiring or face the possibility of ending.
- Permanent legislative solutions are necessary to avoid future situations of family separation and uncertainty.
- Dreamers and TPS recipients are integrated into American and Catholic communities. They need to be recognized for their contributions to our society and our communities.



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Questions?

Today's Presenters

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