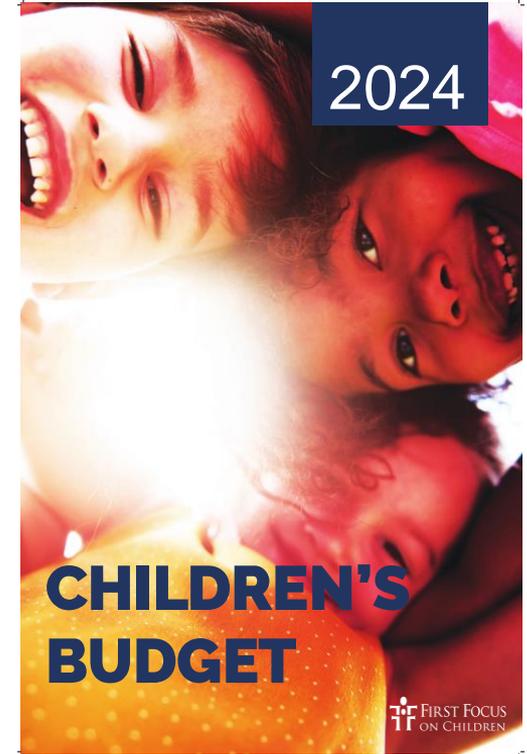




# *Children's Budget 2024*

# What is the Children's Budget?

- The Children's Budget provides a comprehensive analysis of the share of spending allocated to kids over more than 250 government programs in the federal budget.
- For more than 15 years, First Focus on Children has published the Children's Budget to serve as a resource for advocates and legislative staff as legislators make important funding decisions. It shines a spotlight on shortcomings and promotes decisions that will better support the health and wellbeing of children.



# How we organize the book

The Children's Budget reports on domestic and international spending on children in the Federal Budget, including both mandatory and discretionary funding, for over 250 programs **19 federal departments** and numerous agencies. Additionally, First Focus categorizes federal programs into **10 investment areas**.

EARLY CHILDHOOD

HEALTH

HOUSING

EDUCATION

JUSTICE & CHILD PROTECTION

INCOME SUPPORT

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

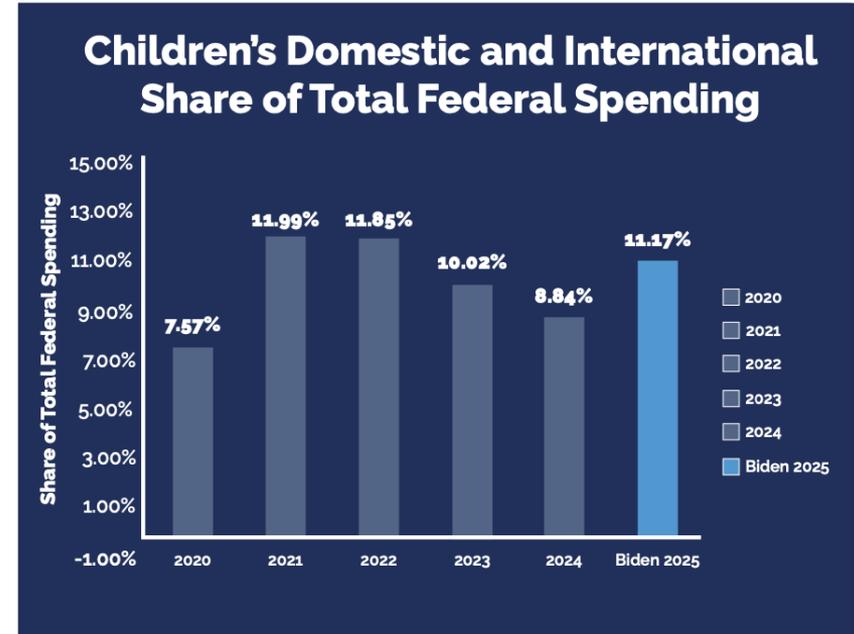
NUTRITION

TRAINING

INTERNATIONAL

# Children's Budget 2024 analysis found that the share of spending on children decreased from FY 2023 to FY 2024

- In FY 2024, federal Spending on children accounts for just 8.84% of total spending — **A decline from 10.02% in FY 2023 and a high of 11.99% in FY 2021 and just above the record low of FY 2020.**
- Total dollars spent on children is also down from \$811 billion in FY 2021 to just \$593 billion in FY 2024



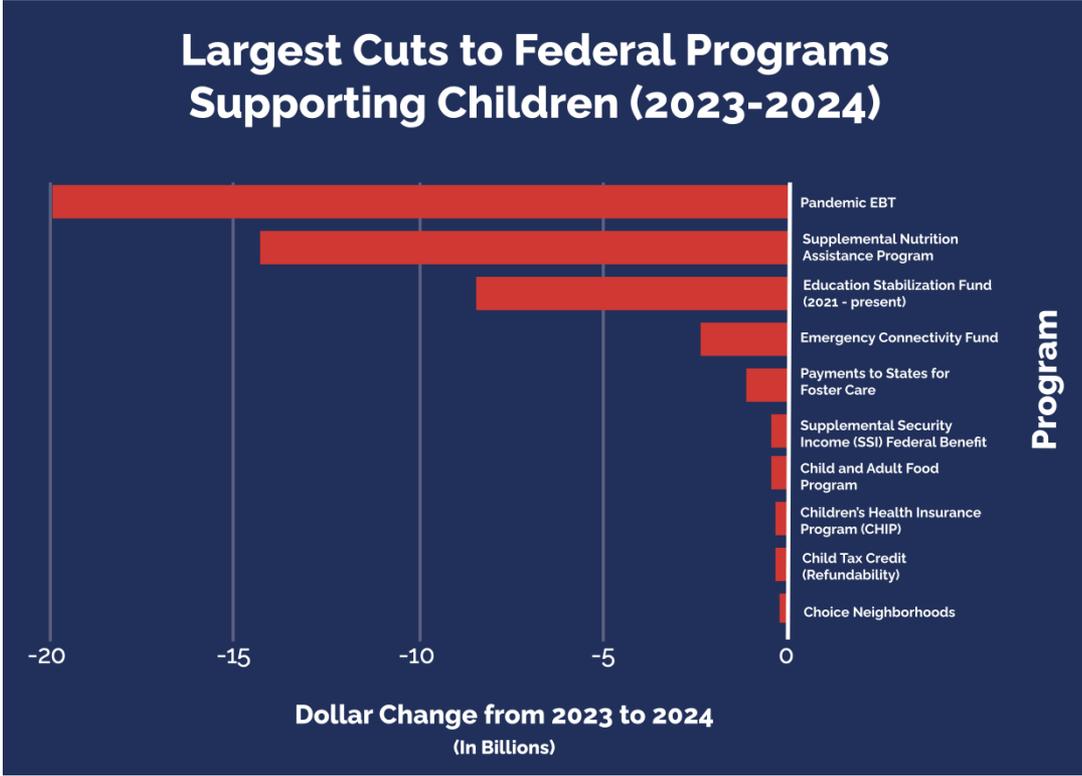
## Spending on children failed to keep up with inflation in FY 2024

- In FY 2024 **spending on children fell by 5.74%** adjusted for inflation compared to FY 2023.
- **This was the third straight year that spending on children fell relative to inflation**--- driven largely by the expiration of several pandemic-era programs that disproportionately flowed to children.

# Why is funding for children down in FY 2024? SNAP and Pandemic EBT

- The net decline in real funding for children is accounted for largely by a decline in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and Pandemic EBT programs.
  - SNAP benefits for children fell by \$14.245 billion between 2023 and 2024, creating an inflation-adjusted spending decline of nearly 24%.
  - Pandemic EBT funding expired completely in FY 2024 causing a loss of \$20 billion.

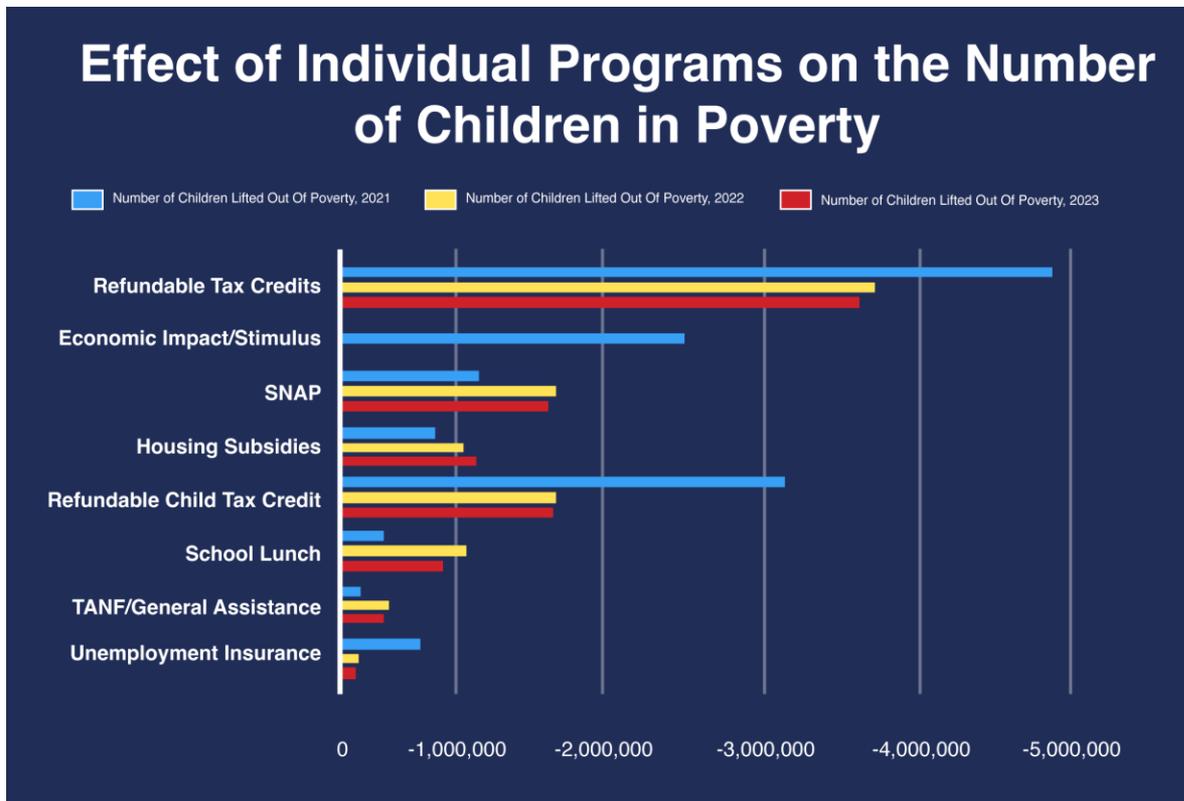
# Largest declines in FY 2024 for children by program



# Good news: Advocates won some small wins for discretionary programs that cushioned the blow to children

- **WIC spending on children increased by 14%** adjusted for inflation (but not enough to make up for SNAP and Pandemic EBT cuts).
- A new permanent Summer EBT program was established that partially replaced lost Pandemic EBT funding

**We need to re-invest in children because pandemic-era programs worked---  
for example, by dramatically reducing child poverty**



# International spending on children makes up an incredibly small share of federal spending, only 0.09%

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Biden 2025
Spending Level	\$ 5.23 B	\$ 6.36 B	\$ 5.73 B	\$ 6.11 B	\$ 5.94 B	\$ 6.28 B
Share of International Spending	9.12%	8.90%	8.62%	7.99%	10.16%	10.68%
Share of Total Federal Spending	0.08%	0.09%	0.10%	0.10%	0.09%	0.09%

# A path forward to a better future? The President's FY 2025 Budget

- Biden's Proposed Budget for FY 2025 would increase spending on children by a whopping \$200 billion.
- The expansion of the Child Tax Credit and making it fully refundable would alone increase spending on children by \$186 billion--- a 648% increase.

# What is in the rest of the book:

## Overall Spending

Children's Share of Total Spending

Spending levels and inflation-adjusted percent changes from year to year

## Chapter Overview

The change in share of federal spending going to each children's issue from 2020-2024

For each children's issue area we present a chart showing for the past 5 years + President Biden's request:

- The overall spending level for that topic
- Percent change from prior year
- Share of total federal budget

A chapter narrative on the year's findings compiled by subject matter experts at First Focus

## Program Overview

For over 230 federal programs, the *Children's Budget* lists:

5 years + President Biden's Request of data for:

- Yearly Spending Level
- Percent change from Prior Year

Percent change in the share of spending from 2020-2024

Program details:

- Description
- Dept/Bureau
- Type of funding