



Support Funding for Children, Youth, and Families

Director Russell Vought
Office of Management and Budget
Executive Office of the President
725 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20503

October 16, 2025

Dear Director Vought,

The Child Partnership is a growing coalition that supports a results-driven approach to U.S. foreign assistance, incorporating children and youth into informed, efficient investments. On behalf of the Child Partnership, we write to urge the Administration to preserve and expand investments that prevent and respond to violence against children while advancing the well-being of the whole child—including health, education, nutrition, and family support—in the FY2027 President’s Budget Request.

Children’s safety and development are directly tied to U.S. interests in stability, security, and prosperity. When children are protected, educated, and healthy, they grow into productive citizens who strengthen economies and democratic institutions, rather than becoming vulnerable to trafficking, exploitation, recruitment, or instability. As current Administration leadership has emphasized, ensuring that each child has the foundation to thrive is also an investment in America’s long-term strength and security.

Children around the world face heightened risks from armed conflict, forced displacement, child labor, and, most acutely, child sexual exploitation and abuse (CSEA), including rapidly expanding online abuse. Reports to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children’s Cyber Tipline have reached record levels, underscoring the scale of the crisis. But CSEA is not confined by borders. The same online platforms, trafficking networks, and perpetrators that harm children in the United States also target children abroad.

Domestic efforts alone cannot keep pace with the challenges. The DHS’s Cyber Crimes Center, the DOJ’s Project Safe Childhood, and NCMEC all regularly rely on cooperation with foreign governments and international law enforcement to identify victims, dismantle networks, and prosecute offenders. CDC’s Violence Against Children Surveys also provide prevalence data that inform both U.S. and global prevention strategies. By investing in prevention and enforcement abroad—through bilateral compacts, ILAB programs, and CEIU capacity—we directly strengthen the protection of American children at home. Simply put, U.S. children are safer when the global network to prevent and combat CSEA is strong.

FY2027 budget priorities

To ensure continuity and coherence, we recommend the following minimum investments:

Category	FY27 Minimum Request	Purpose & Strategic Rationale
Vulnerable Children Account (VCA)	\$32.5 million	Protect vulnerable children from violence and exploitation; support early development and family care.
Child Protection Compact (State/J/TIP)	\$12.5 million	Multi-year bilateral partnerships to combat child trafficking and exploitation, including CSEA.
Adolescent Girls & Ending Child Marriage	\$20 million	Prevent child, early, and forced marriage; meet the needs of married girls; align with the U.S. Global Strategy to Empower Adolescent Girls.
Violence Against Children Surveys (CDC)	\$10 million	Ensure consistent funding for data collection and technical assistance, including CSEA prevalence data, to guide evidence-based programs.
Bureau of International Labor Affairs (ILAB)	\$81.72 million, of which not less than \$30.17 for child labor	For programs to combat exploitative child labor internationally
International Basic Education	\$922 million	Provide quality education for vulnerable children.

HSI Child Exploitation Investigations Unit (CEIU)	\$30 million	Strengthen transnational investigations into child sexual exploitation and abuse (online and offline) and support victim identification.
Nutrition	\$165 million	Prevent stunting, cure cases of anemia, support mothers to breastfeed, and provide life-saving treatment for children experiencing waste in development settings.
Office of Children and Families (OCF) at the Department of State	Modest startup investment and adequate staffing	Establish an Office of Children and Families within the Bureau of Foreign Assistance, Humanitarian Affairs, and Religious Freedom (F) to unify statutory mandates (e.g., READ Act, Global Child Thrive Act, P.L. 109-95, etc.), coordinate across agencies, and ensure that investments in children’s well-being are strategically aligned with U.S. foreign policy.

Protecting and supporting children worldwide is not only a moral imperative—it is a strategic investment in America’s own safety, security, and prosperity. By sustaining key accounts and establishing the OCF within the State Department, the Administration can ensure that U.S. leadership on behalf of children remains coherent, efficient, and impactful.

We would appreciate the opportunity to meet at your earliest convenience to discuss these recommendations. Please contact Leila Milani (lmilani@futureswithoutviolence.org).

Respectfully,

The Child Partnership