

# Rapid Analysis

## *President's FY 2027 Topline Fact Sheet and Detailed Budget*

### **The Disconnect: Punitive Funding vs. Successful Reintegration**

The budget's focus on incarceration is underscored by a [\\$40.8 billion request for the Department of Justice](#), a 13% increase (\$4.7 billion) over 2026 levels. This funding is explicitly targeted at maximizing DOJ's capacity to "lock up violent offenders" and "demolish foreign drug cartels." The budget narrative also calls for an additional 20 grants to be eliminated. As a new Attorney General takes the helm at DOJ, it is yet to be determined how these priorities will be carried out in addition to the President's proposal to Congress.

- **State & Local Impact:** This surge in federal law enforcement grants often incentivizes local jurisdictions to prioritize arrests over social interventions. For JCC members, this shifts the local landscape from "community restoration" to "surveillance and suppression," directly countering the goal of strengthening holistic reentry systems for the 98% who return home. Even as federal funding priorities shift, however, local governments and public stakeholders can continue to stand up for individuals returning from incarceration through forging fair chance initiatives locally and establishing or strengthening strategic partnerships with local justice experts (e.g., judges, state corrections, city attorney, sheriff, etc).

### **Another Example of "Program Purge"**

While the JCC prioritizes increasing pathways to employment and resource access, this budget implements a \$73 billion (10%) reduction in non-defense spending. This is achieved by eliminating programs characterized as "woke" or "wasteful," including the [Minority Business Development Agency](#) (MBDA), which the administration describes as "divisive and discriminatory." Additionally, [Community Services Block Grants \(CSBG\)](#) are also up for elimination entirely, a \$770 million cut. The administration claims these funds have been "hijacked" for equity-building and climate initiatives. The reality, however, is that each of these programs were created by design to alleviate core drivers of poverty and, thereby, reduce one of the key causes of violence.

- **State & Local Impact:** By returning these responsibilities to state governments without corresponding federal aid, the budget creates "resource deserts." Local organizations that the JCC partners with, especially those providing specialized economic support to minority communities, may see their local grant pools vanish as the federal safety net is retracted.

**Advocates must continue to connect the dots for local policymakers between supporting impacted communities, violence reduction, and economic opportunity in order to bolster the possibility of new funding streams through non-federal partnerships.**

### **Social Determinants of Health**

The JCC identifies incarceration as a social determinant of health, yet the budget proposes to "refocus" and eliminate funding for several SAMHSA programs. The administration argues these

programs, such as those under the Programs of Regional and National Significance (PRNS), are duplicative or “too small to have a national impact.” The budget proposal also calls for the complete elimination of the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). These funds serve directly impacted renters and home owners to ensure that utilities are truly reduced in cost versus merely being delayed in extreme weather months.

- **State & Local Impact:** For those reentering society, the loss of these specialized federal grants translates to fewer community-based mental health and substance abuse beds. This increases the likelihood of cycling through the legal system rather than achieving the human dignity the JCC advocates for. Similarly, by removing funds for energy assistance, impacted residents are at the mercy of public utility special interest pricing. While Congress has the final decision (allegedly), advocates must anticipate these funding and programmatic losses by forging new mutual aid programs, faith-based initiatives, peer-led services, and other localized efforts.
- **Other Hidden Costs:** In addition to eliminating the programming above, the President’s Budget proposes collapsing multiple medium-sized agencies into a new Administration for a Healthy America. If these agencies were to collapse, it is likely more scientists and other subject matter experts (SMEs) will exit the federal workforce. These SMEs currently provide critically important funding guidance and programmatic expertise to Community Health Centers, HIV/STI Clinics, and Discount Pharmacies leveraged by thousands of people returning from incarceration.

## **Workforce Development: “Make America Skilled Again” (MASA)**

The transition to the MASA program shifts federal workforce dollars away from “progressive non-profits” and gives states more flexibility. It mandates that states spend at least 10% of their MASA grant on apprenticeships, a model the administration views as a “proven learn-and-earn” strategy. Apprenticeship pathways, however, need a great deal more coordination between labor and correctional experts to ensure broad avenues exist for individuals incarcerated to complete pre-apprentice training in new ways while in custody. Other key proposed cuts include elimination of the only federal job training program specifically targeting Older Americans — including those with convictions.

- **The JCC’s Role:** This is a critical leverage point to partner in your state and district. Because the JCC aims to increase the involvement of people with lived experience in policy design, members must pivot to state-level advocacy. They can influence how these “flexible” state funds are spent to ensure that the 10% apprenticeship mandate includes and supports systems-impacted individuals rather than excluding them through rigid background check requirements.
- While federal workforce shortages dominate the headlines, they present a clear opening for Fair Chance employment. By aligning with federal priorities like the expansion of apprenticeships, maritime shipbuilding, and Bureau of Prisons initiatives, we can create pathways for impacted individuals and show inclusive hiring is a solution to national labor gaps.