

# Families

President Bush is committed to building strong families and ensuring that every child has the chance to grow up in a safe and loving family, to be healthy, and to learn. Since 2001, the President has worked to strengthen families, create opportunities for a secure and permanent family situation for children, and promote adoption for children in foster care.

Since 2001, President Bush has:

- Reformed K-12 education through the landmark No Child Left Behind Act that is raising standards, improving accountability, and expanding parental choice;
- Strengthened Federal early childhood education programs by focusing on school readiness and improving accountability through: training over 50,000 Head Start teachers in the latest research-based teaching techniques; enacting a national reporting system; funding additional research on school readiness; and providing over 15 million informational pamphlets to parents and caregivers;
- Fully funded the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) nutrition program providing support for women and children;
- Signed the Child Nutrition Reauthorization Act to help the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) serve more children by allowing direct certification for children who live in families that qualify for other assistance programs such as Medicaid, and allowing private and faith-based organizations to participate in feeding programs. Also, USDA is providing grants to help increase awareness of the Food Stamp Program for low-income households;
- Expanded and coordinated the AMBER Alert system to locate missing children. AMBER Alerts have been credited with helping recover approximately 100 children since the President announced his initiative in October 2002;
- Supported healthy marriage and responsible fatherhood through grant programs, research, and demonstration projects;
- Signed into law the Unborn Victims of Violence Act, which enhances protections for unborn children. The act recognizes unborn children who are injured or killed during the commission of a crime as crime victims themselves;
- Signed into law the Born Alive Infants Protection Act, which clarifies that infants who are born alive, at any stage of development, are persons who are entitled to protections of the law;
- Promoted adoption of older children in foster care;
- Made adoption more affordable for families by increasing the adoption tax credit from \$5,000 per child to \$10,000 per child for qualified adoption expenses. For special needs adoptions, the credit increases from \$6,000 to \$10,000, regardless of expenses;

- Expanded the Pell Grant program with an increase of \$4.1 billion, or 47%, since 2001. This program helps low-income families with the costs of college education. The President increased the maximum Pell Grant award while increasing the overall number of Pell Grant recipients by 1 million since 2001;
- Created education and training vouchers for foster care youth, securing funding to provide \$5,000 vouchers to an estimated 17,000 eligible youth;
- Reduced the marriage penalty in the tax code; and
- Doubled the Per Child Tax Credit from \$500 to \$1000 per child.

The President's FY 2005 Budget for strengthening families builds on the successes of the last three years. It includes:

- Making the family tax relief permanent, including the \$1,000 child credit, the marriage penalty relief and the new 10-percent tax bracket;
- \$50 million for the Marriage and Healthy Family Development – working to keep families together in a healthy manner for a positive result for children by promoting responsible fatherhood and providing \$240 million to support healthy marriages;
- A doubling of the commitment to healthy teens by providing more than \$270 million for Healthy Choices for Teens – providing support for abstinence education programs to encourage youth to make responsible and healthy choices;
- Continuation of unprecedented increases in Title I and Special Education funding to help schools implement No Child Left Behind and meet the needs of low-income students and students with disabilities;
- Strengthening early childhood programs, including an additional \$169 million for Head Start, a \$38 million increase in the Early Reading First program, an increase of \$101 million for the Reading First program, and a \$22 million increase for IDEA for infants and toddlers with disabilities;
- \$120 million increase for Math and Science Partnerships to help middle and high school students who fall behind in math, \$100 million for Striving Readers, and a \$28 million increase to expand Advanced Placement programs in low-income schools; (see Education)
- An additional \$33 million to provide larger Pell Grants for low-income students who prepare for college with demanding courses in high school;
- Improved access to childhood immunizations through enhancements in the Vaccines for Children program;
- Support for the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) nutrition program, providing a record \$5.087 billion for WIC services to serve all eligible women, infants, and children seeking services;

- \$186 billion to assist low income Americans through Medicaid, including one-fourth of the Nation's children. Medicaid is the largest single purchaser of maternity care and nursing home/long-term care services;
- Additional funding to combat child exploitation and obscenity, domestic violence, and support victim services; (see Justice)
- Support for the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act by providing \$107 million (an increase of \$52 million) to enable States to provide prevention services to an additional 55,000 families;
- An effort to prevent disruption in the educational progress of children in military families and to ease the stresses on military families; (see Defense) and
- \$5 million for the Department of Labor to encourage greater use of existing flextime and telework options to help ease the pressures faced by workers and their families.

For Other Information About the President's Accomplishments and Proposals:

#### **FY 2005 Budget**

Department of Agriculture: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget/fy2005/agriculture.html>

Department of Defense: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget/fy2005/defense.html>

Department of Education: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget/fy2005/education.html>

Department of Health and Human Services: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget/fy2005/hhs.html>

Department of Justice: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget/fy2005/justice.html>

Department of Labor: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget/fy2005/labor.html>

Department of Treasury: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget/fy2005/treasury.html>

#### **Compassion**

The White House: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/infocus/compassionate/>

#### **Education**

The White House: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/infocus/earlychildhood/>

The White House: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/infocus/education/>

Department of Education: <http://www.ed.gov/nclb/landing.jhtml?src=fb>

#### **Faith-Based and Community Initiatives**

The White House: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/government/fbci/>

Department of Health and Human Services: <http://www.hhs.gov/fbci/>

Department of Housing and Urban Development: <http://www.hud.gov/initiatives/fbci/index.cfm>

#### **Home Ownership**

The White House: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/infocus/homeownership/>

Department of Housing and Urban Development: <http://www.hud.gov/initiatives/homeownership/index.cfm>