

INTRODUCING FPWA'S FEDERAL FUNDS TRACKER

The Tracker is a unique tool that visualizes the impact of federal budgets on New York City's human services budget and sector, brings the data to life with stories of individuals whose lives were positively impacted by federal support, and offers opportunity for users to take direct action. Since the launch in February – keynoted by City Council Speaker Corey Johnson – the Tracker has served as an infrastructure for FPWA's fiscal policy team to analyze and compare spending proposals, supported advocacy efforts such as our recent press conference with Congresswoman Maloney, and begin to establish FPWA as a trusted source for federal fiscal policy.

FPWA FISCAL POLICY AGENDA

1) Right-Size Human Services Budget

We urge the allocation of resources to human services programs and families in need

- **FPWA's Federal Funds Tracker** finds that **human services grants have declined by more than \$300 million since FY 2010** after adjusting for inflation
- The House spending plan would be a good start in undoing a decade of austerity

Contrast that with the **Senate Appropriations Committee plan which proposes to cut 2020 funding** for of Labor, Health and Human Services (HHS), and **Education by \$2.7 billion below the 2019 level in inflation-adjusted terms**

- Even though the President and Congress agreed this summer to increase overall non-defense discretionary (NDD) funding for 2020
- **Exception is Housing (Housing Aid a Rare Bright Spot in Senate Funding Bills, But More Needed)**
 - For example, in the housing bill the House allocated a lot of the extra money to the Mobility Demonstration Program, Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), and HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME)., whereas the Senate allocated money to rental assistance

2) Strengthen Tax Enforcement

As policymakers set next year's IRS funding, they should at least **match — and preferably exceed — the House-approved \$567 million boost in IRS enforcement and operations support**

- The Senate Appropriations bill allocated a \$198 million boost. At this rate, **would take decades to restore**
- Since 2010, **IRS enforcement and operations support has been slashed by roughly one-quarter** in inflation-adjusted terms. These divisions have lost 28 percent of their workforce since then.
- Similarly, **the number of cases referred for criminal investigation has fallen by a third**

3) Protect SNAP

Policymakers Should Protect SNAP from Funding Shortfalls — This Year and Beyond

- **This Year:** Were the government to shut down this fall after the CR expires, households would experience a gap between monthly benefits – as was the case last year. To avoid doing so again, **provide funding for the budget year and, via an "advance appropriation," funding for some or all of the following fiscal year.**
- **Beyond:** To **protect against inadequate annual funding — such as during an economic slowdown — provide "such sums as may be necessary" in the appropriations bills** to allow SNAP to respond to high unemployment, shrinking incomes, and thus increased need