

Potential Impacts of Administration Budget Blueprint on Inyo and Mono County residents who receive services from Inyo Mono Advocates for Community Action, Inc.

In March 2017, the Administration published “America First-A Budget Blueprint to Make America Great Again” which outlines proposals for the Federal Budget for the period October 1, 2017 to September 30, 2018. The Blueprint calls for the elimination of funding for the **Community Services Block Grant – CSBG** and the **Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program - LIHEAP** and 59 other programs which have received more attention. If proposals regarding CSBG and LIHEAP were enacted by Congress, this Budget would completely eliminate approximately \$900,000 – 30 % of the current funding for IMACA, Inyo Mono Advocates for Community Action, Inc., the Community Action Agency – CAA which has provided services to low-income Inyo Mono residents since 1981. This loss in direct funding to IMACA would eliminate direct energy assistance and energy saving home modification to at least 881 Inyo Mono residents, reduce service levels for several hundred other families, eliminate living wage jobs and damage the agencies stability.

CSBG is the core funding for over 1,000 Community Actions Agencies across the US, which are controlled by local Governing Boards that represent low-income, public and private sector interests and address **locally identified** needs. **LIHEAP and Weatherization**, started during the Reagan Administration, assist with payment of utility bills and rehabilitation of homes to increase energy efficiency. These programs have obtained bi-partisan support from Congress for decades.

For IMACA, the elimination of CSBG would remove the legislative authority for CAA’s and significantly reduce the functional infrastructure of the agency. The core CSBG allocation of \$257,253 - enables IMACA to leverage 12 times that amount from other sources by supporting staffing, insurance, facilities, fiscal compliance for all agency programs, local Board governance and about one half of direct food distribution activities. With core support, the agency has been able to: support the delivery of food to the remote communities of Inyo Mono – Darwin, Tecopa, Cartago, Benton – some, 40 or more miles from a grocery store; to provide innovative projects for Veterans, women with infants, seniors and others to obtain emergency or permanent housing; develop and/or manage four low income housing projects with 123 units with more on the drawing board; provide summer youth programs and many other projects over the history of the agency.

Other programs which assist lower-income Americans recommended for *elimination* in the Budget Blueprint, include: The Community Development Block Grant –**CDBG and the HOME program**, which have been used to support creation and renovation of local affordable housing, development of preschools in Benton and Bridgeport and projects on Indian reservations, and The Senior Community Service Employment Program – **SCSEP**, which has helped older workers provide support to the Forest Service, senior programs, IMACA and find unsubsidized employment.

In addition to services provided, IMACA has a significant economic impact in the area – providing 33 full time benefitted jobs, 16 part time jobs and work for several Contractors in Inyo and Mono Counties. These employees teach in 6 preschools, provide childcare assistance, enable families to access IMACA’s services and work cooperatively with other agencies. In addition, IMACA engages in significant commercial relationships with dozens of local vendors and businesses.