

Research BRIEF

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Federal and State Expenditures for Children with Disabilities in Fiscal Year 2014

This brief documents federal and selected state program expenditures made for children with disabilities in fiscal year 2014. Our estimates indicate that the federal government spent \$58 billion on this population in 2014, or about \$4,600 per capita. Including federal tax credit outlays increases total and per capita expenditures to \$71 billion and \$5,600, respectively. Programs for education, training, and employment services represented the largest expenditure category (31 percent), followed by income support programs (28 percent). State and local governments contribute significant additional funding, particularly for education and health care. The findings highlight the diversity of supports available to children with disabilities and provide a context for comparing investments in efforts intended to help this population.

INTRODUCTION

National data indicate that about 12.6 million children in the United States (or 17.1 percent) have a disability.

National data indicate that about 12.6 million children under age 18 in the United States (or 17.1 percent) have a disability (Taylor 2018). Because of their health conditions and activity limitations, many of these children face significant challenges in making successful transitions to adulthood. Research has shown that their education, employment, and earnings outcomes as young adults are poorer than those of their peers without disabilities (Newman et al. 2011). Some end up participating in federal disability and health insurance programs as adults and spend a lifetime relying on public income, health, and other supports. About one-fifth of all working-age adults participating in the Social Security Disability Insurance and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) programs experienced disability onset during childhood (Social Security Administration 2018).

Federal and state governments fund a variety of services to help children develop their capabilities and maintain their health, and a number of these services specifically focus on children with disabilities (Isaacs et al. 2015; Honeycutt and Livermore 2018). Key among the latter are the special education programs funded by Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, the SSI program, and the federal–state Medicaid and vocational rehabilitation (VR) programs. Policymakers’ concerns about the well-being and outcomes of youth with disabilities are reflected by these programs’ aims

as well as in more recent federal legislation, including the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014 and the Achieving a Better Life Experience Act of 2014.

The myriad programs that support children with disabilities obscures the full extent to which federal and state governments supports this population and its priorities for providing that support. Others have undertaken an accounting of the federal expenditures devoted to all children in the United States (Isaacs et al. 2015) and have done so over time to document how these expenditures, and their distribution across different types of supports, have changed. No such accounting has focused specifically on children with disabilities. In this brief, we document the federal and selected state program expenditures for children with disabilities in 2014. The findings provide a context for comparing the investments in efforts that focus on youth with disabilities as well as a baseline against which future expenditures might be compared.

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES

In 2014, federal expenditures for children with disabilities totaled nearly \$58 billion across 73 programs.

We identified 73 federal programs that provide direct services and income or in-kind support to children, many of which specifically focus on children with disabilities. We describe our methodology and present the estimates for each of these programs in the appendix.

We estimate that in 2014, federal expenditures for children with disabilities totaled nearly \$58 billion across the programs we identified (Figure 1). Programs for education, employment, and training made up the largest share of total expenditures (31 percent), followed by income support (28 percent). Spending on health care, housing and food assistance, and all other services combined accounted for the remaining 41 percent of expenditures. When we divide total expenditures by the estimated 12.6 million children with disabilities, we find that per capita federal expenditures were about \$4,600.

Federal expenditures (\$ billion) for children with disabilities in 2014

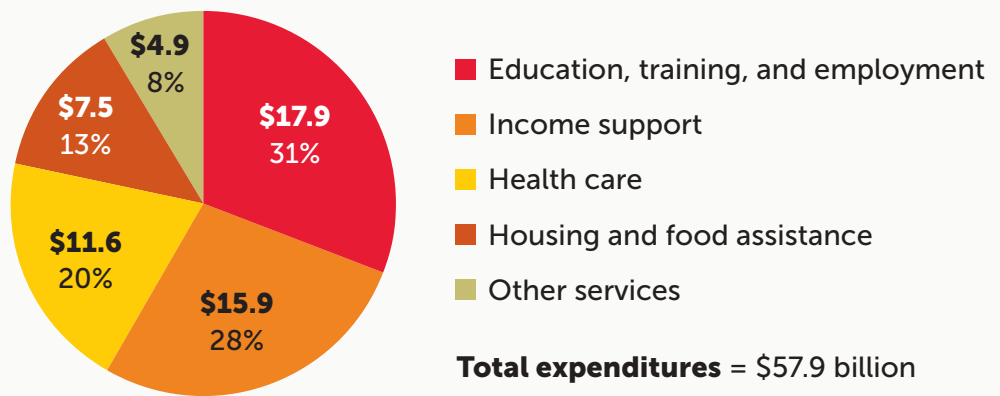


Figure 1.

Expenditures for three programs - the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act grants to states, SSI, and Medicaid - accounted for more than half of all federal expenditures for children with disabilities in 2014.

Ten programs had expenditures greater than \$1 billion. Expenditures for three of these—the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act grants to states, SSI, and Medicaid—accounted for more than half of all federal expenditures for children with disabilities (Table 1). The other 63 federal programs we considered each had estimated expenditures of less than \$1 billion in 2014 for children with disabilities and together, accounted for just 20 percent of total expenditures.

It is important to note that we excluded tax credits from our calculation of federal expenditures. The earned income and child tax credits represent the largest of these credits that might be considered income support for children because they are based in part on the number of children in the tax filer’s family. These credits are sizeable and the government considers a portion of them to be federal outlays (rather than reductions in tax revenue). Including a proportional share of the amounts that represent outlays would increase our total expenditure estimate to \$70.9 billion and estimated per capita expenditures to about \$5,600.¹

Table 1:

Federal programs with the largest expenditures for children with disabilities in 2014

Program	Expenditures (\$ million)	Percentage of total expenditures
IDEA special education grants to states	10,876	18.8
SSI federal payments	10,232	17.7
Medicaid (federal share)	8,934	15.4
Foster care and adoption assistance	3,647	6.3
Child nutrition programs	3,299	5.7
Education for the Disadvantaged (Title I, part A)	2,698	4.7
Social Security Old-Age and Survivors Insurance	2,414	4.2
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program	1,672	2.9
Children’s Health Insurance Program	1,539	2.7
Social Security Disability Insurance dependent benefits	1,237	2.1
All other programs	11,348	19.6

IDEA = Individuals with Disabilities Education Act; SSI = Supplemental Security Income.

STATE EXPENDITURES FOR SELECTED PROGRAMS

State governments also contribute substantial funding to support services for children with disabilities. In 2014, states contributed \$25 billion to support children with disabilities through five federal–state programs: special education, Medicaid and the Children’s Health Insurance Program, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, state supplements to federal SSI payments, and VR (Table 2). Most (71 percent) of these expenditures were for special education. Not reflected in Table 2 are the substantial expenditures made by state and local governments for general primary and secondary education, which dwarf both the \$25 billion state and \$58 billion federal expenditures for children with disabilities. Allocating a proportional share of these general primary

¹ This estimate is based on the tax credit data reported in Figure 2 of Isaacs et al. (2015) and allocating 17.1 percent to children with disabilities based on Taylor (2018).

and secondary education expenditures to children with disabilities would amount to another \$94 billion in expenditures on education for children with disabilities by state and local governments.² This suggests that state and local expenditures for children with disabilities were at least twice as large as the federal expenditures for this population.³

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Table 2:

State expenditures for children with disabilities under selected programs, 2014

Program	Expenditures (\$ million)
Special education ^a	18,069
Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program	6,541
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families	552
Federally administered Supplemental Security Income state supplement ^b	117
Vocational rehabilitation	76
Total	25,355

^aThis number likely represents an underestimate of state expenditures for special education because 13 states did not report expenditures for this category in the source we used for this estimate (U.S. Census Bureau 2014).

^bData on Supplemental Security Income state payments administered by the states themselves are not available.

DISCUSSION

Federal expenditures for children with disabilities are substantial: they are greater, on average, than expenditures made for children in general. Comparable estimates based on Isaacs et al. (2015) suggest that per capita federal expenditures for children with disabilities is about one-fifth higher than the per capita amount for all children (\$4,600 versus \$3,800), excluding tax credits. Yet per capita federal expenditures for children with disabilities are less than half the amount of federal per capita expenditures for working-age (ages 18 to 64) adults with disabilities, roughly \$10,800.⁴ Health care is the largest expenditure category for working-age adults with disabilities, followed closely by income support, and these two categories accounted for 95 percent of all expenditures for this group (Livermore et al. 2018). For children with disabilities, education and training is the largest expenditure category, followed by income support, with these two categories comprising just over half of all expenditures.

Federal expenditures for children with disabilities are not as substantial as the investments made by state and local governments, particularly with respect to education. This finding is not unique to children with disabilities. One source estimates that state and local governments contribute 65 percent of public funding for programs that support all children, with education representing the largest expenditure category (Isaacs et al. 2018). Clearly, state and local governments play a critical role in funding services for children generally and, in particular, children with disabilities who might need additional supports to become successful as adults.

² This estimate is based on the data reported in Table 1 of Cornman and Zhou (2016), subtracting the special education funding shown in Table 2, and allocating 17.1 percent to children with disabilities based on Taylor (2018).

³ Published information that would enable us to do a complete accounting of all state and local expenditures on children with disabilities is not readily available.

⁴ This estimate is based on total expenditures for working-age people with disabilities from Livermore et al. (2018). We used an estimate of the number of working-age people with disabilities derived from the same source we used for children in this study (Taylor 2018) to obtain a more comparable estimate of per capita expenditures than the estimate reported in Livermore et al (2018).

The many different entities funding and providing services paint a picture of a complicated and fragmented system of supports that the families of children with disabilities must navigate. Elements of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act seek to address this complicated support landscape to some extent by requiring key providers of services to youth with disabilities (state and local education, VR, and workforce programs) to collaborate in delivering services to children with disabilities. Collaborations to further common goals across the many different programs and levels of government might lead to a stronger safety net for children with disabilities and improve their education and employment outcomes as adults.

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APPENDIX: METHODOLOGY AND EXPENDITURE ESTIMATES BY PROGRAM

General methodology

We estimated how much the federal government spent in 2014 for programs supporting children with disabilities younger than age 18. We included programs for children with disabilities and programs used more generally by children. For the former, we used the program’s own disability classification used in the statistics they report (for example, disability classifications used by Supplemental Security Income and vocational rehabilitation) to estimate expenditures for this population. For the latter, and in instances in which expenditures were not reported specifically for children with disabilities, we estimated the share of program expenditures attributed to children with disabilities using a national disability prevalence rate (described below) unless an estimate more specific to the program population was available in the literature.

Some programs for children also support youth ages 18 and older. To estimate expenditures for those who were younger than 18, we attempted to estimate the share of participants who were in that age range and allocated the costs accordingly. We note in the detailed appendix tables the estimates for which we were unable to exclude youth older than 17.

When possible, we excluded certain types of programs and expenditures from our estimates. These include expenditures associated with administrative costs and programs that do not provide direct services or income and in-kind supports (for example, expenditures associated with research, training, and tax reductions). We also excluded programs for which we could not estimate the share spent on children with disabilities.

Our identification of programs and methodology for estimating expenditures draws heavily on the work of Isaacs et al. (2015) and Steele et al. (2014). We are grateful for their research to use as both a starting point for our estimates and a benchmark against which to judge the soundness of some of our assumptions.

Our estimates likely represent underestimates of the costs because we used the national disability prevalence rate for most programs for which a better alternative was not available. Because disability prevalence is generally higher among low-income populations, and because people with low-income access many of the programs we considered at higher rates than people with high income, use of the national prevalence rate might lead to underestimates. Our methodology also does not account for programs in which average costs might be higher or lower for children with disabilities compared with other children. We suspect costs are more often higher on average, particularly for health-related programs

Disability prevalence assumption

The expenditure estimates for many of the programs we considered are in part based on an assumption about the prevalence of disability among children in the general population. Prevalence estimates vary widely (from about 5 to 20 percent) depending on the data used to estimate them (National Academies of Sciences 2018). We selected a prevalence rate of 17.1 percent for our estimates based on data from the Social Security Administration supplement to the 2014 Survey of Income and Program Participation reported in Taylor (2018). Because this supplement includes a comprehensive set of questions about significant health conditions and activity limitations, we believe it best captures the broad population of children with a variety of disabilities who could be served by the federal programs we identified. Published estimates based on other sources of data we considered (for example, the American Community Survey, National Health Interview Survey, and National Survey of Children with Special Health Care Needs) appear to exclude children with certain types of disabilities.

Expenditure estimates by program

Tables A.1 to A.6 show the expenditures associated with each of the programs we included in our estimates and describe the sources and methodology we used. The federal expenditures tables are organized by program type: education, training, and employment (Table A.1); income support (Table A.2); health care (Table A.3); housing and food assistance (Table A.4); and other services (Table A.5). The final table presents state expenditures for selected programs (Table A.6).

Table A.1.

Federal expenditures for children with disabilities on education, training, and employment programs, 2014

Program	Expenditures (\$ million)	Description	Target population
Education			
IDEA Special Education grants to states	10,876 ^a	These grants are federal funding for special education (1) for all students with disabilities ages 5 to 18 and (2) for students with disabilities ages 19 to 22 if enrolled in a special education program before their 19th birthday and not yet graduated from a prescribed course of study. The estimate includes expenditures for IDEA Section 611 Part B.	Preschool, primary, and secondary school students with disabilities
Education for the Disadvantaged (Title I, part A)	2,698 ^b	These are grants to LEAs and schools with high concentrations of families with low income.	Students from families with low income
Head Start	925 ^c	This is a federal early childhood education program that provides comprehensive services for preschool-aged children from families with low income.	Children ages 3 to 5 from families with low income
School improvement	752 ^d	These are grants to states/LEAs to provide resources to low-performing schools and raise student achievement. The estimate includes students through secondary school regardless of age.	Preschool, primary, and secondary school students
IDEA Special Education grants for infants and families	438 ^e	These are grants to states to provide early intervention services to children before preschool. The estimate includes expenditures for IDEA Part C.	Children ages 2 and younger
IDEA Special Education preschool grants	353 ^e	These are grants to states to provide special education services to children in preschool. Estimate includes expenditures for IDEA Section 619 Part B.	Preschool students ages 3 to 5 with disabilities
Innovation and improvement	209 ^f	These are grants to states, LEAs, or nonprofit organizations to implement innovative programs in schools, including Race to the Top awards, grants for charter schools, and teacher incentives. The estimate includes students through secondary school regardless of age.	Preschool, primary, and secondary school students
U.S. Department of Defense Dependents Schools	203 ^g	These are schools that provide education to students living on American military bases in the United States and abroad. The estimate might include dependent students ages 20 and younger.	Dependent children of current or deceased military members or U.S. Department of Defense civilian employees
State Fiscal Stabilization Fund	185 ^h	These are grants to states to support education reforms (part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009). The estimate includes children ages 18 and younger.	Preschool, primary, and secondary school students

Table A.1.

Federal expenditures for children with disabilities on education, training, and employment programs, 2014

Impact Aid and U.S. Department of Defense DDESS	143 ⁱ	Impact Aid provides grants to LEAs to fund education in areas where the tax base has been reduced because of federal government acquisition of property, including 12 schools on military bases. DDESS provides funds to maintain and operate the 19 schools on military bases not covered by Impact Aid. The estimate includes students ages 19 and younger.	Primary and secondary school students who live on federal property
Vocational (and Adult) Education	135 ^f	These are grants to states for career and technical education and for adult education. The estimate includes youth ages 18 and younger.	Individuals enrolled in career and technical education
Indian Education	133 ^g	Both Office of Indian Education (U.S. Department of Education) and Bureau of Indian Education (Bureau of Indian Affairs) provide funds to educate students living on Indian reservations. The estimate includes students through secondary school regardless of age.	Students living in Indian tribes and Alaska Native villages
English Learner Education (also known as English Language Acquisition)	124 ^h	These are grants to states based on shares of English learners and immigrant children, to be distributed to LEAs, to provide services and help students attain English proficiency. The estimate includes students through secondary school regardless of age.	English learner and recent immigrant students
Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps	68 ^m	This program teaches military discipline and values to high school students. The estimate includes students in secondary school regardless of age.	High school students
Safe School and Citizenship Education/Supporting Student Success	46 ⁿ	These are programs to improve school and child outcomes, including Promise Neighborhoods; Successful, Safe, and Healthy Students; Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities; Elementary and Secondary School Counseling; the Physical Education Program; and 21st Century Community Learning Centers. The estimate includes students through secondary school regardless of age.	Preschool, primary, and secondary school students
IDEA Special Education parent information centers	27 ^e	These training and information centers provide resources to parents of children with disabilities. The estimate includes expenditures for IDEA Sections 671-673 Part D. The estimate includes students ages 26 and younger.	Parents of children with disabilities ages 26 and younger
American Printing House for the Blind	25 ^e	The American Printing House of the Blind produces educational materials for legally blind students enrolled in school. The estimate includes students in secondary school regardless of age.	Pre-college students who are legally blind

Table A.1.

Federal expenditures for children with disabilities on education, training, and employment programs, 2014

Special Olympics education programs	7.6 ^e	This is federal funding authorized by the Special Olympics Sport and Empowerment Act of 2004 to support participation in the Special Olympics. The estimate includes students through secondary school regardless of age.	Primary and secondary school students with disabilities
Safe Routes to School	6.3 ^o	These are funds to create safe commuting routes for students to walk or bike to school. The estimate includes students through secondary school regardless of age.	Preschool, primary, and secondary school students
Hurricane Education Recovery	0.3 ^p	These are funds for LEAs and nonpublic schools displaced by Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita. The estimate includes students through secondary school regardless of age.	Students in areas affected by Hurricane Katrina or Hurricane Rita
Education Jobs Fund	0.0 ^q	These are grants to states to retain or create education jobs. There were no funds in fiscal year 2014. The estimate includes students through secondary school regardless of age.	Students
Training			
Rehabilitation Services Administration, VR State Grants	282 ^r	This is a federal–state program that provides counseling, education, training, and job-placement assistance.	People with disabilities, with priority given to people with significant disabilities
Job Corps	187 ^s	This is a program that provides residential education and vocational job training to eligible youth. The estimate includes youth ages 18 and younger.	Youth with low income ages 16 to 24
WIA and Employment Service Programs for Adults - Youth Activities and YouthBuild	85 ^t	WIA Youth Activities provides educational and occupational training services to help eligible people prepare for employment. WIA YouthBuild is a program that provides employment and training services to youth through the construction of affordable housing. The estimate includes youth ages 18 and younger.	Youth with low income ages 14 to 24
Independent Living (Rehabilitation Services)	10 ^u	A federal–state program that provides services to people with disabilities to enable independent living.	People with disabilities
Reintegration of Ex-Offenders	3.2 ^v	These are grants to organizations that provide employment, training, and other services to ex-offenders. The estimate includes youth ages 18 and younger.	Youth and adults who were previously incarcerated
Total	17,922		

^aThe authors' calculation is based on \$11.5 billion in expenditures for IDEA Section 611 Part B (U.S. Department of Education 2015a) and 94.8 percent of students with disabilities who were age 18 or younger in 2014 (U.S. Department of Education 2015b).

^bThe authors' calculation is based on Office of Management and Budget (2015), p. 349. We allocated 17.1 percent of children expenditures to children with disabilities based on Taylor (2018).

^cThe authors' calculation is based on Office of Management and Budget (2015), pp. 491–492. We calculated expenditures as the share of Head Start obligations out of total Children and Families Services Programs obligations, multiplied by outlays. We allocated 12 percent of total expenditures to children with disabilities based on U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Early Childhood Learning & Knowledge Center (2014).

^dThe authors' calculation is based on Office of Management and Budget (2015), pp. 352–353. We calculated expenditures by subtracting training and advisory services out of school improvement obligations. We allocated 17.1 percent of expenditures to children with disabilities based on Taylor (2018).

^eU.S. Department of Education (2015a).

⁷The authors' calculation is based on Office of Management and Budget (2015), pp. 357. We allocated 17.1 percent of expenditures to children with disabilities based on Taylor (2018).

⁸The authors' calculation is based on U.S. Department of Defense (2016), Table III. We allocated 17.1 percent of children expenditures to children with disabilities based on Taylor (2018).

⁹The authors' calculation is based on Office of Management and Budget (2015), p. 356. We allocated 78 percent of expenditures to children based on Steele et al. (2014) and attributed 17.1 percent of those expenditures to children with disabilities based on Taylor (2018).

¹⁰The authors' calculation is based on (1) U.S. Department of Education (2015a), payments for children with disabilities; and (2) U.S. Department of Defense (2016), Table III. We allocated 17.1 percent of total DDESS expenditures to children with disabilities based on Taylor (2018).

¹¹The authors' calculation is based on Office of Management and Budget (2015), p. 364. We allocated 47 percent of expenditures to children based on Steele et al. (2014) and attributed 17.1 percent of those expenditures to children with disabilities based on Taylor (2018).

¹²The authors' calculation is based on both U.S. Department of Education (2015a) and Office of Management and Budget (2015), pp. 684–685. We calculated Bureau of Indian Affairs expenditures as the share of education obligations out of total operation of Indian Programs obligations, multiplied by outlays. We allocated 17.1 percent of children expenditures to children with disabilities based on Taylor (2018).

¹³The authors' calculation is based on U.S. Department of Education (2015a). We allocated 17.1 percent of children expenditures to children with disabilities based on Taylor (2018).

¹⁴The authors' calculation is based on U.S. Department of Defense (2015). We combined personnel and operations expenditures for Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps. We allocated 17.1 percent of children expenditures to children with disabilities based on Taylor (2018).

¹⁵The authors' calculation is based on Office of Management and Budget (2015), p. 354. We allocated 17.1 percent of children expenditures to children with disabilities based on Taylor (2018).

¹⁶The authors' calculation is based on Steele et al. (2014) for expenditures in 2013. We allocated 17.1 percent of children expenditures to children with disabilities based on Taylor (2018).

¹⁷The authors' calculation is based on Office of Management and Budget (2015), p. 391. We allocated 17.1 percent of children expenditures to children with disabilities based on Taylor (2018).

¹⁸The authors' calculation is based on Office of Management and Budget (2015), p. 356. We allocated 17.1 percent of children expenditures to children with disabilities based on Taylor (2018).

¹⁹The authors' calculation is based on \$3 billion for VR state grants in fiscal year 2014 (U.S. Department of Education 2015a) and an estimated 9.32 percent of VR case closures were for youth under age 18 in fiscal year 2014. This estimate was based on analyses of national VR case file data on the number of people younger than age 18 provided by Purvi Sevak of Mathematica Policy Research.

²⁰The authors' calculation is based on U.S. Department of Labor (2015). We allocated 41 percent of total expenditures to children based on Steele et al. (2014) and attributed 27 percent of those expenditures to children with disabilities based on U.S. Department of Labor, Support Services (2016).

²¹The authors' calculation is based on U.S. Department of Labor (2015). We allocated 66 percent of total Youth Activities expenditures and 36 percent of total YouthBuild expenditures to children based on Steele et al. (2014) and attributed 15 percent of those expenditures to children with disabilities based on Table IV-4 of Social Policy Research Associates (2016).

²²The authors' calculation is based on Office of Management and Budget (2015), pp. 361–362. We calculated expenditures as the share of Independent Living obligations out of total Rehabilitation Services obligations, multiplied by outlays. We allocated 8 percent of total expenditures to children younger than age 18 based on U.S. Census Bureau (2014).

²³The authors' calculation is based on U.S. Department of Labor (2015). We allocated 65 percent of total expenditures to children based on Steele et al. (2014) and attributed 6.2 percent of those expenditures to children with disabilities based on Table I-2 of Social Policy Research Associates (2015).

Note: DDESS = Domestic Dependent Elementary and Secondary Schools; IDEA = Individuals with Disabilities Education Act; LEA = local education agency; VR = vocational rehabilitation; WIA = Workforce Investment Act.

Table A.2.

Federal expenditures for children with disabilities on income support programs, 2014

Program	Expenditures (\$ million)	Description	Target population
Social Security Administration programs			
Supplemental Security Income Federal Payments	10,232 ^a	This provides monthly cash income to people with low income ages 65 and older and those younger than 65 who are blind and disabled.	People age 65 and older, people who are blind, and people of any age who have disabilities and limited income
Social Security – Old-Age and Survivors Insurance	2,414 ^b	This provides retirement benefits to former workers or their surviving spouses or children.	Retired people who earn less than the earnings test or their surviving spouses or children
Social Security – Disability Insurance dependent benefits	1,237 ^c	This insures workers against loss of income because of disability. Payments are based on an individual's lifetime average earnings covered by Social Security. Cash benefits are also paid to certain spouses (older than age 62, caring for a child under 16, or disabled) and children (younger than age 18 or older than 18 with a disability that started before age 22) of SSDI beneficiaries.	Children of disabled adults who have sufficient Disability Insurance-covered earnings history
Other federal income support programs			
Veterans' Compensation and Pensions	692 ^d	This is a benefit paid to veterans because of injuries or diseases that occurred while on active duty or that were made worse by active military service; or it is a benefit paid to wartime veterans with limited income who are no longer able to work. The benefit amount is based on severity of disability.	Children of veterans with a service-related disability or veterans with low income and non-service-related disability
Child Support Enforcement	594 ^e	This provides funds to state and local agencies to offer services to custodians of children, including locating noncustodial parents and collecting child support payments. Some states require child support over the age of 17, particularly if the child is a student in high school or has a pre-existing physical or mental disability; this estimate includes age 20 and under.	Children with noncustodial parents
Railroad Retirement	27 ^f	This program insures railroad workers against loss of income because of disability (similar to SSDI). The benefit is paid to dependents.	Children of disabled adults with sufficient creditable railroad service
Survivors' Compensation and Pensions	4.1 ^g	This is a benefit paid to surviving children of wartime veterans who died from a service-related cause and who meet income requirements.	Children of deceased service members
Means-tested assistance programs			
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families	702 ^h	This provides time-limited income assistance to needy families with children. Some states provide income to families with students older than age 17 and up to age 21; this estimate includes age 21 and younger.	Low-income families with children
Total	15,902		

^aSocial Security Administration (2016), Table 7.A1.

^bThe authors' calculation is based on Office of Management and Budget (2015), p. 1210. We allocated 2 percent of total expenditures to children based on Steele et al. (2014) and attributed 17.1 percent of those expenditures to children with disabilities based on Taylor (2018).

^cThe authors' calculation is based on Office of Management and Budget (2015), p. 1212. We allocated 5 percent of total expenditures to children based on Steele et al. (2014) and attributed 17.1 percent of those expenditures to children with disabilities based on Taylor (2018).

^dThe authors' calculation is based on U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Benefits Administration (2015), p. 82 and p. 130. We allocated 7 percent of total expenditures to children based on Steele et al. (2014) and attributed 17.1 percent of those expenditures to children with disabilities based on Taylor (2018).

^eThe authors' calculation is based on Office of Management and Budget (2015), pp. 484–485. We calculated expenditures as the share of state child support administrative cost obligations out of total payments to states for Child Support Enforcement and Family Support Programs obligations, multiplied by outlays. We attributed 17.1 percent of those expenditures to children with disabilities based on Taylor (2018).

^fThe authors' calculation is based on U.S. Railroad Retirement Board (2017), Tables B6 and B10, and adjusted for child expenditures according to Tables B3 and B24. We attributed 17.1 percent of those expenditures to children with disabilities based on Taylor (2018).

^gThe authors' calculation is based on U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Benefits Administration (2015), p. 115 and p. 136. We allocated 17.1 percent of both expenditures to children with disabilities based on Taylor (2018).

^hThe authors' calculation is based on Administration for Children and Families (2015), table A.2. We allocated 76.5 percent of total expenditures to children based on Administration for Children and Families (2014) and attributed 17.1 percent of those expenditures to children with disabilities based on Taylor (2018).

Note: SSDI = Social Security Disability Insurance.

Table A.3.

Federal expenditures for children with disabilities on health care programs, 2014

Program	Expenditures (\$ million)	Description	Target population
Medicaid and Medicare			
Medicaid (federal share)	8,934 ^a	This federal–state matching entitlement program provides medical assistance primarily to people with low income or who are otherwise medically needy, including people with disabilities. The estimate includes dependent children ages 20 and younger.	People with low income, including people with disabilities (eligibility might be linked to Supplemental Security Income or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families)
CHIP	1,539 ^b	This is a public health insurance program for otherwise uninsured children. The estimate includes children ages 19 and younger.	Uninsured children age 19 and younger whose family incomes are too high to qualify for Medicaid
Medicare	117 ^c	This is a public health insurance program for people ages 65 and older, people with disabilities participating in the SSDI program, and people with end-stage renal disease. The estimate includes children ages 19 and younger who qualify based on end-stage renal disease.	People ages 65 and older, SSDI beneficiaries, some former SSDI beneficiaries, and people with end-stage renal disease
Other federal health programs			
Vaccines for Children	557 ^d	This program offers free vaccines to children who do not have access to recommended vaccines through insurance. The estimate includes children ages 18 and younger.	Children ages 18 and younger who are eligible for Medicaid or uninsured
Children’s Mental Health Services	110 ^e	This provides grants to coordinate and provide mental health services to children. Some programs serve youth ages 21 and younger.	Children with mental health care needs
Maternal and Child Health Block Grant	105 ^f	This provides grants to states to provide access to health services for mothers and children. The estimate includes youth ages 22 and younger.	Mothers with low income and their children and children with special needs
Immunizations	85 ^g	This funds states and communities to immunize people. The estimate includes children ages 18 and younger.	Underinsured children and uninsured adults
Birth Defects/Developmental Disabilities Programs	80 ^h	These programs provide prevention and other services to people with disabilities. The estimate includes funds for research, which we cannot distinguish from funds used for education and other services to families. The estimate includes children ages 18 and younger.	Mothers and children with birth defects and developmental disabilities
Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Programs	55 ⁱ	These programs provide funds to states to offer services to pregnant women and families through home visits	Mothers and children living in at-risk communities
Lead Hazard Reduction	21 ^j	This reduces exposure to lead-based paint in homes by identifying and removing lead paint. The estimate includes children ages 18 and younger.	Families with low income who are exposed to lead-based paint

Table A.3.

Federal expenditures for children with disabilities on health care programs, 2014

Healthy Start	8.4 ^k	This provides health and other services to women and children to reduce infant mortality rates.	Communities with high infant mortality rates
School Based Health Centers	7.4 ^l	These centers provide health care services to students in school. The estimate includes students through secondary school regardless of age.	Preschool, primary, and secondary school students
Emergency Medical Services for Children	3.3 ^m	This provides grants to states to improve trauma-related medical care. The estimate includes children ages 18 and younger.	All children
Universal Newborn Hearing Screening	0.1 ⁿ	This provides screening and intervention services to infants.	Newborns who are deaf
Total	11,622		

^aThe authors' calculation is based on (1) \$86.5 billion in total (federal and state) expenditures for people in the "dependent children under 21 years of age" category in 2014 (Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services 2016, Table III.10) and (2) 60.4 percent of total Medicaid expenditures being federal expenditures in 2014 (Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services 2015, Table III.3). We attributed 17.1 percent of those expenditures to children with disabilities based on Taylor (2018).

^bThe authors' calculation is based on \$9 billion in federal expenditures for CHIP in 2014 (Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services 2016, Table III.3). We allocated 17.1 percent of those expenditures to children with disabilities based on Taylor (2018).

^cThe authors' calculation is based on data from Table K.2 in the United States Renal Data System (undated).

^dThe authors' calculation is based on Office of Management and Budget (2015), pp. 462–463. We calculated expenditures as the share of Vaccines for Children obligations out of total Grants to States for Medicaid obligations, multiplied by outlays. We allocated 17.1 percent of those expenditures to children with disabilities based on Taylor (2018).

^eThe authors' calculation is based on U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (2016). We allocated 94 percent of expenditures to children based on Steele et al. (2014).

^fThe authors' calculation is based on Office of Management and Budget (2015), p. 443. We calculated expenditures as the share of Maternal and Child Health Block Grant obligations out of total Health and Resources Services obligations, multiplied by outlays. We allocated 81 percent of those expenditures to children based on U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Maternal & Child Health (2016) and attributed 17.1 percent of those expenditures to children with disabilities based on Taylor (2018).

^gThe authors' calculation is based on Office of Management and Budget (2015), pp. 453–454. We calculated expenditures as the share of Immunization and Respiratory Diseases obligations out of total CDC-Wide Activities and Program Support obligations, multiplied by outlays. We allocated 91 percent of those expenditures to children based on Steele et al. (2014) and attributed 17.1 percent of the children expenditures to children with disabilities based on Taylor (2018).

^hThe authors' calculation is based on Office of Management and Budget (2015), pp. 453–454. We calculated expenditures as the share of Birth Defects, Developmental Disabilities, Disability and Health obligations out of total CDC-Wide Activities and Program Support obligations, multiplied by outlays. We allocated 69 percent of those expenditures to children based on Steele et al. (2014).

ⁱThe authors' calculation is based on Office of Management and Budget (2015), p. 445. We allocated 17.1 percent of expenditures to children with disabilities based on Taylor (2018).

^jThe authors' calculation is based on U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (2015). We allocated 17.1 percent of children expenditures to children with disabilities based on Taylor (2018).

^kThe authors' calculation is based on Office of Management and Budget (2015), p. 443. We calculated expenditures as the share of Healthy Start obligations out of total Health and Resources Services obligations, multiplied by outlays. We allocated 50 percent of expenditures to children based on Steele et al. (2014) and attributed 17.1 percent of children expenditures to children with disabilities based on Taylor (2018).

^lThe authors' calculation is based on Steele et al. (2014) for expenditures in 2013. We allocated 17.1 percent of children expenditures to children with disabilities based on Taylor (2018).

^mThe authors' calculation is based on Office of Management and Budget (2015), p. 443. We calculated expenditures as the share of Emergency Medical Services for Children obligations out of total Health and Resources Services obligations, multiplied by outlays. We allocated 17.1 percent of children expenditures to children with disabilities based on Taylor (2018).

ⁿThe authors' calculation is based on Office of Management and Budget (2015), p. 443. We calculated expenditures as the share of Universal Newborn Hearing Screening obligations out of total Health and Resources Services obligations, multiplied by outlays. We allocated 0.76 percent of children expenditures to children with disabilities under age 5 based on U.S. Census Bureau (2014).

Note: CDC = Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; CHIP = Children's Health Insurance Program; SSDI = Social Security Disability Insurance.

Table A.4.

Federal expenditures for children with disabilities on housing and food assistance programs, 2014

Program	Expenditures (\$ million)	Description	Target population
Housing assistance			
Housing and Urban Development, Section 8 Housing Vouchers	813 ^a	This provides vouchers that subsidize housing in the private market.	Low-income families, elderly, and people with disabilities
Housing and Urban Development, Project-Based Rental Assistance	452 ^a	This provides subsidies to renters in specific housing unit. It includes Project-Based Rental Assistance and Housing Certificate Fund.	Families with low income
Low-Rent Public Housing	196 ^c	This provides housing owned, operated, and subsidized by the government.	Families with low income
Low-Income Home Energy Assistance	145 ^d	This program offers free vaccines to children who do not have access to recommended vaccines through insurance. The estimate includes children ages 18 and younger.	Low-income families, elderly, people with disabilities, and young children
Rental Housing Assistance	15 ^c	This provides rental assistance to tenants not covered by Section 8 Housing Vouchers. It includes Rent Supplement, Section 235, and Section 236.	Families with low income, rural households
Food assistance			
Child Nutrition	3,299 ^d	This subsidizes or provides free meals to children, often through public schools. It includes the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, Special Milk Program, Summer Food Service Program, and Child and Adult Care Food Program. The estimate includes children ages 18 and younger.	Primary and secondary school students
U.S. Department of Agriculture, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program	1,672 ^e	This subsidizes food purchases of households with low income through coupons that can be used similar to cash at the grocery store.	Households with low income
U.S. Department of Agriculture, Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children	943 ^f	This subsidizes food purchases through coupons that can be used similar to cash for certain foods.	Low-income pregnant women, mothers of young children, and children ages 5 and younger
Commodity Supplemental Food program	0.6 ^g	This distributes nutritious food to people with low income.	Adults with low income ages 60 or older; some women, infants, and children who participated before February 2014
Total	7,535		

^aThe authors' calculation is based on U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (2015). We allocated 26 percent of total expenditures to children based on Steele et al. (2014) and attributed 17.1 percent of those expenditures to children with disabilities based on Taylor (2018).

^bThe authors' calculation is based on Office of Management and Budget (2015), p. 485. We allocated 24 percent of total expenditures to children based on Steele et al. (2014) and attributed 17.1 percent of those expenditures to children with disabilities based on Taylor (2018).

^cThe authors' calculation is based on Office of Management and Budget (2015), p. 591. We allocated 26 percent of total expenditures to children based on Steele et al. (2014) and attributed 17.1 percent of those expenditures to children with disabilities based on Taylor (2018).

^dThe authors' calculation is based on Office of Management and Budget (2015), p. 160. We allocated 99 percent of total expenditures to children based on Steele et al. (2014) and attributed 17.1 percent of those expenditures to children with disabilities based on Taylor (2018).

^eThe authors' calculation is based on Office of Management and Budget (2015), p. 159. We allocated 2.2 percent of total expenditures to children with disabilities based on U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service (2015), Table 3.5.

^fThe authors' calculation is based on Office of Management and Budget (2015), p. 161. We allocated 88 percent of total expenditures to children based on Steele et al. (2014) and attributed 17.1 percent of those expenditures to children with disabilities based on Taylor (2018).

^gThe authors' calculation is based on Office of Management and Budget (2015), p. 162. We allocated 1.5 percent of total expenditures to children based on U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service (2018) and attributed 17.1 percent of those expenditures to children with disabilities based on Taylor (2018).

Table A.5.

Federal expenditures for children with disabilities on other services, 2014

Program	Expenditures (\$ million)	Description	Target population
Foster Care and Adoption Assistance	813 ^a	This provides vouchers that subsidize housing in the private market.	Low-income families, elderly, and people with disabilities
Child Care Entitlement to the States	485 ^b	This provides funds to states to subsidize child care for families with low income to allow parents to work. The estimate includes youth ages 19 and younger.	Families with low income with children younger than age 13 or children with disabilities ages 19 and younger
Child Care and Development Block Grant	381 ^c	This provides grants to states to subsidize child care for families with low income to allow parents to work. The estimate includes children ages 19 and younger.	Families with low income with children younger than age 13 or children with disabilities ages 19 and younger
Promoting Safe and Stable Families	67 ^d	These funds are distributed to states to support services that preserve families, prevent separation, and place children in permanent homes. The estimate includes children ages 18 and younger.	Families and children
Children and Families Services Programs	55 ^e	Various programs under the Administration for Children and Families provide direct support to children. The estimate includes people ages 18 and younger.	Varies
Social Services Block Grant	55 ^f	This capped entitlement program provides federal funds to assist states with the provision of social services to adults and children. Funds are appropriated in proportion to each state's population. The estimate includes only the block-grant dollars granted for "special services-disabled." The estimate might include people older than age 17 because the definition of child recipient varies by state.	Adults and children needing social services
Autism and Other Developmental Disorders	46 ^g	This supports education, detection, intervention, and research for autism and other developmental disabilities.	Children with developmental disabilities
Child Welfare Services	44 ^h	These are grants to states to protect children from abuse and neglect. The estimate includes children ages 18 and younger.	Families and children
Community Services Block Grant	40 ⁱ	These are grants to states to fund services and activities that alleviate poverty in low-income communities.	People living in low-income communities
Juvenile Justice	36 ^j	This provides grants to states to prevent juvenile delinquency. The estimate includes children ages 18 and younger.	Children younger than age 18 who are accused of violating laws
PREP and Abstinence Education	20 ^k	These are grants awarded to states to educate youth about abstinence and contraception. The estimate includes youth ages 19 and younger.	Youth ages 10 to 19 who are homeless, in foster care, in the juvenile justice system, or minorities

Table A.5.

Federal expenditures for children with disabilities on other services, 2014

Guardianship	14 ^l	These are funds distributed to states to provide guardianship assistance payments to relatives of eligible children. The estimate includes youth ages 21 and younger.	Children who were previously in foster care and are under guardianship
Independent Living (Foster Care and Permanency)	13 ^m	This provides services to youth aging out of foster care to help transition to adulthood and live independently. The estimate includes children ages 18 and younger.	Youth ages 16 to 21 who are aging out of foster care
Missing and Exploited Children	12 ⁿ	These are grants awarded to states, local governments, and other organizations to provide services to missing and exploited children and their families.	Missing and exploited children and their families
Total	4,915		

^lThe authors' calculation is based on Office of Management and Budget (2015), p. 493. For Foster Care, we calculated expenditures as the share of Foster Care obligations out of total Payments for Foster Care and Permanency obligations, multiplied by outlays. We allocated 96.3 percent of expenditures to children ages 17 and younger based on Children's Bureau (2015) and attributed 32.7 percent of those expenditures to children age 17 and under with disabilities based on Slayter (2016). For Adoption Assistance, we calculated expenditures as the share of Adoption Assistance obligations out of total Payments for Foster Care and Permanency obligations, multiplied by outlays.

^lThe authors' calculation is based on Office of Management and Budget (2015), p. 488. We allocated 17.1 percent of children expenditures to children with disabilities based on Taylor (2018).

^lThe authors' calculation is based on Office of Management and Budget (2015), p. 489. We allocated 17.1 percent of children expenditures to children with disabilities based on Taylor (2018).

^lThe authors' calculation is based on Office of Management and Budget (2015), p. 487. We calculated expenditures as the share of total Promoting Safe and Stable Families obligations (less PREP and Abstinence Education obligations), multiplied by outlays. We allocated 17.1 percent of children expenditures to children with disabilities based on Taylor (2018).

^lThe authors' calculation is based on Office of Management and Budget (2015), pp. 491–492. We calculated expenditures as the share of runaway and homeless youth centers, education grants to reduce sexual abuse of runaway youth, child abuse state grants, child abuse discretionary activities, community-based child abuse prevention, adoption opportunities, abandoned infants assistance, adoption incentives, and Native American programs out of total Children and Families Services Programs obligations, multiplied by outlays. We allocated 17.1 percent of children expenditures to children with disabilities based on Taylor (2018).

^lThe authors' calculation is based on Office of Management and Budget (2015), p. 490. We allocated 10.3 percent of expenditures to "Special Services – Disabled" based on Administration for Children and Families (2017) and attributed 30.9 percent of those expenditures to children based on Administration for Children and Families (2016), Table F-5).

^lThe authors' calculation is based on Office of Management and Budget (2015), p. 443. We calculated expenditures as the share of Autism and Other Developmental Disorders obligations out of total Health and Resources Services obligations, multiplied by outlays.

^lThe authors' calculation is based on Office of Management and Budget (2015), pp. 491–492. We calculated expenditures as the share of Child Welfare Services obligations out of total Children and Families Services Programs obligations, multiplied by outlays. We allocated 17.1 percent of children expenditures to children with disabilities based on Taylor (2018).

^lThe authors' calculation is based on Office of Management and Budget (2015), pp. 491–492. We calculated expenditures as the share of Community Services Block Grant obligations out of total Children and Families Services Programs obligations, multiplied by outlays. We allocated 37 percent of total Community Services Block Grant expenditures to children based on National Association for State Community Services Programs (2016), Figure 8, and attributed 17.1 percent of those expenditures to children with disabilities based on Taylor (2018).

^lThe authors' calculation is based on U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (2015). We allocated 17.1 percent of children expenditures to children with disabilities based on Taylor (2018).

^lThe authors' calculation is based on Office of Management and Budget (2015), p. 487. We calculated expenditures as the share PREP and Abstinence Education obligations out of total Promoting Safe and Stable Families obligations, multiplied by outlays. We allocated 17.1 percent of children expenditures to children with disabilities based on Taylor (2018).

^lThe authors' calculation is based on Office of Management and Budget (2015), p. 493. We calculated expenditures as the share of Guardianship obligations out of total Payments for Foster Care and Permanency obligations, multiplied by outlays. We allocated 17.1 percent of children expenditures to children with disabilities based on Taylor (2018).

^lThe authors' calculation is based on Office of Management and Budget (2015), p. 493. We calculated expenditures as the share of Independent Living obligations out of total Payments for Foster Care and Permanency obligations, multiplied by outlays. We allocated 59 percent of expenditures to children based on Steele et al. (2014) and allocated 17.1 percent of children expenditures to children with disabilities based on Taylor (2018).

^lThe authors' calculation is based on Office of Management and Budget (2015), p. 759. We calculated expenditures as the share of Missing and Exploited Children obligations out of total Juvenile Justice Programs obligations, multiplied by outlays. We allocated 17.1 percent of children expenditures to children with disabilities based on Taylor (2018).

Note: PREP = Personal Responsibility Education Program.

Table A.6.

State expenditures for children with disabilities under selected programs, 2014

Program	Expenditures (\$ million)	Description	Target population
Special education	18,069 ^a	This is state funding for special education.	Preschool, primary, and secondary school students with disabilities
Medicaid and CHIP	6,541 ^b	Medicaid is a federal–state matching entitlement program that provides medical assistance primarily to people with low income and those who are otherwise medically needy, including people with disabilities. The estimate includes dependent children ages 20 and younger. CHIP is a public health insurance program for otherwise uninsured children. Estimate includes children age 19 and under.	People with low income, including people with disabilities (eligibility might be linked to SSI or TANF) Uninsured children age 19 and under whose family incomes are too high to qualify for Medicaid
TANF	552 ^c	This provides time-limited income assistance to needy families with children. Some states provide income to families with students older than age 17 and up to age 21; this estimate includes ages 21 and younger.	Families with low income and their children
Federally administered SSI state supplement	117 ^d	This means-tested program provides monthly cash income to people ages 65 and older and to those younger than 65 who are blind and disabled. The estimate only includes state payments made to people ages 17 and younger.	People ages 65 and older, people who are blind, and people of any age who have disabilities and limited income
Vocational rehabilitation	76 ^e	This federal–state program provides counseling, education, training, and job-placement assistance.	People with disabilities, with priority given to people with significant disabilities
Total	25,355		

^aThe authors' calculation is based on \$19.1 billion in expenditures for IDEA (U.S. Census Bureau 2014) and 94.8 percent of students with disabilities who were age 18 or younger in 2014 (U.S. Department of Education 2015b).

^bThe authors' calculations are based on Table III.10 from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (2016). We allocated 17.1 percent of expenditures on dependent children younger than age 21 to children with disabilities based on Taylor (2018), and we allocated 60.4 percent to the federal government based on the state share of all Medicaid expenditures in 2014 (Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services 2015, Table III.10). For CHIP, we allocated 17.1 percent of expenditures to children with disabilities based on Taylor (2018) and subtracted the federal share of all CHIP expenditures in 2014 (Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services 2015, Table III.3).

^cThe authors' calculation is based on Administration for Children and Families (2015), Table A.2. We allocated 76.5 percent of total expenditures to children based on Administration for Children and Families (2014) and attributed 17.1 percent of those expenditures to children with disabilities based on Taylor (2018).

^dSocial Security Administration (2016), Table 7.A.1.

^eThe authors' calculation is based on \$3.0 billion in federal vocational rehabilitation state grants in fiscal year 2014 (U.S. Department of Education 2015a). We applied a 21.3 percent minimum state match using the method described by the Rehabilitation Services Administration (2010). We then estimated 9.32 percent of vocational rehabilitation case closures were for youth under age 18 in fiscal year 2014. This estimate was based on analyses of national vocational rehabilitation case file data on the number of people younger than age 18 provided by Purvi Sevak of Mathematica Policy Research.

Note: CHIP = Children's Health Insurance Program; IDEA = Individuals with Disabilities Education Act; SSI = Supplemental Security Income; TANF = Temporary Assistance for Needy Families.

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