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Anti-Poverty Advocates Decry Trump Budget Cuts To Health, Social Services, Housing and Nutrition Programs

Impact Devastating for Missouri's Children, Elders, Persons with Disabilities

JEFFERSON CITY, MO.....Anti-poverty advocates in Missouri are calling for federal officials to reject deep cuts to health, nutrition and social service programs, proposed by the Trump administration. "Slashing these programs would harm hundreds of thousands in Missouri who are already struggling to survive in poverty and hunger," said Jeanette Mott Oxford, executive director of Empower Missouri.

The Trump administration today released a budget that includes deep cuts to our nation's most important safety net programs including:

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, commonly known as food stamps)
- Medicaid
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)
- housing programs
- assistance to people with disabilities

"Missouri ranks seventh in the U.S. in food insecurity and second in hunger," said Glenn Koenen, chair of the Empower Missouri Hunger Task Force. "Two-thirds of SNAP recipients are children, elders, and persons with physical and mental disabilities. Replacing current food assistance with paid labor is not a realistic option for many."

"Affordable housing is already out of reach for an unacceptable number of our neighbors," said Nicole McKoy, chair of Empower Missouri's Affordable Housing and Homelessness Task Force. "According to the most recent report from the National Low Income Housing Coalition, Missouri has 126,374 units too few of affordable and available units for extremely low income renters."

Empower Missouri urges Missouri's network of direct service agency employees and other concerned citizens to reach out to Senator Claire McCaskill and Senator Roy Blunt as well as their U.S. Representative to state concerns and to invite visits to community helping agencies.

Oxford added, "When Missouri's children, elders, and persons with disabilities cannot access basic human needs, there are ripple effects that harm the quality of life for every person in our state. For example, when children experience toxic stress due to food and housing insecurity, their brain development and chances of succeeding in school are negatively impacted. It's in the interest of every Missourian to stop these devastating budget cuts."

Empower Missouri (www.EmpowerMissouri.org), founded in 1901, advocates for the well-being of Missourians living in poverty through civic leadership, education, and research.

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