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Contact: Charity Eleson 284-0580 ext 302  
Julie Laundrie 284-0580 ext 303

## Federal Bush Administration Budget Would Inflict Increasing Pain in Wisconsin

(Madison) – Newly available information shows that Wisconsin would experience large and growing cuts in federal funding over the next five years under the Administration’s fiscal year 2007 budget, the Wisconsin Council on Children and Families warned today. If enacted, these cuts would weaken critical services in Wisconsin and place significant new burdens on the state’s budget.

The Washington, DC-based Center on Budget and Policy Priorities has just issued a report that shows how the budget would affect specific programs, as well as each state, over the next five years. The report is based on data from an Administration computer run that apparently was released inadvertently. (You can find the CBPP report at: <http://www.cbpp.org/2-23-06bud.htm>)

“Under the Administration’s proposal, Wisconsin would lose tens of millions in education funding; thousands of low-income Wisconsin women, infants, and children would be kicked off the WIC program; and funding for clean drinking water would be cut severely — even as the federal government gives out hundreds of billions of dollars in tax cuts, mostly for very wealthy households. Those choices don’t reflect the values of ordinary Wisconsin citizens,” said Charity Eleson, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Council on Children and Families.

The budget would:

- Slice Wisconsin’s federal funding for the **WIC program** (the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) by \$32 million over the next five years, which would mean 6,700 fewer people could be served in 2011.
- Totally eliminate Wisconsin’s federal funding for **vocational education**.
- Cut federal **energy assistance for low-income** Wisconsin **households** by \$68.3 million over five years, the tenth largest cut in the nation.
- Cut Wisconsin’s federal **child care** funding by almost \$15 million over five years, translating to a cut of 14 percent in 2011.
- Cut federal funding received by Wisconsin from the part of the budget that includes **Head Start, services for abused and neglected children, and other community and social services** by \$41.5 million over five years. This means that between 1,400 and 1,900 fewer

Wisconsin children could participate in Head Start.

- Cut federal funding for **K-12 education** in Wisconsin by \$135.1 million from 2007 to 2011, with the reduction reaching more than 8 percent in 2011. (Nationally, the cut would total \$7.6 billion over the five-year period).
- Dramatically reduce federal funding to **repair public housing** in Wisconsin by \$21 million over five years, a 23 percent reduction in 2011.
- Sharply pare back Wisconsin's funding for the Community Development Block Grant formula grant program, which funds numerous economic development activities (such as **improvements to roads and other infrastructure**) and housing-related activities (such as **rehabilitation of blighted buildings and assistance for the homeless**), by \$98 million over five years, or 31 percent in 2011.

(All cuts are compared to 2006 funding levels adjusted only for inflation.)

“Considering that the recently enacted Congressional budget already began cutting many of the same programs and services as this proposed budget, what will be left to help low and middle income families? Cuts like these will make it impossible to provide critical public services and make needed investments in education, health care, and transportation,” said Jon Peacock, the Research Director at the Wisconsin Council on Children and Families.