

Update from Washington

- Budget Update
- Social Security
 - Medicaid

Budget Negotiations

- Government funding
- Spending limits- November 5, 2015
- Offsetting costs

Lifeline Programs— What Are They?

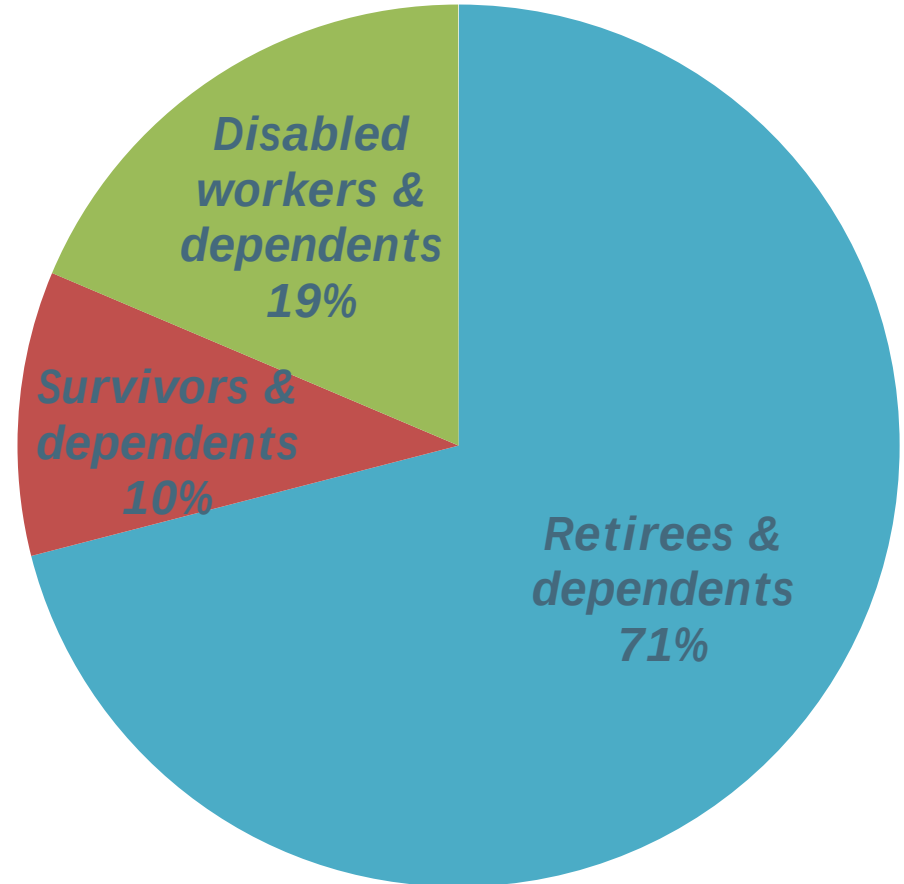


*DON'T CUT OUR
LIFELINE*

- Medicaid, Medicare, Social Security (SSDI), Supplemental Security Income
- Collectively called “lifeline”
- Access to health care and community living support

Social Security & SSI: Our Lifeline

- **Social Security is:**
 - Retirement insurance
 - Disability insurance
 - Survivors insurance
- **165 million workers** pay into Social Security and **59 million Americans** receive benefits
- Over 8 million people receive **Supplemental Security Income (SSI)**



Keeping Social Security Strong

- Workers & employers pay for Social Security through payroll taxes (FICA taxes):

DI Fund:

Disability Insurance
Trust Fund (.9%)

OASI Fund:

Old-Age and Survivors Insurance
Trust Fund (5.3%)

- Social Security combined Trust Funds:
 - Large surpluses, currently
 - Can pay full scheduled benefits through 2034
- But...DI Trust Fund, by itself: expires in 2016***

SSDI

***Reallocation or merging the Trust Funds:
common-sense, responsible solutions.***

- **Reallocation:**

- *Modest, temporary shift in the share of payroll taxes going to the DI Trust Fund*
- *Secures both funds through 2034*
- *Congress has reallocated 11 times in the past on a bipartisan basis, equally between funds*
- *President's FY 2016 budget proposal*
- ***Social Security Earned Benefits Protection Act of 2015 (S. 2090; H.R. 3621)***

SSDI

***Reallocation or merging the Trust Funds:
common-sense, responsible solutions.***

- **Merging the Trust Funds:**
 - *Secures Social Security through 2034*
 - *Reflects the reality of Social Security as one system, paid for by workers and employers*
 - *Removes needless future crisis points*
 - ***One Social Security Act (H.R. 3150)***

What May Happen?

SSDI:

- *20% benefit cut for 11+ million, end of 2016*
- *Proposals to cut benefits and/or eligibility*
- *Proposals to only secure SSDI for a few years*

Social Security: *Proposals to cut benefits or to set up a Social Security Commission to explore cuts*

SSI: *Proposals to cut SSDI may also affect SSI, particularly cuts to eligibility*

Risks to Medicaid

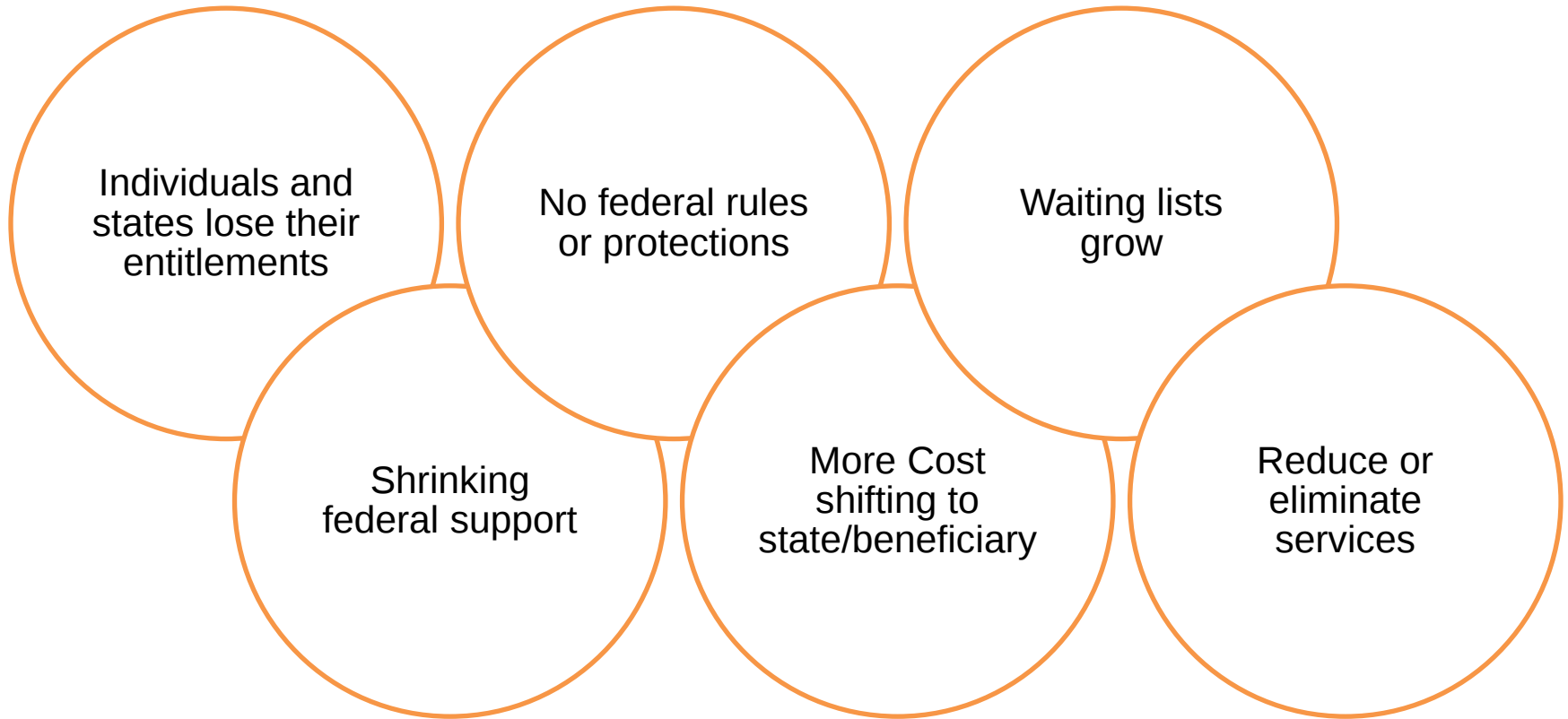
Cutting the funding

Removing the entitlement

Repeal of the Medicaid expansion

Per Capita Caps

Possible Effects of Threats





*For people with intellectual
and developmental disabilities*

Our Message: Congress Must Act

- **Merge Social Security's** trust funds or reallocate existing payroll taxes with **no cuts** to benefits, eligibility, or coverage
- Secure SSDI's finances **through 2034** (even path with the rest of Social Security)
- **Reject** approaches that only address SSDI's finances for a few years



For people with intellectual
and developmental disabilities

SUMMER 2015

DON'T CUT OUR LIFELINE



Why Is It Important to Meet with Members of Congress?

When Congress is not in session, (often called "recess"), Members of Congress (referred to here as "Member") go back to their home states and are looking for ways to connect with their constituents. People with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (I/DD), their families, friends, direct support professionals, teachers, co-workers, and others make up a large portion of a Member of Congress' constituency – that's why it is important that Members are aware of our issues!

The presence of members of The Arc in a Member of Congress' state or Congressional district offers an opportunity to connect with people with I/DD, to learn about our national legislative priorities, to learn about the services and supports a chapter provides, to meet the staff who work in this field, to learn directly from self-advocates, and to make personal appeals to the senators they see in Washington.

relationships with the current Members of Congress who have supported us as well as look for new champions who are newly elected or not previously engaged on our issues.

Why Engage Now?

Lifeline programs which are critical to people with I/DD, such as Medicaid and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), are currently under attack:

- Majorities in the House and Senate have voted for **deep cuts to Medicaid** and fundamental structural changes that would eliminate the entitlement to services and undo the system of supports and services for people with I/DD.
- Congress must act by the end of 2016 to prevent a **20 percent across-the-board cut in SSDI benefits** – but instead, on day one of

Tool Kits

Chapter version in the Chapter section of The Arc's Website

More general version accessible from public website

Will likely need to refresh as this was targeted to summer recess period

Achieve with us.®

What Can You Do?

- Sign up to receive “Capitol Insider” to keep up to date
- Participate in The Arc’s action alerts
- Recruit friends and family to join our lists
- Attend a Congressional public event such as this one
- Engage! Ask a question, share your story, bring our fact sheets, thank them
- Tell us about your experience!
Use our [legislative contact form](#) online
Email lifeline@thearc.org

Questions??