



Rent Hikes For All Assisted Housing

Up to 4 million families receiving federal housing subsidies would face increases in their out-of-pocket rental housing costs under President Donald Trump's FY 2018 budget proposal. The Center on Budget & Policy Priorities think tank concludes the Trump administration's rationale for the cost increase to the poor, elderly, and disabled to reduce federal costs is camouflage for providing tax cuts for the wealthy and profitable corporations.

"The changes to minimum rents and utility payments would pose particular challenges," the CBPP claims. "Almost all of the roughly 500,000 families they would affect have incomes below half the poverty line (emphasis theirs), so they have little ability to cope with higher housing costs."

Administration proposed rent increases include:

- HUD would require state and local housing agencies and private landlords to raise rents from 30% of a family's income to 35% and eliminate deductions for high medical and child-related expenses.
- Families would be charged a minimum \$50 a month even if it is more than 30% (or 35%) of their incomes and the proposal would ban utility payment assistance.
- HUD would be allowed to change rent rules for the Section 8 housing voucher program, including unlimited rent increases.

CBPP says the combined changes would increase rents on 4 million families by an average of \$85 a month.

"The proposals' main purpose seems to be to generate added rent payments to offset the budget's proposed cuts in rental assistance funding," the CBPP says. "In practice, the added rents would likely cover only a fraction of the cuts, partly due to the administrative difficulty of rapidly raising rents on so many families."

Info: See the CBPP findings at <http://tinyurl.com/yaamybva>

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