



Bear River Association of Governments
Community Action Services & Food Bank
Family Connection Center
Five County Association of Governments
Ogden-Weber Community Action Partnership
Salt Lake Community Action Program
Six County Association of Governments
Southeastern Utah Association of Governments
Uintah Basin Association of Governments
Utahns Against Hunger

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CONTACT: Drew Martinez
801-433-3025

COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP OF UTAH'S STATEMENT ON THE DEBT CEILING DEAL

Salt Lake City, UT – What Utah needs from Congress is a plan to create jobs and assist the economy in its recovery. Unfortunately, what Utah got was a debt ceiling deal that leads the nation on a disturbing policy course, and sets the stage for further cuts to programs that assist Utah's most vulnerable populations.

The agreement, which passed the House Monday and passed the Senate and signed by the President Tuesday, starts with a nearly \$1.1 trillion in discretionary spending cuts over ten years, further enforced by annual caps through 2021. It also constructs a bipartisan Joint Committee on Deficit Reduction to propose by the end of November steps to reduce the deficit by another \$1.5 trillion over ten years. The decision that comes from this committee will be fast tracked to the floor of the House and Senate to guarantee an up-or-down vote, with a simple majority needed for passage. If this committee does not reach the \$1.2 trillion deficit reduction goal, an automatic across-the-board cut in non-exempt discretionary and entitlement programs will take effect, and make up for the difference between agreed cuts and the \$1.2 trillion goal.

Community Action Partnership of Utah (CAP Utah) understands the need for a bipartisan deal to raise the debt ceiling, and move us toward fiscal responsibility. We also can see positive features in the deal. We are encouraged that half of the automatic cuts that could be triggered come from defense programs, and entitlement programs for low-income Utahns, including Social Security, will be exempt. This deal also removes the cloud of doubt covering whether or not our nation's credit will be downgraded. It is also encouraging to see the Administration's investment in Pell grants, that assist low-income Utahns attend higher education, was protected.

With that said, CAP Utah remains frustrated with the absence of revenue in this deal. House Speaker Boehner has already pledged he will not appoint any member to the joint committee who will raise any tax revenue. With corporations and the most wealthy in this country recording record high profit share the low-to moderate-income population in Utah cannot bear the brunt of deficit reduction.

This deal propels Congress to make tough choices in the upcoming months. CAP Utah will double its efforts to fight cuts to programs that affect low-income Utahns, and continue to urge that deficit reduction is not placed on the backs of low-to moderate-income Utahns.

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Community Action Partnership of Utah's mission is to advocate for, support, and train Utah's CSBG funded agencies, utilizing our collective strength to eradicate poverty.

COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP OF UTAH

230 South 500 West, Suite 260 • Salt Lake City, UT 84101
phone: 801.433.3025 • fax: 801.596.2011 • www.capatoh.org