

U.S. Military Spending and How to Stop It

...





NATIONAL SECURITY

Iran war cost could be as much as \$100 billion



\$21.7 Billion In US Military Aid Has Fueled Israel's War On Gaza

RESPONSIBLE STATECRAFT

TRUMP HAS ALREADY SPENT AT LEAST \$4.7 BILLION ATTACKING LATIN AMERICA

Trump says it's 'not possible' for the U.S. to pay for Medicaid, Medicare and day care: 'We're fighting wars'

Consumers hit by one-two punch of oil and rates from Iran war. The estimated bill is \$1,700 per household



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POLITICS

Trump budget seeks \$1.5 trillion in defense spending alongside domestic program cuts

🕒 UPDATED APRIL 3, 2026 · 1:36 PM ET ⓘ

By The Associated Press



**\$1 billion a day is
the estimated cost
of war on Iran.**

Those daily costs are enough to fund:

- The daily costs of **Medicaid** for all **16 million people** expected to lose it as a result of **GOP** budget cuts, AND
- Daily food stamps for all **41 million people** who rely on them.

If Military Spending Reaches \$1.5 Trillion

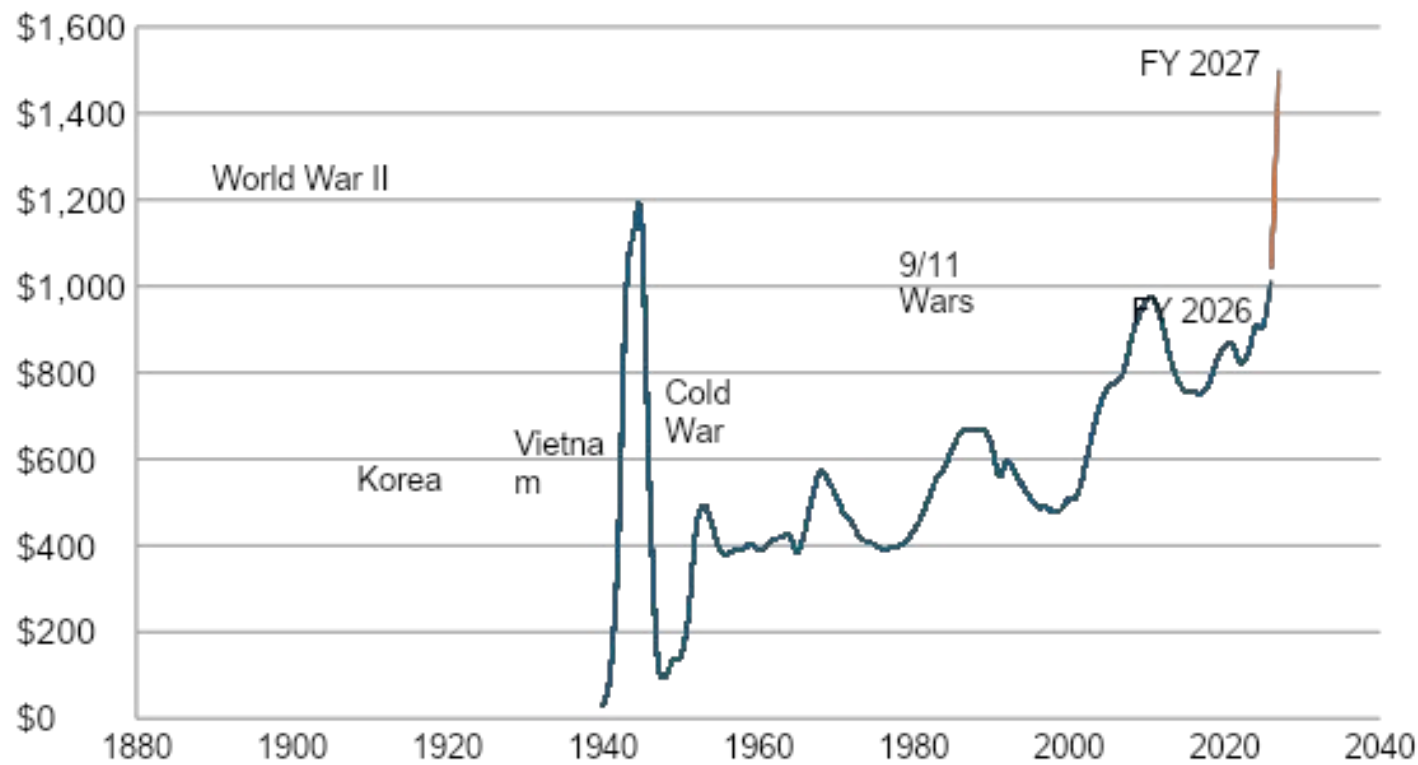
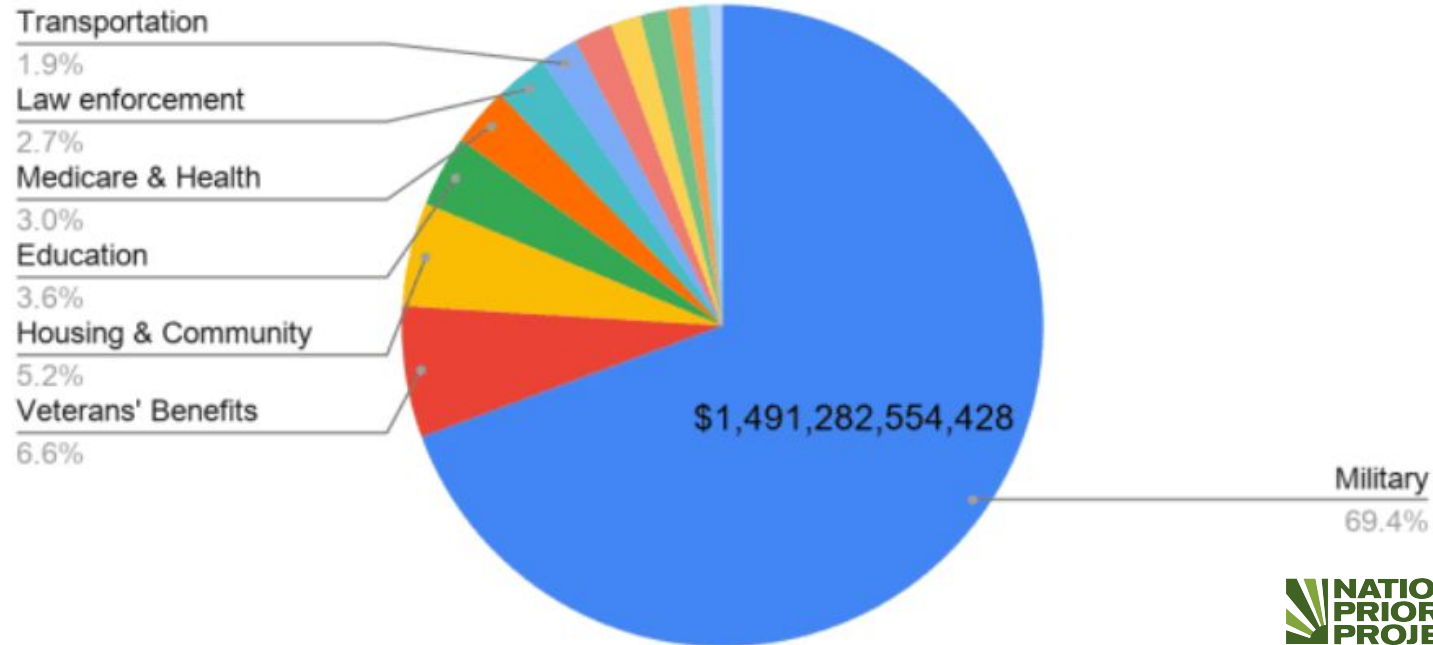


Chart 1: Proposed FY 2027 Discretionary Budget
(including \$1.5 Trillion for War)
(\$1.15T DoD base budget + \$350B reconciliation funds for war)



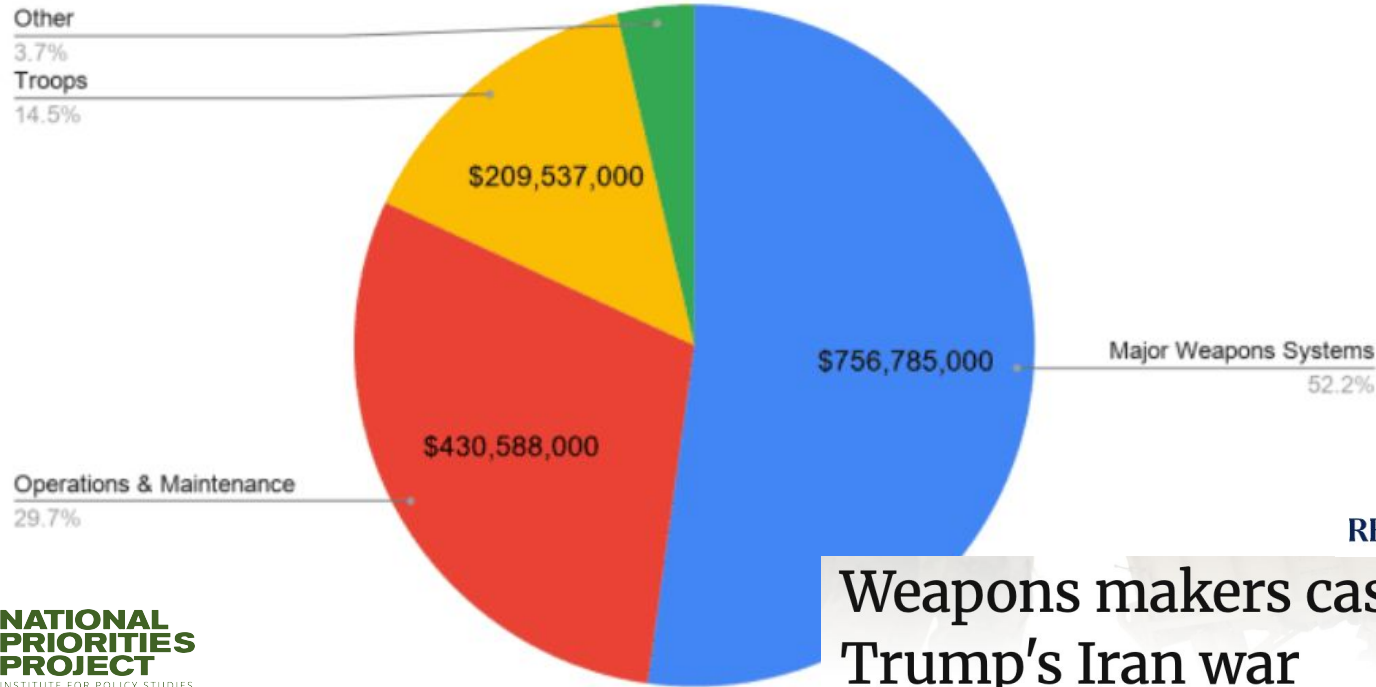
Instead of war,

\$1.5 TRILLION

could pay for all of these programs:

1. Medicaid	\$635,816,000,000
2. Child Tax Credit	\$214,940,000,000
3. SNAP / food stamps	\$123,394,000,000
4. Department of Education	\$278,488,000,000
5. Highways	\$70,149,000,000
6. National Institutes of Health	\$49,790,000,000
7. School lunch and breakfast	\$32,421,000,000
8. Federal Emergency Management Agency	\$31,934,000,000
9. Federal Aviation Administration	\$26,801,000,000
10. Environmental Protection Agency	\$25,180,000,000
11. Substance use and mental health programs	\$8,158,000,000

Chart 2: Proposed \$1.45 Trillion Department of War Budget for FY 2027 by Category



Weapons makers cash in on Trump's Iran war

Big Pentagon contractors like Lockheed Martin and Northrop Grumman saw billions added to their market value

Move the money!



**\$1 trillion
could do *all* of
these:**

-  Expand early childcare
-  End homelessness
-  Provide free college for the graduating class of 2025
- Provide housing security for renters under threat of eviction
- Erase all medical debt
- Treat substance use disorder
- Cut child poverty
- End the nursing *and* teaching shortage
- Replace all lead pipes
- Provide health insurance for all uninsured children
- Build nationwide high-speed rail
- Address climate change

 We need to **reprioritize.**

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Move the money!

Majorities favor increased spending for education, veterans, infrastructure, other govt. programs

If you were making up the budget for the federal government this year, would you increase, decrease or keep spending the same for ... (%)

	Increase spending	Keep spending the same	Decrease spending
Education	72	18	9
Veterans benefits	72	22	4
Rebuilding highways, bridges	62	27	7
Medicare	55	34	8
Environmental protection	55	30	14
Health care	53	27	17
Scientific research	52	31	14
Social Security	48	39	8
Assistance to needy in U.S.	46	34	17
Anti-terrorism in the U.S.	42	40	14
Military defense	40	34	23
Assistance to needy in the world	35	33	28
Assistance to unemployed	31	43	23

Note: Don't know responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 20-25, 2019.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

“A nation that continues
year after year to spend
more money on military
defense than on programs
of social uplift is
approaching spiritual
death.”

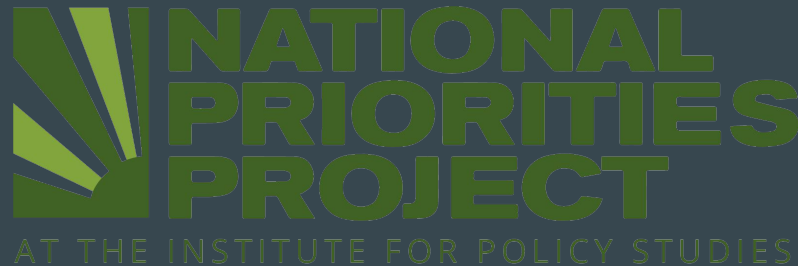
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.



National Priorities Project at the Institute for Policy Studies

www.nationalpriorities.org

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Congress is considering providing
\$73 billion
more for the U.S.-Israeli war on Iran.

That's enough to do all of
the following instead:

- Free universal preschool for 3- and 4-year-olds (**\$35 billion/year**),
- Restore the food stamps program from Trump's cuts that benefit 4 million people (**\$18.6 billion/year**),
- Provide rapid or permanent supportive housing to every person in a homeless shelter (**\$9.6 billion**), and
- Double funding for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to protect clean air and water (**\$8.8 billion**).

\$1 trillion could do *all* of these:



Expand early childcare

Provide free college for the
graduating class of 2025

Erase all medical debt

Treat substance use disorder

End the nursing *and* teaching
shortage

Provide health insurance for
all uninsured children



End homelessness

Provide housing security for
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Cut child poverty

Replace all lead pipes

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Address climate change



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\$1 trillion could fund ALL of this:

- **End the national nursing shortage** by hiring 350,328 registered nurses (\$44.5 billion);
- Insure and treat all **uninsured adults with opioid use disorder** (\$1.85 billion);
- Provide **health insurance for all four million uninsured children** in this country (\$11.5 billion);
- Provide **affordable housing** for all 3.9 million Americans who receive an eviction notice each year (\$37.5 billion) and all 653,000 Americans who experienced homelessness at last count - a record high (\$6.3 billion);
- **Expand Head Start** services to cover all 3 million children under 5 who live in poverty (\$28 billion);
- Lift 1.5 million children out of poverty by making the **Child Tax Credit** fully refundable (\$30 billion);
- Hire 407,000 elementary school teachers to **fill the national teacher shortage** (\$39.5 billion);
- Provide four-year **scholarships** to all 3.9 million 2025 high school graduates (\$152 billion);
- **Replace lead pipes nationwide** for safer drinking water (\$47 billion);
- Build **nationwide high-speed rail** for faster, cleaner, and safer transportation (\$205 billion);
- **Erase all medical debt**, which currently burdens 20 million Americans (\$220 billion);
- Create 350,000 **clean energy jobs** (\$60.30 billion); AND
- Send all 127.4 million households in the U.S. a \$1,000 check to help **offset the current cost-of-living crisis** (\$127.4 billion).



APRIL 15, 2026

Tax Day 2026: The Average Taxpayer Paid \$4,049 for War and Weapons

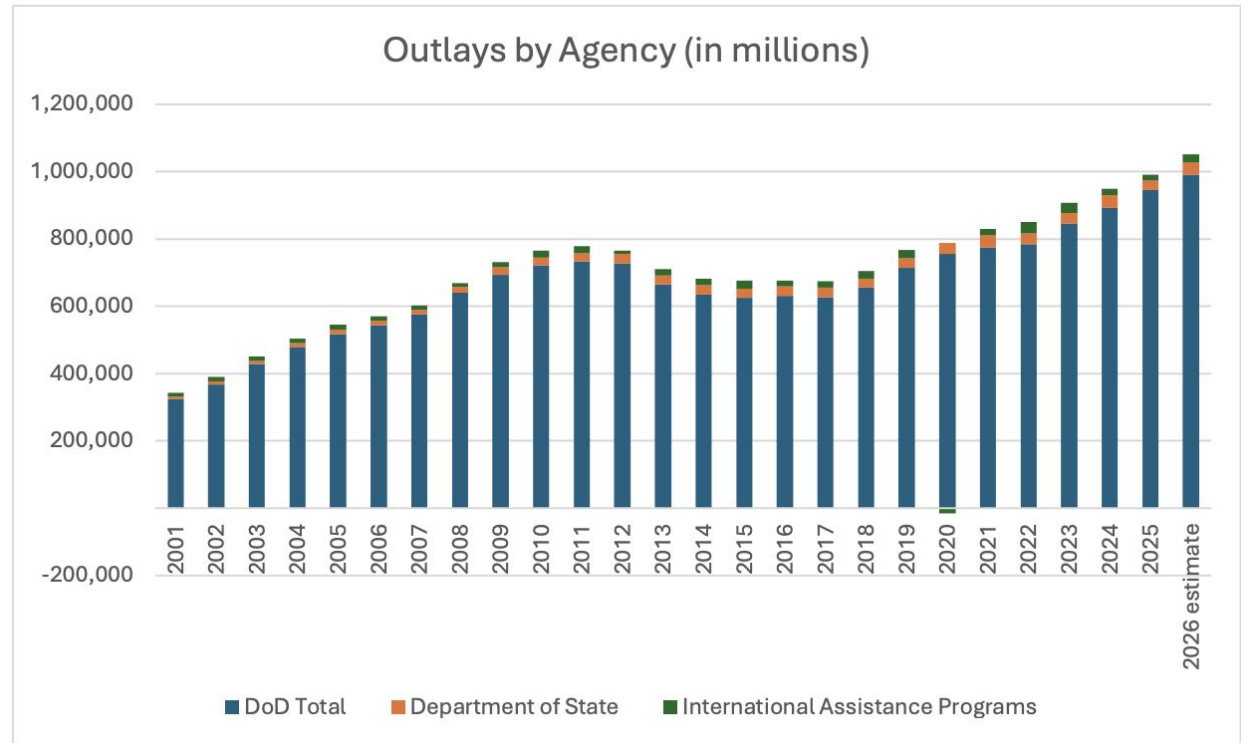
Wars don't just cost taxpayers at the pump. Here's what the average taxpayer spent for different priorities in 2025.

War and Weapons Total	\$4,049.35
Diplomacy	\$49.28

De-Militarizing the Federal Budget and Recalibrating the Labor Market

BY HEIDI PELTIER

FIGURE 1: By author, from Budget of the U.S. Government 2027, Table 4.1 Outlays by Agency



If you **paid taxes** for 2025, you **likely paid**

\$4,049

for **weapons and war**

vs.

\$2,492

for **Medicaid**

We need to **reprioritize.**



If passed, allocating \$1.5 trillion for war would mean:

- **19 times** more tax dollars are spent on war than on the **Department of Education**
- **69 times** more tax dollars are spent on war than on discretionary **Energy & Environment** programs (i.e. EPA)
- **105 times** more tax dollars are spent on war than on discretionary **Food & Agriculture** programs (i.e. National School Lunch Program and WIC)