

Fed cuts to impact Butler County, SELF

By [Michael D. Pitman](#), Staff Writer

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HAMILTON — While it could have been worse for Butler County, any cuts for Supports to Encourage Low-income Families hurt.

President Barack Obama's proposed budget projects big cuts to many programs used by the county. In all, the president is proposing program or spending cuts for more than 200 programs, which is estimated to save \$33 billion in 2012.

Butler County Community Development Director Donna Everson said cuts were projected as high as 25 percent of Community Development Block Grant funding. But now cuts are projected at 7.5 percent, which equates to about a \$111,000 funding loss for the county.

"The 7.5 percent cut takes us down to 2009 levels," Everson said. "You don't want to lose money, but it certainly is better than what the rumors were."

Delaying projects, conducting them in phases or reducing project funding are ways to deal with the cuts, she said.

Everson said Butler County received just under \$1.26 million in 2010 in CDBG funding and about \$1.15 million in 2009.

The proposed cut would bring funding back to 2009 levels, Everson said. The 2011 budget, however, has not yet been released by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, she said.

Community Services Block Grants — which provide funding to community action agencies that seek to reduce poverty — is expected to be cut by about \$405 million. SELF officials said CSBG is their core funding. The agency assisted 6,867 families in 2010.

SELF board member and Hamilton Mayor Pat Moeller said the cuts "will have harmful effects on the working poor and local nonprofit agencies. Those who access programs from SELF will have nowhere to turn as similar programs are not available."

Without the funding, officials said there will be many reductions, including to an employment and education program, and satellite offices would have fewer hours.

"(SELF's) purpose is to provide services that intervene so that low-wage families can come off of government assistance and become more self-sufficient," said SELF board President Mike Snyder, also a Fairfield councilman. "They learn to do this on their own with proper encouragement and connections to community resources."

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