The President chooses who should run federal agencies like the Department of Education, Department of Health and Human Services, and the Department of Homeland Security.

The President also has the power to nominate Supreme Court Justices, sign executive orders, and approve or veto legislation that impacts families across the country and addresses injustices facing America’s children.

Executive actions and administrative rules can be greatly beneficial or harmful to children depending on how they are used. For example, they were used to create work for jobless Americans during the Great Depression, to desegregate the military, and to establish the DACA program to protect young immigrants and keep families together. More recently, these executive powers have also been used for a range of different actions from immigration policy to food assistance policy.

Federal Legislative: U.S. Senators & Representatives

- Federal elections also include representation in Congress - the Senate and the House of Representatives.
- Senators and Representatives introduce and vote on legislation that impacts children, dictating how taxpayer money is allocated, making decisions about major federal programs like Medicaid and Social Security, and approving influential positions like Supreme Court Justices, Secretary of Education, and Secretary of Health and Human Services.
- Who is elected to the Senate and House of Representatives determines what changes can be made to better support children. Find out about bills Members of Congress have recently supported or opposed through CDF Action Council’s Legislative Report Card.
Elections are a way to hold officials accountable at every level of the government. If we like or don’t like what our public officials stand for, then we must use our voices and our votes to make that clear!

Find out who is on your ballot and research where they stand. Make a plan to register and vote using our Vote Because: You Can Use Your Power to Vote for Children resource.