

**CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES
THAT CONTROL PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
AND HOW THEY RELATE TO EACH OTHER**

*This poster is designed to accompany the IEL Policy Exchange Special Report,
"Who Controls Major Federal Programs for Children & Families."*

Sometimes a picture is worth a thousand words. This poster shows the spaghetti-like web of connections among the House and Senate committees and subcommittees with primary responsibility for major federal programs for children and families.¹ These programs account for about \$343 billion annually (\$228 billion if the Dependent Tax Exemption is excluded).²

To understand this poster, remember that each figure represents a different Congressional committee:

The heads of the figures represent full committees, and
The arms, legs and "pocket books" represent subcommittees.

In all, 10 committees and 20 subcommittees in the House of Representatives, and 9 committees and 13 subcommittees in the Senate control major federal programs for children and families.³ (See the box on the back page of this poster for a 1995 update.)

As confusing as this network of committees and subcommittees is, it dramatically underestimates the complexity of the relationships. For example, it does not include the Appropriations and Budget Committees,⁴ joint referrals of legislation to multiple committees, committees and subcommittees with oversight but not authorizing responsibilities, or committees and subcommittees that only have authority over programs of less than \$100 million. It also does not include any Executive Branch department or agency.

Even in this overly simplified illustration, however, there are:

- 11 different House-Senate connections for Income Programs (\$212 billion or, if the Dependent Tax Exemption is excluded, \$97 billion).
- 10 different House-Senate connections for Social Service Programs (\$15 billion).
- 7 different House-Senate connections for Education and Training Programs (\$18 billion).
- 6 different House-Senate connections for Health Programs (\$46 billion).
- 2 different House-Senate connections for Housing Programs (\$23 billion).
- 2 different House-Senate connections for Nutrition Programs (\$30 billion).

When it comes to programs affecting children and families, not all committees are created equal. Among the programs the Policy Exchange studied, more than half of all funding was concentrated in two Congressional committees--the Senate Finance Committee and the House Ways and Means Committee.

This poster is part of a larger report, *Who Controls Major Federal Programs for Children & Families--Rube Goldberg Revisited*, by Margaret Dunkle. Additional copies of the larger report (including this poster and another 11 x 17" poster) are available for \$20 pre-paid, from the Institute for Educational Leadership Policy Exchange, Suite 310, 1001 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20036 (202) 822-8405. Purchased separately, each set of two posters is \$7 pre-paid. Volume discounts are available.

This poster looks at 1993 funding and programs. One might ask: "Is this analysis relevant in 1995? After all we have heard about 'reinventing government' by the Clinton Administration and Congressional reform with the new Republican Congress, are federal programs affecting children and families still as fragmented as they were in 1993?"

The answer to both questions is an emphatic "yes." As of 1995 and the new (104th) Congress, responsibility for the 76 programs that the Policy Exchange studied is spread among 19 Congressional committees (no change from the previous Congress)⁵; 26 Congressional subcommittees (a reduction of seven from the previous Congress); 10 Executive Branch departments, the Office of Personnel Management and the Social Security Administration (an increase of one independent agency); and 25 Assistant Secretary- or Under Secretary-level agencies within departments (no change). In all, 82 separate federal entities currently have primary responsibility for major federal programs for children and families, a net decrease of only six since 1993. (See Appendices D and E of *Who Controls Major Federal Programs for Children & Families* for details about specific changes in Congressional committees and subcommittees.) In addition, this analysis does not include large new programs created since 1993, such as those in the 1994 Crime Bill.

The tidal wave 1994 election, which transferred control of the Congress from Democrats to Republicans, has focused attention on how government works, especially when it comes to children and families. This poster provides insight into issues that will top the agenda of policy makers from both parties in the months ahead.

¹ For information about how the House and Senate relate to each other, see the companion poster ("Congressional Committees That Control Programs for Children and Families-And How They Relate to Each Other"). For similar charts showing the connections by type of program (income, social service, education and training, health, housing and nutrition) as well as additional detail and analysis, see *Who Controls Major Federal Programs for Children & Families-Rube Goldberg Revisited* Appendices B and C.

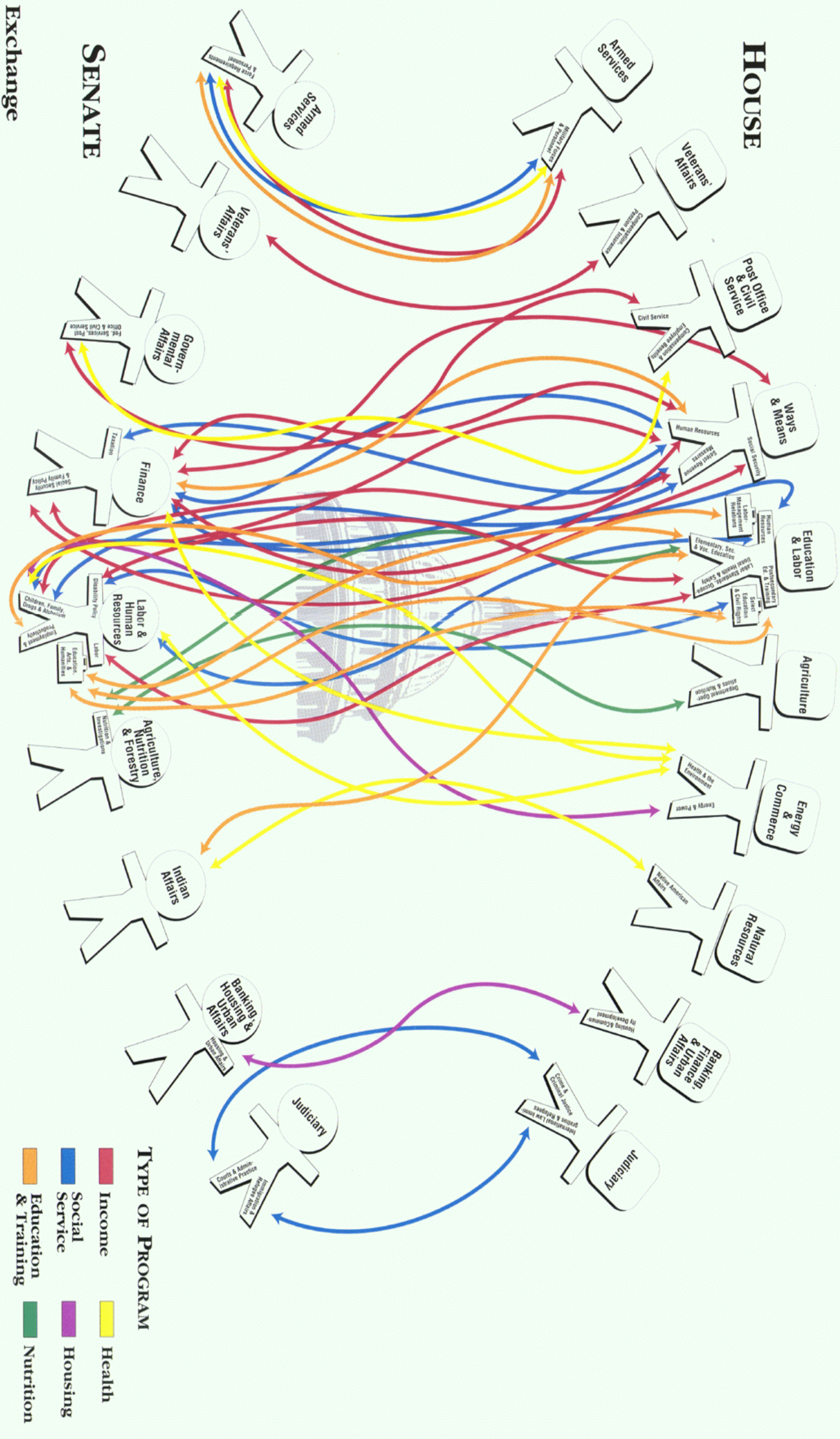
² For purposes of this analysis, "major federal programs for children and families" includes the 76 programs with FY 1993 funding levels of \$100 million or more that are listed in the December 15, 1992 Congressional Research Service Report for Congress, *Federal Programs for Children and Their Families*.

³ Many of these committees will have different names in the new (104th) Congress, even though their legislative jurisdiction has not changed substantially. For example, the Education and Labor Committee is now the Economic and Educational Opportunities Committee; the Banking, Finance, and Urban Affairs Committee is now the Banking and Financial Services Committee; the Energy and Commerce Committee is now the Commerce Committee; the Armed Services Committee is now the National Security Committee; the National Resources Committee is now the Resources Committee; and the relevant jurisdiction of the Post Office and Civil Service Committee is handled by the Government Reform and Oversight Committee.

⁴ Including the Appropriations and Budget Committees in this analysis would increase the number of Congressional committees by 4 and the number of subcommittees by at least 12.

⁵ The House has abolished the Post Office and Civil Service Committee, one of the committees with responsibility for major programs affecting children and families. However, these functions were transferred to the Government Reform and Oversight Committee, leaving the number of House committees with primary responsibility for children and family issues at ten. For purposes of this analysis, perhaps the most notable organizational change is that the names of many committees and subcommittees were changed, although the committees retained essentially the same functions and legislative jurisdiction. And, while a couple of dozen House subcommittees were abolished or consolidated, few of those actions significantly affect this analysis.

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The IEL Policy Exchange