

President Trump's Vanity Projects: \$1.8+ Billion. Here's What Else That Money Could Be Used For

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President Trump has used taxpayer dollars to fund wasteful projects that benefit himself instead of the American people. The Joint Economic Committee – Minority estimates that these projects are so far expected to cost more than \$1.8 billion. This total includes, for instance, the \$927 million [spent](#) to renovate the White House – including to construct a new golden ballroom – and the \$16 million [spent](#) so far on his no-bid contract to paint the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool.

Using this total, the Committee lays out below how that money could instead be used by families and/or the federal government for other purposes such as child care, medical care for veterans, rent, or groceries. In addition, click [here](#) to access the Joint Economic Committee – Minority's Interactive Cost Calculator, where users can explore how they could instead allocate the \$1.8 billion in funds currently planned for President Trump's vanity projects.

President Trump's Vanity Projects Cost \$1,822,761,800. Instead, This Could Cover:

	1.7M	Months of child care	
Or	117.3K	Additional Head Start slots	
Or	20.2M	Days of summer camp	
Or	10.5M	Number of kids' school supplies for the year	
Or	607.6M	Number of school lunches	
Or	27.5K	Additional school teachers hired	
Or	246.5K	Additional students who could get a Pell Grant for college	
Or	29.6K	Additional fire fighters hired	
Or	209.3K	Number of people whose annual Medicaid coverage could be restored following Trump & Congressional Republicans' cuts	
Or	853.4K	Number of people whose annual out-of-pocket ACA marketplace premiums could be restored following Trump & Congressional Republicans' cuts	
Or	88.2K	Number of veterans whose medical expenditures could be covered for a year	
Or	429.5K	Families whose SNAP food benefits could be restored for one year following Trump & Congressional Republicans' cuts	
Or	1.8M	Number of families' monthly grocery costs	
Or	35.9M	Tanks of gas for a sedan	
Or	17.7M	Potholes filled	
Or	4.0K	New houses built	
Or	935.7K	Number of people whose rent could be covered for a month	
Or	12.0M	Number of people whose electric bills could be covered for a month	

Note: The total expected cost of Trump's vanity projects includes the more than [\\$927 million](#) for White House renovations (including the ballroom, Lafayette Park fountains, Rose Garden, visitor center, helipad, and [bowling alley](#)), [\\$257 million](#) for the Kennedy Center renovations, [\\$100 million](#) to build the new "Triumphal Arch," [\\$16 million](#) for rehabilitation of the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool, [\\$7.5 million](#) to repaint the Old Executive Office Building, [\\$5 million](#) to gold-plate D.C. area horse statues, [\\$400 million](#) to complete the initial retrofit of the new Qatari Air Force One plane, [\\$60 million](#) for the Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC) White House event, and [\\$50 million](#) for his East Potomac Park Golf Course.