



Move the Money... from the Pentagon to the People!

The momentum of the 99% is continuing to build! Join us - and groups all over the world - in actions on April 17 aimed at the costs of military spending and the need for new priorities.

This year, the [Global Day of Action on Military Spending](#) (GDAMS) coincides with tax day in the US, what better opportunity to tell Congress and your community that you want your tax dollars going to job creation and social programs, not war and tax cuts for the rich.

This is an AFSC action guide for these events, focused on US federal budget priorities but there are also fantastic [ideas for easy actions](#) that are more focused on global military spending and a place to [register your event](#) on the GDAMS website.

Over the long haul, AFSC has joined the [New Priorities Network](#), an initiative to fund urgently needed jobs and restore vital public services by substantially cutting military spending. We will be building bridges between peace groups and economic justice groups, gathering our collective strength to move money from the Pentagon to the people. Our work on these issues extends well beyond tax day and you can find our complete [Move the Money](#) toolkit online.

AFSC is calling for:

- Deep cuts in the Pentagon budget
- Raising revenues through taxes on the wealthy and corporations
- Continuing protection for programs that aid the most vulnerable
- Short-run investments to stimulate job creation

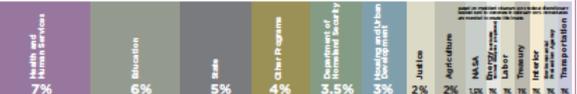
Wage Peace,
[Peter Lems and Mary Zerkel](#)

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

**- Martin Luther King, Jr.,
April 4, 1967**

MILITARY (Department of Defense, War, Veterans Affairs, and Nuclear Weapons Programs)

60%



US Federal Discretionary budget, 2012



CREATIVE ACTIONS

APRIL 17, 2012

There are many ways to visually present the federal discretionary budget to the people in your community.

SIGNAGE

One easy way to present these issues to your community is through signs.

Homemade

This can be as simple as a hand lettered sign carried at a march, or placed in a window on a well-trafficked street.

Billboards

Or, you can create something more dramatic, like the billboard pictured on the right. Many billboard companies will be willing to negotiate with you for a PSA rate. AFSC has helped communities in several different states put up billboards.

Federal Budget Banner

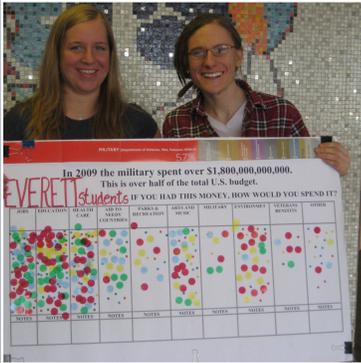
Another option would be to download our Federal Budget Banner (pictured above), take it to your local sign shop and have it reproduced in vinyl. We have a 15 foot version as well as the 40 foot version pictured here. It can be carried during a march, or held by several people on a busy street corner. Add some grommets and you can hang it from a building.

You can download the file at this link:
<http://afsc.org/resource/federal-budget-banner-files-your-event>



Top: A handmade sign in the window that faces the State Capitol in New Hampshire.
Bottom: A community group in Lansing Michigan raised money to pay for this billboard.

MAKE YOUR OWN PENNY POLL



Top: High school students in Michigan voted how to spend funds by using stickers on a poster.

Middle and right: Community members in Portsmouth, NH and high school students in Chicago voted with pennies put into plastic tubes corresponding to the budget categories.

Bottom: Community members in Rhode Island voted for how they wanted federal dollars spent by placing pennies in plastic buckets.

Interactive Tools

A very good way to help the people in your community understand our federal budget priorities is to involve them in an interactive display.

Penny Poll

The classic tool for this is the penny poll. Basically, you will be setting up a visual display of the categories within the federal budget and asking passersby to vote on where they think their tax dollars should be spent.

You can give each person who wants to participate a 100 pennies or stickers and ask them to distribute them among the categories in the federal discretionary budget:

- Military: includes Department of Defense, War, Veterans Affairs and Nuclear Weapons programs.
- Health and Human Services

- Education
- State Department
- Homeland Security
- Housing and Urban Development
- Justice
- Agriculture
- NASA
- Energy (excluding Nuclear Weapons programs)
- Labor
- Treasury
- Interior
- EPA
- Transportation
- Other programs

After people have voted, give them a handout that shows the actual spending in the proposed 2012 budget. You can email mzernel@afsc.org to request the handout pictured here: www.oneminuteforpeace.org



Hold a Video Screening

American Friends Service Committee and the National Priorities Project held a contest for youth ages 13-23 to make short videos about what they would rather spend the \$1 trillion that the US has spent on the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. We received fabulous entries from around the country and we suggest using the top 15 short videos as a public program to generate discussion in your community.

You can use the videos at a special event on campus or in your community, at a church or union meeting, at a house party or even in the classroom.

Make sure that the location you choose has a video projector and amplified sound. Decide how long your program will be — if you show only the top 6 it will take around 20 minutes. You can watch the videos ahead of time if you like, see below.

For viewing the videos, you have two options:
stream them via [YouTube on our channel](#) (this will require an internet connection at your chosen location)
or borrow a DVD from the AFSC Chicago Lending Library. Email or call Erin Polley at epolley@afsc.org or 317-626-0868 to make arrangements. Videos are lent out in 10 day periods for no charge

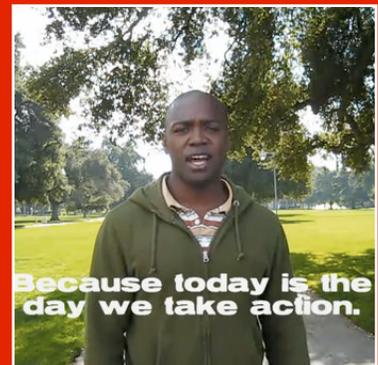
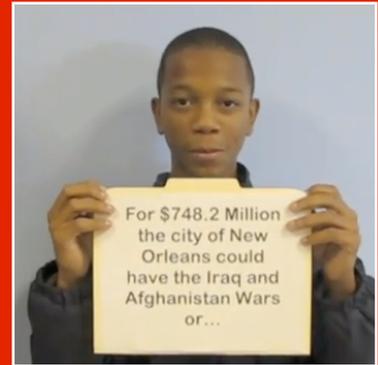
Make a video for the 3rd “If I Had a Trillion Dollars” youth video festival!

The top 2 winners of the 2010 contest won a trip to Washington DC where they showed their work and spoke at 2 Congressional briefings and a public event for 200 people! This year we are bringing 52 youth from all over the country to DC for a public event, leadership training, congressional briefing and lobby visits, April 14-16!

Make a video and join us in 2013!

Find out [more information](#) about how your community can participate!

IF I HAD A TRILLION DOLLARS...



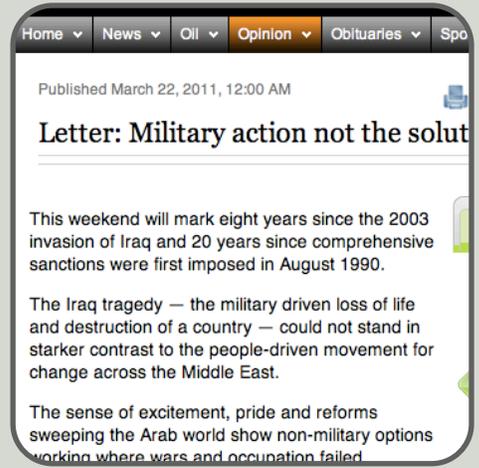
Stills from the DVD

The 15 winning entries are from around the country including these.

Top: New Orleans, LA

Middle: Portland, OR

Bottom: Los Angeles, CA



Alert the Media

Amplify your creative actions by making sure that you let the media know what you are doing!

Make it visual

If your action has a strong visual component the media will be more likely to show up. Use some of the ideas in this packet or come up with something totally unique! Sometimes you'll get a photo in the newspaper even if they don't run a story.

Connect Locally

Make sure to have a local angle on the way that budget cuts are affecting your community. The National Priorities Project has a great website that can tell you precisely how many tax dollars your community has spent on the war AND the military budget and what your community could have spent the money on instead. Visit www.nationalpriorities.org

Press Template and Media tips

AFSC has a [template](#) you can use to contact the media and a list of [tips](#) about speaking to the media.

Letters to the Editor

There are lots of other ways to get the word out -- writing a letter to the editor is one fantastic way to let the people in your community know that you support ending the war, cutting the military budget and funding human needs. Use our [talking points](#) to write your letter.

Social Media Savvy

Facebook, Twitter and other social media outlets are great ways to help organize your community and to broadcast your community's feeling about budget priorities. Download AFSC's [social media guide](#) for help making the most of these opportunities to connect.