**5 Billion Dollars on F-35A Planes or**

**Human Needs & the Environment?**

As of 2017, each F-35A plane cost **$95 million** to manufacture. [**https://www.popularmechanics.com/military/aviation/a27332/f-35-rising-cost/**](https://www.popularmechanics.com/military/aviation/a27332/f-35-rising-cost/)

The F-35A costs approximately $42,000 per hour to fly. Assuming a plane flies 120 hours a year, over 20 years, that comes to **$100 million.** <https://www.popularmechanics.com/military/weapons/a21776/f-35-cheaper/>

**26 x F-35A Fighter planes (@ $195 million each) = approximately 5 billion dollars.**

**Here are nine things we could buy for $5 billion instead.** [**https://www.nationalpriorities.org/blog/2018/12/07/nine-things-buy-5-billion-instead-border-wall/**](https://www.nationalpriorities.org/blog/2018/12/07/nine-things-buy-5-billion-instead-border-wall/)

**1. Provide Medicaid for 1.4 million people.**

At the program’s current costs, $5 billion could provide Medicaid – cost-effective, quality insurance – for [1.4 million Americans](https://www.nationalpriorities.org/interactive-data/trade-offs/).

**2. Triple federal spending on energy**  The United States budget for energy efficiency and renewable energy is $2 billion. Adding $5 billion would triple the budget.

**3. Give the Environmental Protection Agency a 60% Raise**

This federal defender for clean water, clean air, protection of endangered species, safe disposal of toxic waste, land conservation and even food quality and safety has been under assault by the current administration. A $5 billion raise would be enough to raise its budget by 60%, from $8.2 billion to $13.2 billion.

**4. Increase federal aid to public K-12 schools by 30%**

The primary source of federal aid to public schools is the Title I program that provides federal funding to schools that serve lower income students. More than half of all public schools in the United States benefit from the program. In 2017, Title I grants to public schools [totaled $14.9 billion.](https://www2.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/budget18/summary/18summary.pdf) An additional $5 billion would be a 30% increase to this aid.

**6. Double heating assistance for low-income households**

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance program provides support to low-income households to help them afford heating and cooling costs. Its 2017 budget was just short of $3.4 billion, so a $5 billion increase could more than double it.

**8. Double funding for substance use and mental health**

And yet the current budget for the main federal agency that handles both substance abuse and mental health, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), received just $4.1 billion in federal funds in 2017. Adding $5 billion to that could more than double current funding. 

***VIGIL FOR PEACE – JOIN US!!!***

***Mondays from Noon-1pm, Corner of MLK Jr. & Doty St., Madison City-County Bldg.***

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