

## **AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES, 2019**

*\$23.042 Billion in Total Discretionary Funding*

- Supports American agriculture by providing farmers and ranchers with the resources needed to overcome the challenges they face in farm country.
- Reaffirms our commitment to a growing rural America by making responsible investments in farm service programs, agricultural research, and rural development programs.
- Provides significant resources to combat the opioid epidemic.

### HIGHLIGHTS

#### **Opioids**

- \$47 million in additional base funding for regulatory science, enforcement, and innovation activities to combat the opioid epidemic.
- \$16 million for Rural Development Distance Learning & Telemedicine Grants to help rural communities combat the opioid crisis. Grants can be used to purchase equipment such as transmission facilities, audio equipment, interactive video equipment, and computer hardware, as well as technical assistance for using eligible equipment.

#### **US Department of Agriculture**

- **Rural Broadband:** \$550 million for a rural broadband pilot grant/loan program targeted to areas that currently lack access to broadband service. Provisions are included in the bill to prevent overbuilding or duplicate existing broadband infrastructure, which has been a concern for the cable and telecommunications industries.
- **Rural Water and Wastewater:** An additional \$75 million for Water and Waste programs to address the \$3 billion backlog in infrastructure needs in rural America. This funding will support an additional \$75 million in grants for water infrastructure projects in rural communities.

**Agricultural Research:** \$3.035 billion provided for agricultural research programs, including the Agricultural Research Service and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

**Farm Service Agency:** \$1.617 billion, including full funding of estimated demand for farm loans.

**Natural Resources Conservation Service:** \$983.5 million, which includes \$150 million for Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations and \$10 million for the Watershed Rehabilitation Program.

**Rural Development:** \$3 billion provided, equal to the enacted FY2018 funding level

**Food and Drug Administration:** \$3.068 billion provided in discretionary funding, which includes a \$257.6 million increase for Medical Product Safety, and a \$13.8 million increase for Food Safety activities.

**Food and Drug Administration, Genome Editing:** Language is retained from FY2018 to prohibit the FDA from spending money to evaluate research or clinical applications in which a human embryo is intentionally created or modified to include a heritable genetic modification.

**Food and Nutrition Service:**

- **Child Nutrition Programs:** \$23.140 billion provided – \$23.082 billion mandatory funding and \$58 million discretionary funding
- **Special Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC):** \$6.075 billion provided in discretionary funding, which will fully support estimated participation for FY2019.
- **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP):** \$73.476 billion provided—\$73.475 billion in mandatory funding and \$998,000 in discretionary funding, a decrease of \$536 million from FY2018. This reflects decreasing participation in SNAP and a continued drop in average food costs per person/per month.