

**LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, EDUCATION,
AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2018**

Omnibus Agreement Summary

Highlights of the FY2018 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education and Related Agencies (Labor-HHS) Appropriations Bill:

The FY2018 Labor-HHS Appropriations bill contains \$177.1 billion, an increase of \$16.1 billion above the FY2017 level, in base discretionary funding for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education and Related Agencies.

The bill includes \$1.9 billion in cap adjustment funding for preventing waste, fraud, abuse, and improper payments in the Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid programs. In addition, the bill includes \$996 million pursuant to the 21st Century Cures Act.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **National Institutes of Health** – \$3 billion increase. Since Republicans took back the Senate starting with the FY2016 appropriations cycle, the Committee has increased funding for the NIH by \$7 billion or more than 23 percent.
- **Access to High Quality Early Childhood Care and Education** – Includes a \$2.4 billion increase for the Child Care and Development Block Grant, to help improve the quality of child care programs and expand access to high-quality child care for working families; and a \$610 million increase for Head Start.
- **Fighting Opioid Abuse** – \$3.6 billion, an increase of \$2.55 billion or 244 percent. Funds are targeted towards improving treatment and prevention efforts; finding alternative pain medications; workforce needs, especially in our rural communities; and behavioral health.
- **Mental Health** – As a critical part of both combating opioid abuse and ensuring safety in our schools and communities, the bill provides \$3.2 billion, a 17 percent increase, for mental health research, treatment, and prevention.
- **Elementary and Secondary Education** – Includes a \$300 million increase for Title I Grants to school districts; a \$275 million increase for IDEA/Special Education State grants; a \$75 million increase for Career and Technical Education State Grants; a \$86 million increase for Impact Aid; and a \$700 million increase for Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants.
- **College Affordability and Completion** – Includes a 3 percent, or \$175 increase, in the maximum Pell grant award to \$6,095 for the 2018-19 academic year; continues support for Year-Round Pell; \$247 million increase in campus-based aid programs; increases in various other higher education programs, including TRIO and Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU); and addresses issues in the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program, including for teachers and first responders, to cover borrowers who would otherwise be eligible except they were enrolled in an ineligible repayment plan.
- **Safe Schools and Safe Learning Environments** – Includes a \$47 million increase for evidence-based interventions at the Department of Education and Department of Health and Human Services:

- \$22 million increase for the Department of Education to help improve school climates, prevent violence, and provide services in response to serious incidents;
- \$25 million increase Department of Health and Human Services program that provide mental health support to schools and school age children;
- In addition, the bill includes a nearly three-fold increase in Student Support and Academic Enrichment formula grants, flexible funding for all school districts that can be used to support school counselors, school-based mental health services, and other related activities.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

The agreement provides \$12.2 billion in discretionary funding for the U.S. Department of Labor, \$192 million above FY2017.

Veterans Employment Training (VETS) Programs – \$295 million, an increase of \$16 million above FY2017. VETS funding provides for intensive employment services to veterans and eligible spouses, transitioning service members, wounded warriors, and disabled veterans. An additional \$5 million for the homeless veterans program will help increase program enrollment and provide additional specialized services, such as job training, social services, guidance for substance abuse treatment, transportation, and housing referrals. In addition, funding and authority are provided in support of the HIRE Vets program to recognize employers for their investments in recruiting, employing, and retaining our nation’s veterans.

Rural Training Initiative – \$30 million for a new dislocated worker training initiative to provide reemployment and training assistance to dislocated workers in rural areas of the country hit hardest by the recession and recovering more slowly. Funding is devoted to training those who have lost their jobs in the Appalachian and Delta regions to ensure they can adapt existing skills and learn new skills demanded by other growing industries and return to work as soon as possible.

Apprenticeship Opportunities – \$145 million, an increase of \$50 million, or 53 percent, for training programs utilizing the flexible and effective apprenticeship model.

Workforce Training Programs – \$2.8 billion, an increase of \$80 million above FY2017. These funds are distributed by formula to states and localities to meet each state’s unique job training and reemployment needs.

Governor’s Statewide Reserve – The bill once again allows the full 15 percent state training grant funding reserve for governors to address a variety of statewide training needs, projects, expanded partnerships, emergency response, and other services as needed throughout their states.

Job Corps – \$1.7 billion, a \$14.5 million increase above FY2017. Taken together, the 126 Job Corps centers in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico comprise the nation’s largest career technical training and educational program for youth. Approximately 95 percent of Job Corps students successfully attain industry-recognized certifications.

YouthBuild – \$89.5 million, \$5 million above FY2017, to help at-risk high school drop-outs develop skills and knowledge to obtain industry-recognized job credentials, apprenticeships, and employment.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

The agreement provides \$88.1 billion in discretionary funding for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, a \$10.1 billion increase above the comparable FY2017 level, not including cap adjustments.

National Institutes of Health (NIH) – \$37.1 billion, an increase of \$3 billion, or 8.8 percent, above FY2017. The bill includes:

- \$1.8 billion for Alzheimer’s disease research, a \$414 million increase;
- \$500 million for a new initiative to research opioid addiction, development of opioids alternatives, pain management, and addiction treatment.
- \$400 million for the BRAIN Initiative to map the human brain, a \$140 million increase;
- \$357.6 million for the Institutional Development Award, a \$17.2 million increase;
- \$290 million for the *All of US* precision medicine study, a \$60 million increase;
- \$513 million to Combat Antibiotic Resistant Bacteria, a \$50 million increase;
- \$542.8 million for the Clinical and Translational Science Award, a \$26.7 million increase;
- \$12.6 million for the Gabriella Miller Kids First Research Act;
- \$100 million for research on the universal flu vaccine;
- Increases to every Institute and Center to continue investments in innovative research to advance fundamental knowledge and speed the development of new therapies, diagnostics, and preventive measures to improve the health of all Americans.
- Prohibition on capping Facilities & Administrative costs.

Fighting Opioid Abuse – \$3.6 billion, an increase of \$2.55 billion or 244 percent. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), opioid overdoses now surpass motor vehicle accidents as the number one cause of accidental death in the country with over 42,000 deaths from an opioid overdose in 2016. The bill includes new investments for the following activities:

- \$415 million to expand behavioral health and substance use disorder prevention and treatment services and facilitate the development of an appropriately trained workforce, especially in rural communities;
- \$350 million to strengthen surveillance activities across all 50 states, implement activities described in the National All Schedules Prescriptions Electronic Reporting Act, and increase public awareness through a nationwide awareness and education campaign;
- \$500 million for a new initiative for research related to opioid addiction, development of opioid alternatives, pain management, and addiction treatment;
- \$1 billion for a new State Opioid Response Grant, with a 15 percent set-aside for states with the highest mortality rate related to opioid use disorders and a \$50 million set-aside for Indian tribes and tribal organizations. This funding is in addition to the \$500 million from 21st Century CURES, increasing flexible funding available to states by 200 percent;

- An increase of \$185 million for opioid programs in SAMHSA's Programs for National and Regional Significance;
- Increase of \$60 million for child abuse prevention and treatment programs to support the development and implementation of plans of infant safe care to improve and better-coordinate services for newborn children exposed to substances and their families or caregivers;
- Increase of \$40 million for mental health and substance use prevention and treatment for children and families in the foster care and child welfare systems.

In addition to these amounts specifically directed to address the opioid crisis, the bill also provides \$1.9 billion for the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant, \$200 million in mandatory funds to Community Health Centers (CHCs), and provides an additional \$42.8 million to the NIH National Institute on Drug Abuse, above the opioids specific research funding.

Mental Health – \$1.5 billion, \$306 million above FY2017, for mental health programs at SAMHSA. Within this total, the bill provides \$723 million for the Mental Health Block Grant, \$100 million for new grants to Certified Community Behavioral Health Centers that meet the standards set forth in the Excellence in Mental Health and Addiction Treatment Expansion Act, and \$25 million for mental health programs to address school safety.

Community Health Centers – \$1.63 billion, \$135 million above FY2017 for CHCs to expand behavioral health and substance use disorder prevention and treatment services, including opioid abuse, and provide access to overdose reversal drugs and recovery support services. There are more than 10,400 Health Centers nationally, serving over 24 million patients per year. CHCs advance the preventive and primary care model of coordinated and comprehensive care, coordinating a wide range of medical, dental, behavioral, and social services in communities.

Obamacare – The bill does not provide new funding for the Affordable Care Act (ACA). In addition, several oversight provisions are included in the agreement:

- **Risk Corridor** – Continues a provision requiring the Administration to operate the ACA Risk Corridor program in a budget neutral manner by prohibiting any funds from the Labor-HHS Appropriations bill from being used as payments for the Risk Corridor program.
- **ACA Congressional Notification** – Directs the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to notify the appropriate Congressional committees two business days before any ACA-related data or grant opportunities are released to the public.
- **Health Exchange Transparency** – Includes bill language requiring the Administration to publish ACA-related spending by category since its inception.
- **ACA Personnel** – Includes bill language requiring the Administration to publish information on the number of employees, contractors, and activities involved in implementing, administering, or enforcing provisions of the ACA.

Rural Health Care – \$290.8 million, \$135 million above FY2017, for rural health programs. The obstacles faced by patients and providers in rural communities are unique and often significantly different than those in urban areas. The bill focuses resources toward efforts and programs to help rural communities, including:

- **Rural Communities Opioids Response** – \$100 million for a new program to support treatment for and prevention of substance use disorders, with a focus on rural communities at the highest risk for substance use disorder. An additional \$30 million is available for this program through the National Health Service Corps.
- **Rural Outreach Grants** – \$71.5 million, \$6 million above FY2017. These grants support collaborative models to deliver health care services to rural areas and are designed to meet unique rural health care needs.
- **Rural Hospital Flexibility Grants** – \$49.6 million, \$6 million above FY2017. These grants focus on enhancing quality and patient outcomes as well as improving financial viability of rural hospitals to ensure access to care for isolated beneficiaries such as Medicare recipients.
- **Telehealth** – \$23.5 million, \$5 million above FY2017. The Telehealth program expands the use of telecommunications technologies within rural areas that can link rural health providers and patients with specialists.

Children’s Hospitals Graduate Medical Education (CHGME) – \$315 million, \$15 million above FY2017. Over the past three years, Republicans have increased funding for CHGME by \$50 million or 19 percent. The CHGME program protects children’s access to high quality medical care by providing freestanding children’s hospitals with funding to support the training of pediatric providers.

CDC and Prevention Biosafety Level (BSL) 4 Laboratory – The bill makes a critical investment in CDC infrastructure by providing \$480 million, the full cost of a replacement BSL-4, high containment laboratory. It is critical to replace the current CDC lab to continue research on the deadliest pathogens, like Ebola, for which there are no cure.

Global Health Security – \$98 million, \$50 million, to continue the interagency strategy to prevent, detect, and respond to infectious disease outbreaks.

Polio Eradication – \$176 million, \$2 million above FY2017. Polio is currently endemic in only three countries: Nigeria, Afghanistan, and Pakistan.

Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) – \$5.2 billion, \$2.4 billion above FY2017. This increase will help states fully implement the 2014 reauthorization of the CCDBG Act. This funding will help improve the quality of child care programs, including increasing provider rates and ensuring health and safety standards are met; and expanding working families’ access to quality, affordable child care.

Head Start – \$9.9 billion, \$610 million above FY2017. This increase will help all Head Start programs keep up with costs, recruit and retain highly qualified staff, maintain enrollment, and provide high-quality early childhood services for children and families. In addition, it will provide additional funding for Head Start programs to expand the length of their program day and year to increase the duration of services provided to children and families, and expand Early Head Start, including through Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships.

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) – \$3.6 billion, a \$250 million increase, for home heating and cooling assistance for low-income households.

Adoption and Legal Guardianship Incentives – \$75 million, \$37 million, for payments to states to incentivize improved performance in finding permanent homes for children in foster care through adoption or legal guardianship. This program has faced a funding shortfall in recent years, preventing states from receiving the full amount earned. This increase will cover all prior-year costs and part of the current year costs to pave the way to stay current on payments in coming years.

Medicare Appeals – \$182 million, \$75 million above FY2017, to reduce significantly the Medicare appeals backlog of over 500,000 appeals. Reducing the backlog is critical providing timely resolution to Medicare appeals for the medical community.

Flu – \$538 million, a \$218 million increase or over 68 percent above 2017, to maintain and improve the response to pandemic influenza as well as increase research on development of a universal flu vaccine by \$40 million at the NIH.

Public Health Preparedness and Response – The bill includes additional funding for critical preparedness and response activities:

- **Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA)** – \$537 million, \$25 million above FY2017 levels. BARDA is responsible for advanced research and development of medical countermeasures for national preparedness efforts.
- **Project BioShield** – \$710 million, \$200 million above FY2017, to enhance national preparedness activities by procuring medical countermeasures against chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear threats.
- **Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP)** – \$670 million, \$10 million above 2017, to help states to prepare, respond, and recover from emerging threats such as natural disasters, disease outbreaks, and chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear threats.
- **Strategic National Stockpile (SNS)** – \$610 million, \$35 million above FY2017. CDC maintains and replenishes expiring medical countermeasures in the SNS for national preparedness efforts.
- **National Disaster Medical System** – \$57 million, \$7.5 million above FY2017. Improving the preparedness of Disaster Medical Assistance Teams will allow HHS to respond more quickly to chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear threats.

Area Health Education Centers (AHECs) – \$38.3 million, \$8 million or 26.4 percent above FY2017. These centers develop and maintain a diverse health care workforce, broaden the distribution of the health workforce, enhance health care quality, and improve health care delivery to rural and underserved areas and populations.

Victims of Trafficking – \$24 million, \$5 million above FY2017, for services for victims of human trafficking, including an increase in funding for the National Human Trafficking Resource Center.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

The agreement provides \$70.9 billion in discretionary funding for the U.S. Department of Education, a \$3.9 billion increase above the comparable FY2017 level.

Promoting college access, completion and affordability

- **Pell Grants** – Increases the maximum Pell grant award to \$6,095, an increase of \$175 or 3 percent, to help students keep up with rising costs, limit the need for student loans, and ultimately graduate with less debt. In addition, the bill includes the Children of Fallen Heroes Scholarship Act, which automatically makes children of first responders who have died in the line of duty eligible for the maximum Pell Grant. Finally, the bill continues support for Year Round Pell.
- **Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF)** – The bill modifies eligibility for the PSLF program, and makes student borrowers eligible for PSLF if they were enrolled in an ineligible repayment plan but they otherwise would have been eligible for PSLF if they were enrolled in an eligible plan.
- **Campus-Based Aid Programs** – \$840 million, a \$107 million increase, for Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants; and \$1.1 billion, a \$140 million increase, for Federal Work Study, funding for colleges and universities to provide financial assistance to low-income students.
- **TRIO** – \$1.01 billion, a \$60 million increase, for TRIO programs that provide services to students from disadvantaged backgrounds and first generation college students to help them enter and complete college and postgraduate education.
- **HBCUs and Minority Serving Institutions (MSI)** – Includes a combined increase of \$106 million for programs supporting HBCUs and other MSIs.

State and Local Flexibility in Elementary and Secondary Education – The bill prioritizes funding for programs that provide the most flexibility for states and local school districts to decide how to best use limited resources, including support for STEM education and ensuring safe learning environments.

- **Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies** – \$15.8 billion, a \$300 million increase, for this foundational Federal support for school districts and schools with a high percentage of low-income students to help all students succeed and meet challenging state academic standards.
- **Title IV Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants** – \$1.1 billion, an increase of \$700 million, to support activities to provide students with a well-rounded education, including STEM education and computer science; ensure safe and supportive learning environments, including to help prevent and respond to school violence; and use technology to improve instruction.
- **IDEA Grants to States** – \$13.1 billion, a \$299 million increase, for grants to states under part B and C of the IDEA, to support special education services for children with disabilities, including grants for infants and families and children in preschool
- **Impact Aid** – \$1.4 billion, an \$86 million increase, to provide flexible support to local school districts impacted by the presence of federally-owned land and activities, such as military bases.
- **Career and Technical Education State Grants** - \$1.2 billion, a \$75 million increase.

Charter Schools – \$400 million, a \$58 million increase, for grants to states, charter management organizations, and other related entities for the start-up, replication, and expansion of high-quality charter schools including funding for facilities. This includes \$7.5 million to expand charter schools in rural areas.

STEM Education – \$50 million for evidence-based STEM education programs, including computer science education, within the Education Innovation and Research program. Further, the agreement includes an almost three-fold increase in Student Support and Academic Enrichment formula grants that all school districts can use for activities including STEM education. Finally, several other education formula and competitive grant programs can support similar activities.

Promise Neighborhoods – \$78 million, a \$5 million increase, including funding dedicated to the extension of current high-quality Promise Neighborhood programs. This program supports the development and implementation of comprehensive neighborhood-based programs designed to combat the effects of poverty and to improve education and life outcomes for children and youth, from birth through college.

21st Century Community Learning Centers - \$1.2 billion, a \$20 million increase, for grants to states to support academic enrichment activities for students before school, after school, and during the summer.

Rural Education – \$180 million, a \$5 million increase, for additional support to meet the unique needs of small rural schools and school districts.

School Safety and Safe Learning Environments – \$90 million, a \$22 million increase, at the Department of Education for activities that include evidence-based programs to improve school climates, prevent violence, and provide services for students in response to incidents of violence. In addition, the bill includes an almost threefold increase in Student Support and Academic Enrichment formula grants that can be used by every school district to support a wide range of activities including school counseling and school-based mental health programs.

Ensuring Accountability and High-Quality Service for Federal Student Loan Borrowers – The bill includes new language promoting accountability, transparency, and competition in student loan servicing, to incentivize high-quality service for student loan borrowers, supporting both student loan borrowers and taxpayers.

RELATED AGENCIES

Institute for Museum and Library Services – \$240 million, a \$9 million increase above FY2017. This agency supports programs for museums and libraries that encourage innovation, provide life-long learning opportunities, promote cultural and civic engagement, and improve access to a variety of services and information.

Corporation for Public Broadcasting – \$445 million for FY2020, level funding with FY2018. An additional \$20 million is provided for the current year (FY2018) to continue the process of upgrading the public broadcasting interconnection system.

Corporation for National and Community Service – \$1.1 billion, a \$34 million increase, including: \$412 million for AmeriCorps grants, an increase of \$26 million; \$32 million for the National Civilian Community Corps, an increase of \$2 million; and increased resources, including through the Commission Investment Fund, for state commissions to build the capacity of national and community service programs at the local level.

OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Increasing the Efficiency and Cost Effectiveness of Government – The bill provides funding for activities aimed at reducing fraud, waste, and abuse of taxpayer dollars, including:

- **Reemployment Services and Eligibility Assessments** – \$120 million to conduct enhanced, in-person assessments to accelerate the reemployment of Unemployment Compensation recipients in order to reduce the duration of their time receiving benefits and the likelihood of exhausting benefit coverage. These actions would also help protect the integrity of the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund by reducing improper payments. This program has been shown to save \$2.60 for every \$1.00 spent.
- **Health Care Fraud and Abuse Control (HCFAC)** – \$745 million, a \$20 million increase above FY2017, is provided by utilizing the cap adjustment provided in the Budget Control Act. For every \$1 spent on HCFAC, \$2 is recovered by the U.S. Treasury. This will create over \$10.2 billion in savings to the Treasury over 10 years.
- **Preventing Social Security Disability Fraud, Abuse, and Improper Payments** – \$1.7 billion. This funding supports periodic reviews to ensure that individuals receiving Social Security disability benefits are still eligible under program rules. This funding is estimated to save approximately \$11 billion over 10 years for the Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid programs.

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