

Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2026

The Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill for Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 provides a base discretionary total of \$194.9 billion in nondefense funding. The bill invests in America's children, families, and communities, prioritizes funding to help make Americans healthier, supports lifesaving biomedical research, and strengthens our nation's workforce. In July 2025, the Senate Appropriations Committee advanced the bill by a vote of 26-3.

Key Takeaways

- **Biomedical Research:** Prioritizes funding to help make Americans healthier and support lifesaving biomedical research.
- **Children and Families:** Supports states and local school districts in educating students by providing increased investments in education and increased resources for affordable child care that supports working families.
- **Reduces Bureaucracy:** Reduces funding for staffing across the board to reflect the right-sizing of the federal bureaucracy while ensuring that departments have sufficient staffing to continue to carry out their statutory responsibilities.

Bill Highlights

Department of Labor:

- **Workforce Development:** \$10.4 billion for employment and training programs to help American workers acquire the skills needed to meet the needs of U.S. job creators and gain and maintain family-sustaining careers. This includes \$285 million for the apprenticeship program to help reach the goal of one million new active apprentices.
- **Workplace Safety:** \$1.5 billion for programs to protect workers' health and safety, wages, and retirement to ensure the safety and financial security of the American workforce.

Department of Health and Human Services:

- **Health Resources and Services:** \$8.9 billion to support critical community, maternal, and public health programs; help train the next generation of healthcare providers; promote rural hospital sustainability and access to care in rural communities; and modernize the organ transplantation system with a continued focus on patient safety.
- **Disease Control and Prevention:** \$9.2 billion to support infectious disease control work, chronic health programs and research, maternal and child health programs, and workplace health programs such as the National Firefighter Cancer Registry.

- **Biomedical Research at NIH:** \$48.7 billion for lifesaving biomedical research.
 - **Alzheimer's:** \$3.9 billion for Alzheimer's disease and related dementia research.
 - **Cancer:** \$7.4 billion for the National Cancer Institute, including \$30 million for the Childhood Cancer STAR Act.
 - **Diabetes:** \$2.3 billion for the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases.
 - **ALS:** \$90 million for Accelerating Access to Critical Therapies (ACT) for ALS Act research.
 - **Rare Disease Research:** \$19 million increase from FY 2025 enacted for gold-standard rare disease research.
 - **IDeA Research Awards:** \$451 million, a \$20 million increase from FY 2025 enacted, for the Institutional Development Award (IDeA) program that provides funding to 23 states that historically have received little to no federal research funding.
 - **Women's Health Research:** \$30 million increase from FY 2025 enacted for the Office of Research on Women's Health and \$10 million increase from FY 2025 enacted for maternal health research.
- **Substance Abuse Treatment and Prevention:** Provides significant resources for substance use prevention and treatment programs to help combat the scourge of fentanyl and other illicit narcotics plaguing our towns and cities, including \$1.6 billion for the State Opioid Response Grants; \$1.9 billion for the Substance Use Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Services Block Grant; and \$145 million for the Rural Communities Opioid Response program. The bill also provides funds for alternative pain medications.
- **Mental Health Services:** More than \$5.5 billion for mental health research, treatment, prevention, and workforce investments, including:
 - \$534.6 million for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration suicide prevention Lifeline, 9-8-8;
 - \$385.5 million for Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics;
 - \$2.2 billion for the National Institute of Mental Health;
 - \$1.0 billion for the Mental Health Block Grant;
 - \$164 million for school-based mental health grants at the Department of Education;
 - \$8 million for the Maternal Mental Health Hotline;
 - \$12 million for the Screening and Treatment for Maternal Mental Health Substance Use Disorder Program;
 - \$114 million for the Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training Program;
 - \$25 million for Graduate Psychology Education; and
 - \$40 million for the Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Recovery (STAR) Loan Repayment program.
- **Children and Families:** \$12.4 billion for Head Start and \$8.8 billion for the Child Care Development Block Grant to support affordable child care options for working families;

and \$4 billion for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program to help low-income families and older adults afford home heating and cooling costs.

- **Caregiving:** \$234 million for the Administration for Community Living's family caregiving and respite care programs to provide coordinated support to help older adults age in place with dignity.
- **Preparedness and Response:** \$3.7 billion for the Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response to prepare for the health consequences of bioterrorism and other public health emergencies. This includes \$1 billion for the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA), \$850 million for Project BioShield, \$79 million for the National Disaster Medical System, and \$1 billion for the Strategic National Stockpile.

Department of Education:

- **K-12 Education:** \$18.4 billion for Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies to help states and school districts support low-income students; up to \$500 million for the Charter School Program to support the startup, replication, and expansion of high-quality charter schools; and \$225 million for the Rural Education Achievement Program to support rural schools.
- **Special Education:** \$15.2 billion for IDEA State Grants to help states and school districts provide special education and related services to children, preschoolers, and infants with disabilities.
- **Career and Technical Education:** \$1.4 billion for CTE State Grants which assist states and localities with expansion and improvement of CTE programs; and \$12.4 million for CTE National Activities, which conduct research and evaluation of CTE programs receiving federal funding.
- **Higher Education:** \$3.3 billion for Higher Education programs to meet the needs of current and future students. This includes \$1.2 billion for TRIO and \$388 million for GEAR UP to support college access and success for low-income students.
- **Student Aid:** Maintains the maximum Pell award at \$7,395 for the 2026-2027 school year and provides \$1.2 billion for Federal Work Study and \$910 million for Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants to support low-income students pursuing postsecondary education.

Related Agencies:

- **Social Security:** \$15 billion for the Social Security Administration to administer the Supplemental Security Income program and the Old Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance program. This includes \$2.4 billion to support program integrity activities to prevent waste, fraud and abuse.

- **Public Broadcasting:** Provides no funding for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB), National Public Radio (NPR), or Public Broadcasting Service (PBS).
- **AmeriCorps:** \$1.3 billion for AmeriCorps volunteer programs, including Domestic Volunteer Service Programs and National and Community Service Programs.
- **Museums and Libraries:** \$291.8 million for the Institute of Museum and Library Services, including funds to support the 250th Anniversary of the United States in coordination with the U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission.

Maintains All Legacy Riders: The bill maintains long-standing riders, including Hyde and Hyde-Weldon conscience protections, the needle exchange prohibition, and the NLRB electronic voting prohibition.