



***In Brief* Special Report: FY 2017 Senate Appropriations Bill**

The Senate Appropriations Committee approved a draft FY 2017 Labor, HHS, Education spending bill that would provide \$161.9 billion in discretionary spending, which is \$270 million below the FY 2016 level and \$2 billion below the administration’s budget request. The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) would receive \$76.9 billion, which is a \$1.4 billion increase over FY 2016. Within HHS, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) would receive \$34 billion, an increase of \$2 billion from FY 2016. However, the Department of Labor would drop by \$134 million to \$12 billion, and the Department of Education would receive \$67.8 billion, a \$220 million decrease from appropriated funds in the previous fiscal year.

Following is a table and summary highlights of the funding provided by the Senate Committee compared to the President’s Request for programs within the Departments of Health, Human Services and Education that impact people with disabilities and families. The full report language is available on the Senate Appropriations Committee website [here](#) and all of the related files are posted [here](#)

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES	FY 16 Final	President’s FY 17 Request	Senate Committee	Senate v. President’s Request
Administration for Community Living	1,992.5	2,020.9	1,907.9	-113.0
University Centers for Excellence in DD	38.6	38.6	38.6	0.0
DD Councils	73.0	73.0	73.0	0.0
Protection & Advocacy Systems	38.7	38.7	38.7	0.0
Projects of National Significance	10.0	10.0	10.0	0.0
Lifespan Respite Care Act	3.4	5.0	3.4	-1.6
Family Caregiver Support Services	151.0	151.0	151.0	0.0
NIDILIRR	104.0	104.0	104.0	0.0
Independent Living	101.1	101.0	101.1	0.0
Traumatic Brain Injury	9.3	9.3	9.3	0.0
State Assistive Technology Programs	34.0	32.0	32.0	0.0

Aging and Disability Resource Centers	6.1	8.1	6.1	-2.0
Voting Access	4.9	4.9	4.9	0.0
Child abuse prevention	98.1	108.8	98.1	-10.7
Health Resources and Services Administration	7,500.0	9,200.0	7,500.0	-1,700.0
Maternal & Child Health Block Grant	638.0	638.0	641.7	+3.7
Autism and Other DD	47.0	47.0	47.0	0.0
Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental & Related Disabilities (LEND)	29.0	29.0	29.0	0.0
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention	6,236.1	6,022.7	6,208.8	186.1
Center on Birth Defects & DD, Disability and Health	135.6	135.6	137.5	+1.9
National Institutes of Health	32,084.0	33,000.0	34,084.0	+2,000.0
Nat Institute of Child Health and Hum. Dev.	1,338.3	1,316.6	1,395.0	+79.2
EDUCATION				
ESSA Title I grants to LEAs	14,909.8	15,359.8	15,409.8	50.0
State Assessments	378.0	403.0	378.0	-22.0
Education and Innovation	120.0	180.0	120.0	-60.0
Best Job in the World (mandatory)	0.0	1,000.0	0.0	-1,000.0
Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants	2,349.8	2,250.0	2,055.8	-194.2
Teach to Lead	0.0	10.0	0.0	-10.0
STEM Master Teacher Corps	0.0	10.0	0.0	-10.0
Promise Neighborhoods	73.0	128.0	73.2	-54.4
Next Generation High Schools	0.0	80.0	0.0	-80.0
Special Education (IDEA)	12,976.8	13,066.8	18,019.3	-47.5
Part B State and Local Grants	11,912.8	11,912.8	11,912.8	00.0
Preschool Grants	368.2	403.2	368.2	-35.0
Part C Early Intervention	458.5	503.6	458.5	-45.1
Part D National Programs	237.2	247.2	239.7	-7.5
State Personnel Development	41.6	41.6	41.6	0.0
Technical Assistance and Dissemination	54.4	64.4	56.9	-7.5
Personnel Preparation	83.7	83.7	83.7	0.0

Parent Information Centers	27.4	27.4	27.4	0.0
Technology and Media	30.0	30.0	30.0	00.0
Special Olympics Education Program	10.1	10.1	12.5	+2.4
Rehabilitation Services and Disability Research	3,529.6	3,541.3	3,536.3	-5.0
Voc. Rehabilitation State Grant	3,391.8	3,398.6	3,398.6	0.0
Supported Employment State Grant	27.5	30.5	27.5	-2.0
Career and Technical Education	1,125.0	1,202.0	1,125.0	-77.0
Higher Education Act	1,982.2	2,189.2	1,986.8	-202.4
Postsecondary Program for Students with ID (TPSID)	11.8	11.8	11.8	0.0
Institute for Education Sciences (IES)	618.0	693.8	612.5	-81.3
Research in Special Education (IES)	54.0	54.0	54.0	0.0
Special Education studies and evaluations (IES)	10.8	13.0	10.8	-2.2

Health and Human Services

Administration for Community Living (ACL)

The Senate Committee-passed funding bill provides level-funding for the DD Act programs: University Centers for Excellence receive approximately \$39 million; DD Councils \$73 million; and Protection and Advocacy Systems close to \$39 million. Projects of National Significance also receive level funding at \$10 million.

The Committee did not approve several spending increases in the President’s Budget, including an increase of \$2 million in funding for Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRC). Instead, the Committee has kept funding for ADRCs at the same level as FY 2016 (\$8.1 million).

Family Supports

The Committee’s recommendation keeps funding level for Family Caregiver Support Services within the Older American’s Act, which supports a number of essential services that assist family and informal caregivers.

However, the Committee recommends that State Assistive Technology Programs be cut by \$2 million from its current level of \$34 million, the same as the President’s request. State Assistive Technology Programs provide states with financial assistance to increase the availability, access, provision, and training of assistive technology devices and services. Many of these AT programs are located within University Centers. AUCD expects the \$2 million cut, which is for the state loan assistance program to be restored by the House Committee as it was last year.

The Committee's recommendation with regard to funding that will be used to facilitate voting access for people with disabilities aligns with that of the President, who had requested \$4.9 million, the same level as FY 2016.

The Committee make a significant cut to the Child Abuse Prevention programs (- \$10.7 million). The President's Budget had requested an increase of \$109 million for child abuse prevention under CAPTA.

Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA)

The Autism and Other Developmental Disabilities line item that funds research and training programs authorized by the Autism CARES Act receives level funding at \$47 million, the same as requested in the President's Budget. Of the total \$47 million, approximately \$29 million will be allocated to the Leadership in Education and Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (LEND) program, which is \$1 million more than in 2016 and is the same amount of funding cited in the President's Budget. These funds support additional programs in states that do not have a LEND program. The announcement for the LEND competition awards is expected soon.

The Committee has recommended that funding for the HRSA Title V Maternal and Child Health Block Grants be increased \$3.7 million, reaching a total of \$641.7 million for FY 2017. The President's Budget provides the same amount as in FY 2016.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Overall, the Committee appropriates \$6.2 billion for the CDC, \$200 million than FY 2016. This appropriation includes \$137.5 million for the Center on Birth Defects & Development Disabilities, Disability and Health, an increase of \$1.9 million from the amount included in the President's Budget.

National Institutes of Health

For the National Institutes of Health, the Senate committee recommends \$34 billion. This is \$916 million greater than the amount requested in the President's Budget, and \$2 billion over FY 2016.

Of the total increase for NIH, \$1.395 billion is allocated to the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institutes of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD), which fund the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Research Centers (IDDRC). This is an increase of \$57 million from the amount appropriated last year and \$79 million over the President's request.

The Committee also allocates \$250 million to the Brain Research through Application of Innovative Neurotechnologies (BRAIN) Initiative. This Obama Administration initiative is intended to support groundbreaking neuroscience research, neuroimaging, and training initiatives, as well as potential projects to collaborate with industry to test and develop devices for mapping and tuning brain circuitry. The Committee's allocation for the BRAIN Initiative is an increase of \$100 million above FY 2016 and is \$55 million more than the amount requested by the President.

Additionally, the Committee provides \$300 million for the Precision Medicine Initiative (PMI), which is focused on developing treatments, diagnostics, and prevention strategies tailored to the individual genetic characteristics of each patient. This includes \$230 million to create a national research cohort of 1 million or more U.S. volunteers and \$70 million for the National Cancer Institute, which will be used to develop patient-specific treatments which target genetic abnormalities.

Department of Education

ESSA

The 2017 request for elementary and secondary education provides increases to support the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) by the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015. The Committee bill provides \$15.4 billion in ESSA Title I grants to Local Education Agencies (LEAs), which is \$1 billion more than was appropriated for such grants last year. This amount includes a \$450 million increase that would support State and local efforts to ensure that all students meet challenging, State-determined college- and career ready standards. A portion of the increase would provide supplemental funds to address the challenge of turning around the nation's lowest-performing schools.

State Assessments

The Committee provides level-funding (\$378 million) for the State Assessments program; the President requested a \$25 million increase.

Education Innovation and Research

The Committee also did not approve the President's request for a \$60 million increase in funding for the Education Innovation and Research (EIR) program, the successor to the Investing in Innovation (i3) program. The EIR program will still be funded at FY 2016 levels (\$120 million).

Teach to Lead, STEM Master Teacher Corps and Next Generation High Schools

The Committee chose not to fund three new education programs proposed by the Obama Administration. The President's Budget had requested \$10 million to form the Teach to Lead program, to support teacher-developed and teacher-led projects for improving student learning and school success. Another teaching program, the STEM Master Teacher Corps, if funded, would have create a Teacher Corps that would enlist science and math teachers to improve STEM education.

The third of these initiatives, the Next Generation High Schools program designed to improve readiness for postsecondary education and careers in STEM fields.

Promise Neighborhoods

The Committee has approved an increase of \$200,000 for the Promise Neighborhoods program. This brings the FY 2017 allocation to \$73.2 million. The President's Budget had requested \$128 million. The program funds comprehensive, neighborhood-based plans for meeting the cradle-to-career educational, health, and social service needs of children and families in high-poverty communities.

Special Education

Part B

For the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Part B State grants, the Committee provides \$11.9 billion, level with the FY 2016 appropriation. This is on par with the Administration's request, and maintains the federal contribution toward meeting the excess cost of special education at approximately 16 percent of the national average per pupil expenditure (APPE).

Part C Early Intervention

The President's Budget asked for \$35 million increase for Part C Grants for Infants and Families and \$45.1 million in new funding to bolster preschool grants. Unfortunately, the Committee's recommendation does not include either of these increases, and it keeps funding at FY 2016 levels (\$368.2 million and \$458.5 million respectively).

Part D National Services

The Committee provides \$239.7 million for Part D National Activities to maintain support for technical assistance, dissemination, training, and other activities that assist States, LEAs, parents, and others in improving results for children with disabilities.

Institutes of Education Sciences

The Committee recommends a decrease in overall funding for the Institutes of Education Sciences (IES), from \$618 million at last year's level to \$612.5 million for FY 2017. The President's Budget requested \$693.8 million. The Committee provides \$10.8 million in funding for special education studies and evaluations (\$2.2 million less than the President) and \$54 million for research programs in special education, the same as the President's Budget.

Higher Education Act

The Committee continues support for Transition to Postsecondary Programs for Students with Intellectual Disabilities (TPSID) through the Higher Education Act at \$11.8 million is specifically marked for TPSID, the same as the President's Budget request.

Vocational Rehabilitation

The Committee also continues support for Vocational Rehabilitation state grants, providing \$3.39 billion in funding, the same amount requested by the President.

Supported Employment

The Committee provides level funding at \$27.5 million the Supported Employment State Grants

program, rejecting the President's proposed \$2 million increase.

Conclusion

The House Labor-HHS Subcommittee is expected to unveil its funding bill the week of June 20. The House and Senate will then need to pass their respective bills and work out any differences before the measure can be signed into law. Given recent history, particularly in election years, we still expect to see Congress pass a Continuing Resolution to keep the government funded at current FY16 levels until after the election, at which point Congress will reconvene to decide on how to move forward for the remainder of the fiscal year. AUCD will continue to advocate for sufficient federal investments in research, education, training, and community supports and services for people with disabilities and families.