The President’s FY 21 Budget

The release of the President’s Fiscal Year 2021 (October 1, 2020-September 31, 2021) budget, while unlikely to translate to final budget reality, provides a roadmap of the types of policies the Administration will try to pursue this year through Congress, proposed regulations and the courts. It’s also a look at what the President would seek in a second term if re-elected.

Monday’s 138-page document is just top line; details are expected next week. A few big picture points:

Background:

- FY2019 spending is governed by a bipartisan agreement to raise spending caps for both 2020 and 2021 that was signed into law by President Trump in August 2019
  - The $1.486 trillion discretionary budget for 2021 includes $753 billion for Defense and $733 billion for Non-defense Discretionary programs — both increases from the 2020 enacted level
    - Non-defense discretionary spending covers everything from education to environmental protection, low-income housing assistance, national parks, veterans’ medical care, and more. It is the part of the budget that impacts disability most directly.
- When Trump was elected, the annual deficit was about $587 Billion. In 2021, it’s projected to exceed $1 Trillion, and stay above that level for the foreseeable future.
- The nation’s debt has risen by over $3 Trillion since Trump took office.

High-level Summary:

- The budget proposes a 5% net cut in domestic discretionary spending, not the $5 billion increase the two-year bipartisan agreement calls for.
- The FY 21 request for border wall construction is $2 billion, a much smaller request than the $8.6 billion he asked for last year. Plans to use an additional $7.2 billion by shifting money from military construction projects and efforts to combat drug smuggling are not reflected in the budget – a point of tension between the President and Congress.
AUCD’s Priorities in Proposed Budget:

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**AUCD’s Request to share with your members of Congress:**

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**Other Areas of Interest:**

**U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS):** $94.5 billion in funding, a $9.45 billion or 10% cut from the 2020 enacted level

Additions of note:

- $5 billion in funding to address the opioid epidemic
- $225 million in funding to support community mental health services

**Administration for Community Living (ACL):** $2.164 billion in funding, a $143 million or 6.6% cut from the 2020 enacted level

- Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Programs: $128 million, a cut of $44 million
  - State Councils on Developmental Disabilities: $56 million, a cut of $22 million
o Developmental Disabilities Protection and Advocacy: $39 million, a cut of $1.784 million
o University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities: $33 million, a cut of $8.7 million
o Projects of National Significance: $1 million, a cut of $11.25 million
• National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, & Rehabilitation Research: $90 million, a cut of $22 million
• Independent Living: $114 million, a cut of $2 million
• Family Caregiver Support Services: $151 million, a cut of $35 million
• Lifespan Respite Care: $3 million, a cut of $3 million
• Voting Access for People with Disabilities (HAVA): level funding at $7 million
• Assistive Technology: $32 million, a cut of $5 million

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS): $1.297 billion in funding, an increase of $72.8 million from the 2020 enacted level

• Money Follows the Person (MFP) demonstration: $176 million, a cut of $78 million
• Create new “Money Follows the Person (MFP) State Plan Option”
  o Giving states the option to establish an MFP program under the state plan with a time limited enhanced federal match. States that spent less than 50% of their long-term service and supports (LTSS) funding on home and community-based services (HCBS) in the prior year would receive an enhanced match for the first five years they provide MFPR services.

Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA): $11.2 billion, for a $705 million or 6.3% decrease from the 2020 enacted level
• Maternal and Child Health
  o Block Grants at $760.7 million an increase of $73 million from the 2020 enacted level
  o Autism and Other Developmental Disorders (which includes LENDs) is zeroed out, a cut of $52 million
  o Family-to-Family Health Information Centers are level funded at $6 million
• Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program
  o All existing projects are level funded.
  o Ending HIV Epidemic Initiative at $165 million, an increase of $95 million from the 2020 enacted level

National Institutes of Health (NIH): $38.7 billion, for a $3 billion or 7% decrease from the 2020 enacted level

• Proposes to consolidate the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) within the NIH as the National Institute for Research on Safety and Quality
  o Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Trust Fund funded at $98.452 million
• Eunice K. Shriver Natl. Institute of Child Health & Human Development: $1.416 billion, a cut of $140 million
• National Institute of Mental Health: $1.844 billion, a cut of $198 million

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): $7.134 billion, for a $1.232 billion or 1.7% decrease from the 2020 enacted level

• Birth Defects, Developmental Disabilities, Disabilities and Health: $112 million, a cut of $49 million
• Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome: $2.25 million, a cut of $250,000

Department of Education: $66.6 billion, for a $5.6 billion or 7.8% decrease from the 2020 enacted level

• Programs of interest that are level funded:
  o Pre-K grants (IDEA Part C)
  o Special Olympics Education Program
  o Model Transition Programs for Students with Intellectual (TPSID)
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  o Hellen Keller National Center for Deaf Blind Youths and Adults
• Programs of interest with increases:
  o K-12 grants (IDEA Part B) increase of $100 million to $12.874 billion
  o Total Rehabilitation Services increase of $248 million to $3.783 billion
  o Vocational Rehabilitation increase of $271 million to $3.668 billion
  o Education Freedom Scholarship Proposal (School Choice program) appropriated $ 5 billion
• Programs of interest with cuts:
  o Special Institutions: $216.7 million, a cut of $25.6M
  o Supported Employment State Grants would be eliminated, a cut of $23 million
  o School safety national activities would be eliminated, a cut of $116 million

Department of Labor: $11.1 billion, for a $1.3 billion or 10.5% decrease from the 2020 enacted level

• Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) is cut by $11.4 million to $27.1 million.