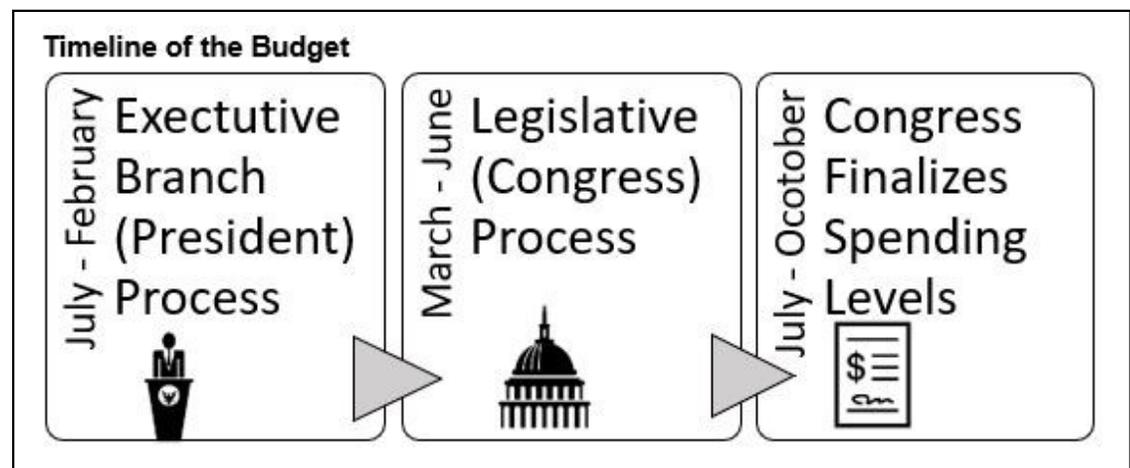


The Federal Budget Process

5 Key Steps in the Federal Budget Process

1. The President submits a budget request to Congress
2. The House and Senate pass budget resolutions (or spending guidelines)
3. House and Senate Appropriations subcommittees “markup” appropriations bills
4. The House and Senate vote on appropriations bills and agree on differences
5. The President signs each appropriations bill and the budget becomes law



When the budget process is not complete by Oct. 1, Congress may pass a [continuing resolution](#) so that federal agencies continue to receive funding until the full budget is in place. A [continuing resolution](#) provides temporary funding for federal agencies until new appropriations bills become law. When Congress does not pass a continuing resolution by October 1, it can result in a government shutdown.



What Legislation is Important to your Members?

In 2011, Congress passed the [Budget Control Act \(BCA\)](#), which set overall discretionary spending caps for both defense and non-defense discretionary spending for ten years. These caps are highly restrictive, making it hard to finalize and pass appropriations legislation, though Congress has raised the caps above those levels mandated in the BCA, increasing overall spending levels. The last time this was done was two year ago for FY 2018 and FY 2019.



What Committees are your Members on?

If Congress and the President fail to reach a deal to increase the budget caps, the BCA included a policy called sequestration. This means automatic cuts to critical programs.



Talk with your Members Today!

[Contact your member of Congress.](#) Share with them about your state's center – UCEDD, LEND, IDDRC – and the work that you do. Offer to be a resource to your Member's office on disability issues. Hearing from you builds relationships that impact policy.