



Final Fiscal Year 2014 Appropriations

On January 15, the Senate passed (on a vote of 72-26) and the President signed the final fiscal year 2014 Omnibus Appropriations bill that totals \$1.012 trillion in discretionary spending. The House passed the bill on January 14 (359-67). The bill provides funding for all 12 appropriations bills through September 30, 2014. The table below compares the final spending compared to FY 2013 final funding that includes the cuts resulting from sequestration for AUCD network programs.

The omnibus allocates \$156.8 billion in discretionary funding to the Labor-HHS-Education bill, virtually identical to the amount enacted in fiscal 2013, but 30% above what the House bill would have allocated. Highlights include significant new investments in early childhood programs; a \$1 billion increase to NIH; and new spending for mental health initiatives aimed at early intervention and preventing violence in schools. Conservative Members failed in their attempts to strip funding for the Affordable Care Act.

Unfortunately, the three DD network programs are funded at the post sequestration level, a significant cut from FY 2012 and from the President's request. The exception is a small increase to Projects of National Significance, which is dedicated to a transportation project administered through the Administration for Community Living (ACL).

HHS Program In millions	FY 2012	FY 2013 final	President's FY 14 Budget	Final FY 14
University Centers for Excellence	38,792	36,769	38,792	36,769
DD Councils	74,774	70,661	74,774	70,876
Protection and Advocacy	40,865	38,617	40,865	38,734
Projects of National Significance	8,317	7,859	8,317	8,880
Autism and other DD	47,142	44,652	47,142	47,218
LEND	27,974	26,498	26,498	27,974
NICHD	1,320	1,245	1,319.0	1,282.5
NCBDDD	137,287	130,143	142.0	122,400

Other highlights of the bill include:

NIH receives a \$1 billion increase. \$1,282,595 is provided to NICHD, a decrease from the President's request. According to the Senate committee summary, "this amount should allow the NIH to continue all current research programs and begin approximately 385 additional research studies and trials."

The agreement includes new funding for the Brain Research through Application of Innovative Neurotechnologies [BRAIN] Initiative, a multi-agency effort that also involves the National Science Foundation and the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency as well as several private sector partners. The BRAIN Initiative is intended to catalyze work to accelerate the development and application of new technologies that will help explain how the brain records, processes, uses, stores, and retrieves information.

HRSA receives approximately \$6.30 billion in the bill. The Autism & other DD line item, which funds the LEND program provides \$47,218,000, level funding compared to FY 2012; while the LEND program is not specifically mentioned in the report language accompanying the bill, it is assumed that it will also be funded at the 2012 level.

The agreement includes \$5.8 billion in discretionary funding for CDC, including \$122.4 million for the Center for Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities.

Respite/Caregiving

The Lifespan Respite Care Act receives \$2.4 million, a small decrease over the president's budget. The National Family Caregivers Support program is provided 145,6 million, an \$8 million cut from FY 2012 levels.

Education

The bill provides \$11.5 billion-- \$498 million more than the fiscal year 2013 level -- for Special Education State Grants. According the committee summary, this amount is "enough to cover the costs of employing roughly 6,000 additional special education staff."

The final bill includes \$8.6 billion, a \$1.025 billion increase, for Head Start. This increase restores cuts from sequestration and on top of that supports an approximately 1.3 percent cost of living adjustment for all current grantees.

Within the totals above, the increase for Head Start includes \$500 million to expand Early Head Start, for children and families from before birth through age 3, including the establishment of new Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships.

The bill provides \$2.36 billion for the Child Care and Development Block Grant, which provides grants to states for child care assistance to working families, and to otherwise improve the quality of child care programs. This is a \$154 million increase over the fiscal year 2013 level.

Race to the Top – The bill allows \$250 million to be used for grants to States to help them develop, enhance or expand high quality preschool programs for children ages 4 and over and from low- and moderate income families or for other State early learning activities that improve the quality of such programs.

Employment/Job Training

The bill includes \$2.6 billion, an increase of \$121 million, for Workforce Investment Act Grants to States to provide job training skills and assistance to low-skilled adults, dislocated workers, and low-income youth with barriers to employment.

Mental Health

The bill includes \$1.13 billion for mental health programs across the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration, an increase of \$213 million. The bill provides \$115 million for the Now is the Time violence prevention initiative: mental health first aid grants, allowing teachers to reach 750,000 students with the goal of recognizing those with mental illness early and referring them to treatment; 20 grants to State Education Authorities (SEAs) to promote comprehensive programs in 1,000-1,500 schools to get students with mental health issues referred to needed services; mental health workforce training which will add an estimated 4,375 social workers, psychologists, therapists and other mental health professionals to the behavioral health workforce; and \$20 million for programs targeting young adults at high risk of mental illness. The bill also provides a \$47 million increase for the Mental Health Block Grant, along with a new set-aside for early intervention programs for those with serious mental illness such as psychosis.

Social Security Administration (SSA)

The bill includes \$11.7 billion for SSA's administrative expenses, a \$651 million increase. This increase is intended to allow SSA to begin to restore staffing lost due to budget cuts in recent years and increase program integrity activities.

Here are two detailed summaries of the final bill prepared by committee staff: [Senator Harkin's statement/summary](#) and a [summary from House Appropriations Committee Democrats](#).

The [text and the statement](#) can be found on the House Rules Committee website. Details for Health and Human Services can be found in Division H of the explanatory statement.

President's Budget

The President's Budget for FY 2015, usually submitted to Congress the second week of February, will be delayed due to the delay in the final FY 2014 appropriations. The latest estimate for the budget request is early March. Meanwhile, AUCD will be listening closely to the January 28 President's State of the Union address for previews of the Administrations priorities for the coming year.