

Overview of the FY 2018 Omnibus **H.R. 1625, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018**

On March 23, President Trump signed H.R. 1625, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018. This piece of legislation commonly referred to as an “omnibus” and provides all discretionary funding for the federal government for the remaining fiscal year.

The bill contains the full legislation and funding for all of the 12 annual Appropriations bills:

1. Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration,
2. Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
3. Defense
4. Energy and Water Development
5. Financial Services and General Government
6. Homeland Security
7. Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
8. Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies
9. Legislative Branch
10. Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies
11. State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs
12. Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies

In addition to the 12 sections, it includes a number of policy riders, which authorize action unrelated to funding. It totals \$1.3 trillion and was 2,330 pages long. The legislation adheres to the recently enacted budget “caps” agreement, providing an additional \$80 billion for national defense – the largest year-to-year increase in base funding for the Department of Defense in 15 years. It also provides increased funding for critical federal programs including efforts to fight the nation’s opioid epidemic, to secure our homeland, to promote school safety and mental health, and to make robust investments that will help rebuild America’s aging infrastructure and bolster economic growth.

While no piece of legislation is ever perfect, this legislation contains a number of NECA priorities. Including the following highlights:

- \$21 billion for infrastructure projects across the country, including transportation, energy, and water.
- An extension of Federal Aviation Administration authority through September 30, 2018.
- \$70.3 billion in discretionary spending, for THUD.
- \$47.5 billion for the Federal-aid Highways Program, of which \$45 billion is for the Highway Trust Fund, consistent with the authorized level in the FAST Act, and \$2.5 billion in additional funding from the general fund.
- \$1.5 billion for FY2017 enacted level, for TIGER grants, which are also known as National Infrastructure Investments.
- \$10.1 billion to fund 201 military construction projects, which is \$2.4 billion above the FY2017 level and \$308 million above the budget request. The agreement also includes \$750 million for 28 Overseas Contingency Operations projects.
- \$700.8 million for the Small Business Administration to provide assistance to small businesses, expand the economy, and increase job growth for unemployed and underemployed Americans. The bill fully funds business loans at \$156.2 million.
- Allows the General Services Administration to spend \$9 billion from the Federal Buildings Fund (FBF). The FBF provides funding for construction, repairs, cleaning, utility costs, security and other maintenance costs of federal buildings. Provides funds for construction of new courthouses in Harrisburg, PA, Huntsville, AL, and Ft. Lauderdale, FL; plus, land ports of entry in Alexander Bay, NY, and Otay Mesa, CA.
- \$100 million for the Technology Modernization Fund.
- \$1.9 billion for Amtrak, of which \$650 million is for Northeast Corridor grants and \$1.3 billion is to support the national network.
- \$250 million for the Federal-State Partnership for State of Good Repair grants at \$250 million. This funding will address critical rail investments nationwide and on the Northeast Corridor.

What is Not in The Bill

Negotiations on the appropriations bills and the Omnibus legislation have been ongoing since July. NECA advocate for and against many provisions. During the course negotiations of NECA lost out on three specific provisions that we have been advocating for:

GROW ACT: the inclusion of a fix to the multiemployer pension systems. This provision was not included as a policy rider to the Labor HHS section.

Prior Approval Reform: Although Prior Approval reform passing the house in the Financial Services and General government Bill, section 630. The provision was taken out in the Senate along with all other campaign finance reform provisions.

Modernizing the Passenger Facility Charge (PFC): modernizing the federal cap on the locally set PFC from: Increasing the current PFC cap of \$4.50 to \$8.50 and indexing it for inflation was left out of the final bill, despite strong support in the Senate.

The following pages contain detailed summaries and provisions for the five most important funding bills of concern to NECA contractors:

1. Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies
2. Energy and Water Development
3. Financial Services and General Government
4. Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies
5. Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies

TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2018

Omnibus Agreement Summary

The final agreement provides \$70.3 billion in discretionary spending, which is a \$12.6 billion increase above FY2017 and \$22.5 billion above the budget request. Of the \$12.6 billion increase, nearly \$10 billion supports our nation's transportation and housing infrastructure.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

The agreement includes \$27.3 billion in FY2018 discretionary appropriations for the Department of Transportation (DOT) and \$58.9 billion in mandatory appropriations. Within this amount, funding is prioritized on programs to make the transportation systems safe, efficient, and reliable.

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) – \$47.5 billion for the Federal-aid Highways Program, of which \$45 billion is from the Highway Trust Fund, consistent with the authorized level in the FAST Act, and \$2.5 billion in additional funding from the general fund. The bill continues a provision to allow old, unused earmarks to be repurposed for transportation projects that can be built today.

TIGER Grants – \$1.5 billion, a \$1 billion increase from the FY2017 enacted level, for TIGER grants, which are also known as National Infrastructure Investments.

Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) – \$18 billion in total budgetary resources for the FAA, \$1.6 billion above the FY2017 enacted level and \$1.9 billion above the request. This will provide full funding for all air traffic control personnel, including controllers, engineers, maintenance technicians, safety inspectors, and operational support personnel. The bill includes an increase to the Contract Towers program ensuring all existing towers within the program will be fully funded. The bill also provides more than \$1.2 billion in the FAA Next Generation Air Transportation Systems (NextGen) to help ease future congestion and reduce delays for travelers. Additional flexibilities are provided to the FAA in order to prevent delays to the modernization of the air traffic control system. The agreement includes more than \$100 million to further support the integration of Unmanned Aircraft Systems.

Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) – \$3.1 billion, \$1.3 billion above the FY2017 enacted level. The bill includes \$863 million in rail grants to support the implementation of Positive Train Control (PTC), make rail infrastructure improvements, and restore or enhance passenger rail service. Amtrak is provided \$650 million for the Northeast Corridor and \$1.3 billion to support the National Network. In addition, \$25 million is provided to support Rail Rehabilitation & Improvement Finance (RRIF) loans. The bill also provides \$262 million to support rail safety and research programs, including inspectors and safety personnel to help ensure the safety of passengers and local communities.

Federal Transit Administration (FTA) – \$13.5 billion in total budgetary resources for the FTA, including \$10.6 billion for transit formula grants, of which \$9.7 is from the Highway Trust Fund and \$834 million is from the general fund. The bill provides a total of \$2.6 billion for Capital Investment Grants (“New Starts”), to fully fund all current grant agreements, and fund all new projects expected to be ready for grant agreements. The bill also provides \$150 million for WMATA.

National Surface Transportation and Innovative Finance Bureau – \$3 million for the National Surface Transportation and Innovative Finance Bureau, which was created by the FAST Act to promote efficiency by creating a “one-stop shop,” consolidating the administration of several DOT programs (TIFIA, RRIF, PAB, and INFRA grants).

U.S. Maritime Administration (MARAD) – \$979.6 million, \$457 million above the FY2017 enacted level, for MARAD to increase the productivity, efficiency and safety of the nation’s ports and intermodal water and land transportation. The Maritime Security Program is funded at the authorized level of \$300 million. The agreement includes \$332 million for State Maritime Academies, including \$300 million to construct a new SMA training ship, which is essential for continuing a strong merchant marine workforce. The agreement also provides \$7 million for the Marine Highway program to help mitigate landside congestion, \$20 million for the Assistance to Small Shipyards Program, and \$116 million for decommissioning of the Nuclear Ship Savannah.

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) – \$844.8 million for the FMCSA, of which \$87 million is for border enforcement facilities and \$100 million is for a highly automated vehicle research and development program.

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) – \$947.2 million in total budgetary resources for the NHTSA, \$36 million above FY 2017 enacted levels.

Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) – \$272.3 million for the PHMSA, which includes funding to ensure the safe operations of underground natural gas storage facilities.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Omnibus Agreement Summary

The agreement includes a total of \$42.7 billion for the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Within this amount, funding is prioritized to preserve critical rental assistance for vulnerable low-income families, including seniors, disabled, homeless, and veteran headed households. These funds also support locally-driven economic development and the construction of new affordable housing.

Preserving Housing for the Elderly and Disabled – \$907.6 million to continue existing housing projects in the Section 202 and Section 811 programs, which provide housing targeted to elderly and disabled households. The agreement includes \$105 million for the development of new elderly housing, and \$82.6 million for new disabled housing.

Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) – \$3.3 billion for the CDBG formula program. CDBG provides grants to state and local governments to support efforts to create locally-driven solutions to community and economic development challenges. Instead of a top-down approach, where the federal government tells grantees how to use these funds, CDBG's broad framework can be adapted to local needs and solutions for developing viable urban and rural communities, expanding economic opportunities, and improving quality of life for persons of low- and moderate-income.

Combatting Homelessness – \$2.5 billion for Homeless Assistance Grants, which includes \$80 million for grants to end youth homelessness in urban and rural areas. The bill also includes an additional \$20 million for Family Unification vouchers targeted to youth exiting foster care and at risk of homelessness and \$40 million for new VASH vouchers for homeless veterans. VASH vouchers have been critical to reducing veterans' homelessness by 46 percent since 2010.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2018

Omnibus Agreement Summary

The bill totals \$43.2 billion, \$5.4 billion above the FY2017 enacted level and \$9 billion above the FY2018 budget request.

Army Corps of Engineers – \$6.827 billion, \$789 million above the FY2017 enacted level and \$1.8 billion above the budget request. The bill provides:

- \$3.07 billion for navigation projects and studies, including an estimated \$1.4 billion in funding from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund and full use of estimated annual revenues from the Inland Waterways Trust Fund, to advance American competitiveness and export capabilities.
- \$1.96 billion to support flood and storm damage reduction activities; and Five new starts in construction and six new study starts.

Bureau of Reclamation – \$1.470 billion, \$163 million above the FY2017 enacted level and \$374 million above the budget request, for the U.S. Department of the Interior and the Bureau of Reclamation to help manage, develop, and protect the water resources of Western states. The bill includes more than \$196 million to address the Western drought.

Nuclear Security – \$14.7 billion, \$1.7 billion above the FY2017 enacted level and \$738 million above the budget request, for Department of Energy (DOE) national security programs, including Weapons Activities, Naval Reactors, and Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation. This includes:

- \$10.6 billion for Weapons Activities, \$1.4 billion above the FY2017 enacted level and \$403 million above the budget request;
- \$1.6 billion for Naval Reactors, \$200 million above the FY2017 enacted level and \$140 million above the budget request; and
- \$2 billion for Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation, \$116 million above the FY2017 enacted level and \$206 million above the budget request.

Science Research – \$6.26 billion for science research, \$868 million above the FY2017 enacted level and \$1.8 billion above the budget request, to support basic science and energy research, development and deployment of exascale systems, and research into the next generation of clean energy technologies—all essential to our national security and American competitiveness.

Environmental Cleanup – \$7.1 billion for DOE environmental management activities, \$698 million above the FY2017 enacted level and \$618 million above the budget request, including \$6 billion for Defense Environmental Cleanup to continue remediation of sites contaminated by previous nuclear weapons production. The bill also funds cleanup activities at other non-defense related nuclear sites.

Energy Programs – \$12.918 billion, \$1.6 billion above the FY2017 enacted level and \$5.4 billion above the budget request. Within this total, the bill prioritizes and increases funding for energy programs that encourage U.S. economic competitiveness and advance “all-of-the-above” solutions to U.S. energy independence.

Fossil Energy Research and Development – \$727 million, \$59 million above the FY2017 enacted level and \$447 million above the budget request, for technologies to advance coal, natural gas, oil, and other fossil energy resources.

Nuclear Energy Research and Development – \$1.2 billion, a \$178 million increase above FY2017 enacted and \$502 million above the budget request, for nuclear energy research, development, and demonstration activities.

Nuclear Regulatory Commission – \$909 million, \$4 million above the FY2017 enacted level and \$30 million below the budget request. The bill reduces fees paid by applicants and licensees and includes \$10 million for activities related to the development of regulatory infrastructure for advanced nuclear reactor technologies.

Other policy items:

The bill continues the prohibition on the application of the Clean Water Act to certain agricultural areas, including farm ponds and irrigation ditches.

FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2018

Omnibus Agreement Summary

The \$23.4 billion measure funds the U.S. Treasury Department, the Judiciary, Small Business Administration, Securities and Exchange Commission, Federal Communications Commission, and several other agencies.

General Services Administration (GSA) – The bill allows GSA to spend \$9 billion from the Federal Buildings Fund (FBF). The FBF provides funding for construction, repairs, cleaning, utility costs, security and other maintenance costs of federal buildings, as well as lease payments for federal tenants in privately-owned buildings. The bill includes \$100 million for the Technology Modernization Fund.

Small Business Administration (SBA) – \$700.8 million for the SBA to provide assistance to small businesses, expand the economy, and increase job growth for unemployed and underemployed Americans. The bill fully funds business loans at \$156.2 million. The bill also funds several valuable programs, including \$130 million for Small Business Development Centers, \$11.5 million for SCORE (formerly the Service Corps of Retired Executives), and \$12.3 million for veterans outreach programs.

Community Development Financial Institutions Fund (CDFI Fund) – \$250 million for the Treasury Department CDFI Fund to increase economic opportunity and support investment in underserved communities. The bill places emphasis on serving persistent poverty counties and supports the enhancement of CDFI presence and activities in underserved rural communities.

Internal Revenue Service (IRS) – \$11.4 billion. Of this amount, \$320 million must be used for implementation of tax reform. The bill continues language that prohibits the Department from finalizing any regulation related to the standards used to determine the tax-exempt status of a 501(c)(4) organization.

Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) – \$126 million for the CPSC. The legislation curbs regulatory overreach related to recreational off-highway vehicles (ROVs) by continuing to prohibit completion of the CPSC rulemaking in FY2018 until further study.

Election Assistance Commission (EAC) – \$10.1 million for the EAC. The bill provides \$380 million to the Election Assistance Commission to make payments to states for activities to improve the administration of elections for Federal office, including to enhance election technology and make election security improvements.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2018

Omnibus Agreement Summary

The bill includes \$92.7 billion in FY2018 discretionary funding, \$9.9 billion above the FY2017 level. This funding includes \$81.5 billion, a \$7.1 billion increase over FY2017, for U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs programs. The bill also fulfills mandatory funding requirements, including veteran disability compensation programs for 4.6 million veterans.

Military construction funding is increased by \$2.7 billion over the FY2017 enacted level, with \$10.1 billion provided to support family housing, construction of important national defense facilities, and military hospitals. It also includes \$750 million for critical facility investments in support of Overseas Contingency Operations.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION

Military Construction – \$10.1 billion to fund 201 military construction projects, which is \$2.4 billion above the FY2017 level and \$308 million above the budget request. The agreement also includes \$750 million for 28 Overseas Contingency Operations projects. This includes funds for large and small construction and renovation projects on military bases within the United States and around the globe. The agreement also includes:

European Reassurance Initiative – \$308 million to fund construction projects in support of U.S. allies through the European Reassurance Initiative.

Overseas Contingency Operations – \$442 million for construction projects in direct support of military operations in the Middle East.

Military Family Housing – \$1.4 billion for construction, operation and maintenance of military family housing, which is \$133 million above the FY2017 level. The bill includes construction funding for seven (7) family housing projects.

Military Medical Facilities – \$556 million for construction or alteration of military medical facilities. This funding will allow for continued support and care for 9.8 million eligible beneficiaries, including wounded U.S. troops abroad.

Department of Defense Education Facilities – \$249 million for essential safety improvements and infrastructure work at four overseas military schools.

Guard and Reserve – \$645 million to support the construction needs of National Guard and Reserve forces.

NATO Security Investment Program – \$178 million to provide infrastructure for training, deterrence, and the NATO Alliance's response to challenges posed by Russia and threats from the Middle East and North Africa.

VETERANS AFFAIRS

Veterans Affairs (VA) – The legislation includes a record level of \$81.5 billion in discretionary funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs, an increase of \$7.1 billion above the FY2017 level. These resources will provide the healthcare, benefits and memorial services earned by U.S. service members and veterans.

The measure makes an additional \$3.2 billion in medical care funding available in FY2018 to improve access to care, and to support additional health care services including hepatitis C treatments, opioid addiction treatments, veterans' caregiver services, and homeless veterans' assistance. These funds are addition to FY2018 medical care advance funding provided last year.

Construction – \$855 million for major and minor construction associated with VA hospital replacement, correction of seismic deficiencies, scores of projects to improve access to VA health care, and the VA's National Cemeteries. The bill also includes an additional \$595 million in construction grants for State Extended Care Facilities.

VA Medical Care – \$70.3 billion to support medical treatment and healthcare for approximately 9.2 million enrolled patients in FY2018. The bill includes: \$5.5 billion to care for Iraq and Afghanistan veterans; \$840 million for the essential Caregivers Program; \$722 million for important medical and prosthetic research; \$525 million for health care specifically for women veterans; \$316 million for traumatic brain injury treatment; and \$270 million for rural health initiatives.

Disability Claims Processing – \$38 million for the paperless claims processing system, \$115 million for digital scanning of health records, and \$27 million for centralized mail. To prompt greater national and regional progress in reducing VA claims backlogs, the bill maintains strict reporting requirements.

VA Mandatory Funding – The bill fulfills mandatory funding requirements such as: veteran disability compensation programs for 4.6 million veterans and 420,000 survivors; education benefits for nearly one million veterans; guaranteed home loans for 519,000 veterans; and vocational rehabilitation and employment training for more than 145,000 veterans.

Advance Appropriations – \$70.7 billion in FY2019 advance discretionary funding for veteran health care, and \$107.7 billion in FY2019 advance mandatory funding for veterans benefits.

Electronic Health Record – \$782 million in FY2019 to fund the Department's new electronic health record contract. The bill creates a new account to fund this initiative and monitor the spending associated with the new Cerner contract.

Opioid Treatment Funding – \$385.8 million, a \$12.5 million increase, to fund opioid treatment and prevention throughout VA. This includes funding associated with CARA implementation.

Related Agencies – The legislation also includes \$424.7 million in funding for:

American Battle Monuments Commission – \$79.0 million

U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims – \$33.6 million

Arlington National Cemetery – \$247.8 million, including \$167 million to begin to fund the cemetery's southern expansion project

Armed Forces Retirement Home – \$64.3 million

LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, EDUCATION. AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2018

Omnibus Agreement Summary

The FY2018 Labor-HHS Appropriations bill contains \$177.1 billion, an increase of \$16.1 billion above the FY2017 level, in base discretionary funding for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education and Related Agencies.

The bill includes \$1.9 billion in cap adjustment funding for preventing waste, fraud, abuse, and improper payments in the Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid programs. In addition, the bill includes \$996 million pursuant to the 21st Century Cures Act.

HIGHLIGHTS

National Institutes of Health – \$3 billion increase. Since Republicans took back the Senate starting with the FY2016 appropriations cycle, the Committee has increased funding for the NIH by \$7 billion or more than 23 percent.

Access to High Quality Early Childhood Care and Education – Includes a \$2.4 billion increase for the Child Care and Development Block Grant, to help improve the quality of child care programs and expand access to high-quality child care for working families; and a \$610 million increase for Head Start.

Fighting Opioid Abuse – \$3.6 billion, an increase of \$2.55 billion or 244 percent. Funds are targeted towards improving treatment and prevention efforts; finding alternative pain medications; workforce needs, especially in our rural communities; and behavioral health.

Mental Health – As a critical part of both combating opioid abuse and ensuring safety in our schools and communities, the bill provides \$3.2 billion, a 17 percent increase, for mental health research, treatment, and prevention.

Elementary and Secondary Education – Includes a \$300 million increase for Title I Grants to school districts; a \$275 million increase for IDEA/Special Education State grants; a \$75 million increase for Career and Technical Education State Grants; a \$86 million increase for Impact Aid; and a \$700 million increase for Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants.

College Affordability and Completion – Includes a 3 percent, or \$175 increase, in the maximum Pell grant award to \$6,095 for the 2018-19 academic year; continues support for Year-Round Pell; \$247 million increase in campus-based aid

programs; increases in various other higher education programs, including TRIO and Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU); and addresses issues in the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program, including for teachers and first responders, to cover borrowers who would otherwise be eligible except they were enrolled in an ineligible repayment plan.

Safe Schools and Safe Learning Environments – Includes a \$47 million increase for evidence-based interventions at the Department of Education and Department of Health and Human Services:

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Omnibus Agreement Summary

The agreement provides \$12.2 billion in discretionary funding for the U.S. Department of Labor, \$192 million above FY2017.

Veterans Employment Training (VETS) Programs – \$295 million, an increase of \$16 million above FY2017. VETS funding provides for intensive employment services to veterans and eligible spouses, transitioning service members, wounded warriors, and disabled veterans. An additional \$5 million for the homeless veteran's program will help increase program enrollment and provide additional specialized services, such as job training, social services, guidance for substance abuse treatment, transportation, and housing referrals. In addition, funding and authority are provided in support of the HIRE Vets program to recognize employers for their investments in recruiting, employing, and retaining our nation's veterans.

Rural Training Initiative – \$30 million for a new dislocated worker training initiative to provide reemployment and training assistance to dislocated workers in rural areas of the country hit hardest by the recession and recovering more slowly. Funding is devoted to training those who have lost their jobs in the Appalachian and Delta regions to ensure they can adapt existing skills and learn new skills demanded by other growing industries and return to work as soon as possible.

Apprenticeship Opportunities – \$145 million, an increase of \$50 million, or 53 percent, for training programs utilizing the flexible and effective apprenticeship model.

Workforce Training Programs – \$2.8 billion, an increase of \$80 million above FY2017. These funds are distributed by formula to states and localities to meet each state's unique job training and reemployment needs.

Governor's Statewide Reserve – The bill once again allows the full 15 percent state training grant funding reserve for governors to address a variety of statewide training needs, projects, expanded partnerships, emergency response, and other services as needed throughout their states.

Job Corps – \$1.7 billion, a \$14.5 million increase above FY2017. Taken together, the 126 Job Corps centers in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico comprise the nation's largest career technical training and educational program for youth. Approximately 95 percent of Job Corps students successfully attain industry-recognized certifications.

YouthBuild – \$89.5 million, \$5 million above FY2017, to help at-risk high school drop-outs develop skills and knowledge to obtain industry-recognized job credentials, apprenticeships, and employment.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Omnibus Agreement Summary

The agreement provides \$88.1 billion in discretionary funding for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, a \$10.1 billion increase above the comparable FY2017 level, not including cap adjustments.

Fighting Opioid Abuse – \$3.6 billion, an increase of \$2.55 billion or 244 percent. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), opioid overdoses now surpass motor vehicle accidents as the number one cause of accidental death in the country with over 42,000 deaths from an opioid overdose in 2016. The bill includes new investments for the following activities:

- \$415 million to expand behavioral health and substance use disorder prevention and treatment services and facilitate the development of an appropriately trained workforce, especially in rural communities;
- \$350 million to strengthen surveillance activities across all 50 states, implement activities described in the National All Schedules Prescriptions Electronic Reporting Act, and increase public awareness through a nationwide awareness and education campaign;
- \$500 million for a new initiative for research related to opioid addiction, development of opioid alternatives, pain management, and addiction treatment;
- \$1 billion for a new State Opioid Response Grant, with a 15 percent set-aside for states with the highest mortality rate related to opioid use disorders and a \$50 million set-aside for Indian tribes and tribal organizations. This funding is in addition to the \$500 million from 21st Century CURES, increasing flexible funding available to states by 200 percent;
- An increase of \$185 million for opioid programs in SAMHSA's Programs for National and Regional Significance;
- Increase of \$60 million for child abuse prevention and treatment programs to support the development and implementation of plans of infant safe care to improve and better- coordinate services for newborn children exposed to substances and their families or caregivers;
- Increase of \$40 million for mental health and substance use prevention and treatment for children and families in the foster care and child welfare systems.

In addition to these amounts specifically directed to address the opioid crisis, the bill also provides \$1.9 billion for the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant, \$200 million in mandatory funds to Community Health Centers (CHCs), and provides an additional \$42.8 million to the NIH National Institute on Drug Abuse, above the opioids specific research funding.

Mental Health – \$1.5 billion, \$306 million above FY2017, for mental health programs at SAMHSA. Within this total, the bill provides \$723 million for the Mental Health Block Grant, \$100 million for new grants to Certified Community Behavioral Health Centers that meet the standards set forth in the Excellence in Mental Health and Addiction Treatment Expansion Act, and \$25 million for mental health programs to address school safety.

Community Health Centers – \$1.63 billion, \$135 million above FY2017 for CHCs to expand behavioral health and substance use disorder prevention and treatment services, including opioid abuse, and provide access to overdose reversal drugs and recovery support services. There are more than 10,400 Health Centers nationally, serving over 24 million patients per year. CHCs advance the preventive and primary care model of coordinated and comprehensive care, coordinating a wide range of medical, dental, behavioral, and social services in communities.

Obamacare – The bill does not provide new funding for the Affordable Care Act (ACA). In addition, several oversight provisions are included in the agreement:

Risk Corridor – Continues a provision requiring the Administration to operate the ACA Risk Corridor program in a budget neutral manner by prohibiting any funds from the Labor-HHS Appropriations bill from being used as payments for the Risk Corridor program.

ACA Congressional Notification – Directs the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to notify the appropriate Congressional committees two business days before any ACA-related data or grant opportunities are released to the public.

Health Exchange Transparency – Includes bill language requiring the Administration to publish ACA-related spending by category since its inception.

ACA Personnel – Includes bill language requiring the Administration to publish information on the number of employees, contractors, and activities involved in implementing, administering, or enforcing provisions of the ACA.

Rural Health Care – \$290.8 million, \$135 million above FY2017, for rural health programs. The obstacles faced by patients and providers in rural communities are unique and often significantly different than those in urban areas. The bill focuses resources toward efforts and programs to help rural communities, including:

- **Rural Communities Opioids Response** – \$100 million for a new program to support treatment for and prevention of substance use disorders, with a focus on rural communities at the highest risk for substance use disorder. An additional \$30 million is available for this program through the National Health Service Corps.
- **Rural Outreach Grants** – \$71.5 million, \$6 million above FY2017. These grants support collaborative models to deliver health care services to rural areas and are designed to meet unique rural health care needs.
- **Rural Hospital Flexibility Grants** – \$49.6 million, \$6 million above FY2017. These grants focus on enhancing quality and patient outcomes as well as improving financial viability of rural hospitals to ensure access to care for isolated beneficiaries such as Medicare recipients.
- **Telehealth** – \$23.5 million, \$5 million above FY2017. The Telehealth program expands the use of telecommunications technologies within rural areas that can link rural health providers and patients with specialists.

Children’s Hospitals Graduate Medical Education (CHGME) – \$315 million, \$15 million above FY2017. Over the past three years, Republicans have increased funding for CHGME by \$50 million or 19 percent. The CHGME program protects children’s access to high quality medical care by providing freestanding children’s hospitals with funding to support the training of pediatric providers.

CDC and Prevention Biosafety Level (BSL) 4 Laboratory – The bill makes a critical investment in CDC infrastructure by providing \$480 million, the full cost of a replacement BSL- 4, high containment laboratory. It is critical to replace the current CDC lab to continue research on the deadliest pathogens, like Ebola, for which there are no cure.

Global Health Security – \$98 million, \$50 million, to continue the interagency strategy to prevent, detect, and respond to infectious disease outbreaks.

Polio Eradication – \$176 million, \$2 million above FY2017. Polio is currently endemic in only three countries: Nigeria, Afghanistan, and Pakistan.

Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) – \$5.2 billion, \$2.4 billion above FY2017. This increase will help states fully implement the 2014 reauthorization of the CCDBG Act. This funding will help improve the quality of child care programs, including increasing provider rates and ensuring health and safety standards are met; and expanding working families’ access to quality, affordable child care.

Head Start – \$9.9 billion, \$610 million above FY2017. This increase will help all Head Start programs keep up with costs, recruit and retain highly qualified staff, maintain enrollment, and provide high-quality early childhood services for

children and families. In addition, it will provide additional funding for Head Start programs to expand the length of their program day and year to increase the duration of services provided to children and families, and expand Early Head Start, including through Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships.

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) – \$3.6 billion, a \$250 million increase, for home heating and cooling assistance for low-income households.

Adoption and Legal Guardianship Incentives – \$75 million, \$37 million, for payments to states to incentivize improved performance in finding permanent homes for children in foster care through adoption or legal guardianship. This program has faced a funding shortfall in recent years, preventing states from receiving the full amount earned. This increase will cover all prior- year costs and part of the current year costs to pave the way to stay current on payments in coming years.

Medicare Appeals – \$182 million, \$75 million above FY2017, to reduce significantly the Medicare appeals backlog of over 500,000 appeals. Reducing the backlog is critical providing timely resolution to Medicare appeals for the medical community.

Flu – \$538 million, a \$218 million increase or over 68 percent above 2017, to maintain and improve the response to pandemic influenza as well as increase research on development of a universal flu vaccine by \$40 million at the NIH.

Public Health Preparedness and Response – The bill includes additional funding for critical preparedness and response activities:

- **Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA)** – \$537 million, \$25 million above FY2017 levels. BARDA is responsible for advanced research and development of medical countermeasures for national preparedness efforts.
- **Project BioShield** – \$710 million, \$200 million above FY2017, to enhance national preparedness activities by procuring medical countermeasures against chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear threats.
- **Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP)** – \$670 million, \$10 million above 2017, to help states to prepare, respond, and recover from emerging threats such as natural disasters, disease outbreaks, and chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear threats.
- **Strategic National Stockpile (SNS)** – \$610 million, \$35 million above FY2017. CDC maintains and replenishes expiring medical countermeasures in the SNS for national preparedness efforts.
- **National Disaster Medical System** – \$57 million, \$7.5 million above FY2017. Improving the preparedness of Disaster Medical Assistance Teams will allow

HHS to respond more quickly to chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear threats.

Area Health Education Centers (AHECs) – \$38.3 million, \$8 million or 26.4 percent above FY2017. These centers develop and maintain a diverse health care workforce, broaden the distribution of the health workforce, enhance health care quality, and improve health care delivery to rural and underserved areas and populations.

Victims of Trafficking – \$24 million, \$5 million above FY2017, for services for victims of human trafficking, including an increase in funding for the National Human Trafficking Resource Center.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

The agreement provides \$70.9 billion in discretionary funding for the U.S. Department of Education, a \$3.9 billion increase above the comparable FY2017 level.

Promoting college access, completion and affordability

Pell Grants – Increases the maximum Pell grant award to \$6,095, an increase of \$175 or 3 percent, to help students keep up with rising costs, limit the need for student loans, and ultimately graduate with less debt. In addition, the bill includes the Children of Fallen Heroes Scholarship Act, which automatically makes children of first responders who have died in the line of duty eligible for the maximum Pell Grant. Finally, the bill continues support for Year Round Pell.

Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) – The bill modifies eligibility for the PSLF program, and makes student borrowers eligible for PSLF if they were enrolled in an ineligible repayment plan but they otherwise would have been eligible for PSLF if they were enrolled in an eligible plan.

Campus-Based Aid Programs – \$840 million, a \$107 million increase, for Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants; and \$1.1 billion, a \$140 million increase, for Federal Work Study, funding for colleges and universities to provide financial assistance to low-income students.

TRIO – \$1.01 billion, a \$60 million increase, for TRIO programs that provide services to students from disadvantaged backgrounds and first generation college students to help them enter and complete college and postgraduate education.

HBCUs and Minority Serving Institutions (MSI) – Includes a combined increase of \$106 million for programs supporting HBCUs and other MSIs.

State and Local Flexibility in Elementary and Secondary Education – The bill prioritizes funding for programs that provide the most flexibility for states and local school districts to decide how to best use limited resources, including support for STEM education and ensuring safe learning environments.

Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies – \$15.8 billion, a \$300 million increase, for this foundational Federal support for school districts and schools with a high percentage of low-income students to help all students succeed and meet challenging state academic standards.

Title IV Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants – \$1.1 billion, an increase of \$700 million, to support activities to provide students with a well-

rounded education, including STEM education and computer science; ensure safe and supportive learning environments, including to help prevent and respond to school violence; and use technology to improve instruction.

IDEA Grants to States – \$13.1 billion, a \$299 million increase, for grants to states under part B and C of the IDEA, to support special education services for children with disabilities, including grants for infants and families and children in preschool

Impact Aid – \$1.4 billion, an \$86 million increase, to provide flexible support to local school districts impacted by the presence of federally-owned land and activities, such as military bases.

Career and Technical Education State Grants - \$1.2 billion, a \$75 million increase.

Charter Schools – \$400 million, a \$58 million increase, for grants to states, charter management organizations, and other related entities for the start-up, replication, and expansion of high- quality charter schools including funding for facilities. This includes \$7.5 million to expand charter schools in rural areas.

STEM Education – \$50 million for evidence-based STEM education programs, including computer science education, within the Education Innovation and Research program. Further, the agreement includes an almost three-fold increase in Student Support and Academic Enrichment formula grants that all school districts can use for activities including STEM education. Finally, several other education formula and competitive grant programs can support similar activities.

Promise Neighborhoods – \$78 million, a \$5 million increase, including funding dedicated to the extension of current high-quality Promise Neighborhood programs. This program supports the development and implementation of comprehensive neighborhood-based programs designed to combat the effects of poverty and to improve education and life outcomes for children and youth, from birth through college.

21st Century Community Learning Centers - \$1.2 billion, a \$20 million increase, for grants to states to support academic enrichment activities for students before school, after school, and during the summer.

Rural Education – \$180 million, a \$5 million increase, for additional support to meet the unique needs of small rural schools and school districts.

School Safety and Safe Learning Environments – \$90 million, a \$22 million increase, at the Department of Education for activities that include evidence-based programs to improve school climates, prevent violence, and provide services for students in response to incidents of violence. In addition, the bill includes an

almost threefold increase in Student Support and Academic Enrichment formula grants that can be used by every school district to support a wide range of activities including school counseling and school-based mental health programs.

Ensuring Accountability and High-Quality Service for Federal Student Loan Borrowers – The bill includes new language promoting accountability, transparency, and competition in student loan servicing, to incentivize high-quality service for student loan borrowers, supporting both student loan borrowers and taxpayers.

RELATED AGENCIES

Institute for Museum and Library Services – \$240 million, a \$9 million increase above FY2017. This agency supports programs for museums and libraries that encourage innovation, provide life-long learning opportunities, promote cultural and civic engagement, and improve access to a variety of services and information.

Corporation for Public Broadcasting – \$445 million for FY2020, level funding with FY2018. An additional \$20 million is provided for the current year (FY2018) to continue the process of upgrading the public broadcasting interconnection system.

Corporation for National and Community Service – \$1.1 billion, a \$34 million increase, including: \$412 million for AmeriCorps grants, an increase of \$26 million; \$32 million for the National Civilian Community Corps, an increase of \$2 million; and increased resources, including through the Commission Investment Fund, for state commissions to build the capacity of national and community service programs at the local level.

OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Increasing the Efficiency and Cost Effectiveness of Government – The bill provides funding for activities aimed at reducing fraud, waste, and abuse of taxpayer dollars, including:

- **Reemployment Services and Eligibility Assessments** – \$120 million to conduct enhanced, in-person assessments to accelerate the reemployment of Unemployment Compensation recipients in order to reduce the duration of their time receiving benefits and the likelihood of exhausting benefit coverage. These actions would also help protect the integrity of the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund by reducing improper payments. This program has been shown to save \$2.60 for every \$1.00 spent.

- **Health Care Fraud and Abuse Control (HCFAC)** – \$745 million, a \$20 million increase above FY2017, is provided by utilizing the cap adjustment provided in the Budget Control Act. For every \$1 spent on HCFAC, \$2 is recovered by the U.S. Treasury. This will create over \$10.2 billion in savings to the Treasury over 10 years.
- **Preventing Social Security Disability Fraud, Abuse, and Improper Payments** – \$1.7 billion. This funding supports periodic reviews to ensure that individuals receiving Social Security disability benefits are still eligible under program rules. This funding is estimated to save approximately \$11 billion over 10 years for the Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid programs.