



***In Brief* Special Report: Final Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2016**

On Friday, December 18, President Obama signed the \$1.8 trillion [Omnibus Appropriations Act](#) soon after it was passed by both houses of Congress, ending the threat of a government shutdown. The current continuing resolution was set to expire on Dec. 22. The bill provides full-year appropriations consistent with the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015, which provided significant temporary relief from sequestration for both defense and non-defense programs. The bill passed the House on an overwhelming vote of a 316-11 followed by the Senate vote of 90-10. AUCD is pleased that the final bill provides modest increases for AUCD network programs as well as other important research, education, prevention and family support programs, and all of the cuts that were proposed in the Senate committee-passed bill are restored in the final bill.

Following is a table and summary highlights of the funding provided in the [text](#) of the overall omnibus bill for programs within the Departments of Health, Human Services and Education that impact people with disabilities and families.

FY 2016 Appropriations for the Departments of Labor, HHS, Education and Related Agencies				
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES	FY 2015 Enacted	President's FY16	FY 16 Final	Final vs. FY 15
Administration for Community Living				
University Centers for Excellence in DD	37.8	38.6	38.7	+1.0
DD Councils	71.7	71.9	73.0	+1.0
Protection & Advocacy Systems	38.7	38.7	38.7	0.0
Projects of National Significance	8.9	14.5	10.0	+1.1
Family Support Project	0.0	15.0	0.0	0.0
Lifespan Respite Care Act	2.4	5.0	3.4	+1.0
Family Caregiver Support Services	145.6	150.6	150.6	+5.0
NIDILIRR	104.0	108.0	104.0	0.0
Independent Living	101.1	106.1	101.1	0.0
State Assistive Technology Programs	31.0	31.0	34.0	+4.0
Aging and Disability Resource Centers	6.1	20.0	6.1	0.0
Voting Access	5.0	5.0	5.0	0.0
CAPTA child abuse prevention	93.8	113.8	98.1	+4.3
Health Resources and Services Administration				
Maternal & Child Health Block Grant	637.0	637.0	638.2	+1.2
Autism and Other DD	47.0	47.0	47.0	0.0
Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental & Related Disabilities (LEND)	28.0	28.0	29.0	+1.0

Universal Newborn Hearing Screening	17.8	17.8	17.8	0.0
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention				
Center on Birth Defects & DD, Disability and Health	131.8	131.8	135.6	+3.8
National Institutes of Health	30,084.0	31,084.0	32,084.0	+2,000.0
Nat Institute of Child Health and Hum. Dev.	1,286.6	1,318.1	1,339.8	+53.2
EDUCATION				
Special Education (IDEA)				
Part B State and Local Grants	11,497.8	11,672.8	11,912.8	+415.0
Preschool Grants	353.2	403.2	368.2	+15.0
Part C Early Intervention	438.5	503.5	458.5	+20.0
Part D National Programs				
State Personnel Development	41.6	41.6	41.6	0.0
Technical Assistance and Dissemination	51.9	61.9	54.4	+2.5
Personnel Preparation	83.7	83.7	83.7	0.0
Parent Information Centers	27.4	27.4	27.4	0.0
Technology and Media	28.0	28.0	30.0	+2.0
Rehabilitation Services and Disability Research				
Voc. Rehabilitation State Grant	3,335.1	3391.8	3,391.8	+56.7
Supported Employment State Grant	27.5	30.5	27.5	0.0
Higher Education Act				
Postsecondary Program for Students with ID (TPSID)	11.8	11.8	11.8	0.0
Institute for Education Sciences (IES)				
Research in Special Education (IES)	54.0	54.0	54.0	0.0
Special Education studies and evaluations (IES)	10.8	13.4	10.8	0.0
LABOR				
Office of Disability Employment Policy	38.5	38.2	38.2	-0.3

Administration for Community Living (ACL)

The final Omnibus Appropriations Act provides a \$1 million increase for the University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) program for a total of \$38.7 million. The accompanying report language directs that funding for technical assistance for the UCEDD network shall be no less than the previous fiscal year. The DD Councils also receive a \$1 million increase to a total of \$73 million. Protection and Advocacy programs received level-funding. Projects of National Significance also receive a \$ 1million increase; however, this increase is intended to fund a transportation assistance initiative for older adults with disabilities. These funding amounts are a significant victory, especially given that the Senate Committee bill had significantly cut all DD Act programs (\$2 million cut to UCEDDs; \$3 million cut to Councils; and \$2 million cut to the P&A programs).

AUCD is also pleased to see increases in the final bill for family support programs. The Lifespan Respite Care Act program receives a \$1 million increase to \$3.4 million. While still way below authorized levels, this increase will help to provide additional resources to states to develop or enhance existing respite programs. The National Family Caregivers Support Program, authorized under the Older Americans Act, will receive an additional \$5 million in the final bill for FY 2016.

New report language under ACL notes the nationwide trend towards deinstitutionalization in favor of community living. The appropriations bill language directs the Department of HHS to factor in the “needs and desire of patients, their families, caregivers, and other stakeholders, as well as the need to provide proper settings for care, into its enforcement of the DD Act.”

The Assistive Technology Act grant program receives a significant \$4 million increase. However, \$2 million at the increase is targeted to support existing and new alternative financing programs that provide for the purchase of AT devices as directed by the House Appropriations Committee report language.

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 in the final bill. However, the report language included in the final bill directs an additional \$1 million of that amount to be used “to initiate LEND programs in States that do not currently have an established program, yet have a high incidence rate of Autism spectrum disorders.” This amount could fund up to two new LEND programs this year. AUCD had advocated for a \$5 million increase in the overall “Autism and other DD” line item related to HRSA Autism CARES Act activities and a \$2 million increase for LEND programs. Since the overall increase was not provided, any increase to the LEND program could be taken from other HRSA CARES Act initiatives. AUCD will continue to advocate for an overall increase of the CARES Act programs within HRSA.

In other good news, the HRSA Title V Maternal and Child Block Grant received a \$1.2 million increase bringing the program to \$638 million. The final bill reverses cuts proposed in the Senate earlier this year to the Special Projects of Regional and National Significance.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

The final bill includes \$135.6 million for the CDC Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities (CBDDD), a \$3.8 million increase over the previous fiscal year. Within that total, \$22 million is targeted to the state Disability and Health program.

National Institutes of Health

The measure would provide a sizable increase to the NIH of \$2 billion above current enacted levels, to the Senate-proposed level of \$32 billion, its highest ever. From this amount, the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institutes of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) that funds the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Research Centers (IDDRC) would receive a \$53 million increase to \$1.3 billion.

Also of note is that within the \$2 billion increase, the bill includes the President’s budget request of \$200 million for the new Precision Medicine Initiative (PMI); an increase of \$350 million for Alzheimer’s disease research; an increase of \$85 million for the Brain Research through Application of Innovative Neurotechnologies (BRAIN) Initiative; and an increase of \$100 million for research to combat Antimicrobial Resistance.

The bill report language commends the efforts of NIH to work with the community to begin to address concerns related to the follow on to the National Children's Study. The bill includes \$165 million for this purpose.

The bill also continues to fund the 2nd year of the 10-year the Gabriella Miller Kids First Act pediatric research initiative at \$12.6 million. The report language encourages NIH to prioritize research related to childhood cancer.

Education

The omnibus bill provides some important increases for special education programs. First, the bill increases state grants under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) by \$415 million to a total \$11.9 billion. The bill also provides increases for IDEA's Preschool Grant program by \$15 million and Part C Early Intervention program by \$20 million.

In addition, the bill provides an additional \$2 million for IDEA's Education, Technology, Media, and Materials program with report language describing the success of this program allowing more than 320,000 students free access to more than 280,000 books in digitally accessible formats. The additional funding is intended to reach an additional 120,000 K-12 students with a focus on underserved areas.

Within the Institutes of Education Sciences, the bill report language acknowledges the importance and need for more research related to infant and toddler care and education and encourages the IES to make grant funding available for such research.

Within higher education funding, support is continued for the Transition to Postsecondary Program for Students with Intellectual Disabilities (TPSID) at \$11.8 million in FY 2016. There is no additional report language concerning this program.

Department of Labor

While the final bill continues funding for the Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) at current levels, the bill's report language discusses the future possibility of incorporating ODEP into the Employment and Training Administration and directs the DOL to evaluate and report on any organizational or programmatic challenges that such integration might create.

Conclusion

Now that the final omnibus funding bill has been passed, we can look forward to a short break over the winter holiday, before the beginning of the Fiscal Year 2017 process starts with President Obama's last budget scheduled to come out on time the second week of February. Since the Bipartisan Budget Act has already set the overall discretionary budget amount for FY 2017, no joint budget resolution will be needed, eliminating one in the in the next cycle. AUCD will continue to advocate for sufficient federal investments in research, education, training, and community supports and services for people with disabilities and families.