

Federal Appropriations Analysis and Update

To: State Aging and Disability Directors

From: Damon Terzaghi, Rosa Plasencia, and Adam Mosey

Re: Senate Federal Fiscal Year 2022 Appropriations

Date: October 22, 2021

Background

Earlier this week, the U.S. Senate released the remaining FY2022 appropriations bills not yet addressed in that chamber, including the Labor-HHS-Education package that includes most aging & disability programs. As you may recall, the Federal government is currently operating under a continuing resolution (CR), which extended funding for programs at the FY2021 levels until December 3, 2021.

The Labor-HHS-Ed bill proposal includes \$220.8 billion in base funding, which would be an increase of \$46.7 billion over FY2021 levels. While an analysis of the Senate's appropriations bills is informative for understanding where the Senate stands vis-à-vis the House appropriations bills and the President's budget requests, the current language is unlikely to be passed into law in its current form. It is unlikely to pass due to disagreements between Democrats and Republicans on overall spending numbers for defense and non-defense discretionary programs, as well as the proposed removal of the Hyde Amendment which prohibits Federal funding from being used for abortion services.

Takeaways and Analysis

Overall, the Senate proposes increases to many ACL programs and keeps most of the other ACL programs level funded compared to FY2021 appropriations. However, in general, the increases are smaller than those proposed by the House. OAA congregate meals is the only program that is reduced in this legislation, but it is important to note that this reduction would be offset by a substantial (\$300 million) increase to home delivered meals. Notable proposals in the Senate bill include:

- \$576 million for Home Delivered Meals, which is \$300 more than FY2021;
- \$500 million for HCBS Supportive Services, an increase of \$108 million;
- \$23.4 million for ADRCs, which is nearly triple the FY2021 amount;
- \$19.4 million for Aging Network Support Activities, an increase of \$12 million;
- \$30 million additional funds for Native American Nutrition and Supportive Services, for a total of \$65 million;
- An increase of \$41 million for Family Caregiver Support services, with a total of \$230 million;

- \$34.9 million for Protection Of Vulnerable Older Americans, which includes the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program and Prevention Of Elder Abuse And Neglect, an increase of \$11 million;
- \$22 million increase to Independent Living funding, for a total of \$138 million;
- \$44 million for Assistive Technology, an increase of \$6.5 million; and
- \$88.5 million for State Councils on Developmental Disabilities, which is an increase of \$9.5 million from last year.

The Senate also proposes increases to Administration for Children and Family programs such as the Community Services Block Grant and Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, but proposes maintained funding levels for Social Services Block Grant.

- \$800 million in funding for Community Services Block Grant, an increase in \$6million from FY2021;
- \$3.925 billion in funding for Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, an increase in funding from both house proposal of \$3.9 billion and FY2021 funding levels.

Department of Education funding is maintained at FY2021 funding level for: Supported Employment State Grants, Independent Living State Grants for Older Persons who are Blind, and Vocational Rehabilitation Grants to States. Notably, \$17.154 billion in funding is proposed for IDEA Grants to States, an increase in \$1.617 billion from FY2021. For the Department of Labor, the Senate maintains the House recommendations for the Office of Disability Employment Policy. The Senior Community Service Employment Program had a greater increase proposed in the House of \$450 million, whereas the Senate proposed a \$5 million increase over FY2021 levels.

The Senate bill would level-fund the Section 811 Housing for Persons with Disabilities program but would provide an increase of \$101 million for the Section 202 Supportive Housing for the Elderly. The National Institute on Aging would also receive a significant plus up of \$281 million, including additional Alzheimer's and Related Dementia research funding. Finally, the Senate proposes to increase funding for National Senior Volunteer Corps programs, as well as the caregiver support programs for Veterans run by the V.A.

Conclusion

Overall, the Senate proposal would provide significant increase in many programs affecting older adults and persons with disabilities, although the Senate levels are generally smaller increases than those proposed by the House. While these proposals are be unlikely to be enacted in their exact current form, they are still useful guideposts to compare to the House numbers and the President's FY2022 budget proposal.

Ultimately, the Senate and House must come to agreement on overall spending levels before the specific programmatic appropriations can be determined. We anticipate that these negotiations will continue through the fall and that the final appropriations amounts will not be agreed upon until December. This agreement could occur shortly before the current appropriations expire in December but there is also a possibility of another short-term continuing resolution before the final FY2022 appropriations bills can be passed into law. As always, we will keep you informed of any significant updates. Please feel free to reach out to anyone on the Advancing States team with questions.