



CONSORTIUM *of* SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS

Analysis of the House FY 2020 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill | May 9, 2019

On May 8, the House Appropriations Committee [approved](#) its fiscal year (FY) 2020 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (Labor-HHS) Appropriations Bill; the Labor-HHS Subcommittee advanced the bill on April 30. This bill contains annual funding proposals for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Department of Education (ED), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), and Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), among other federal departments and agencies. In a departure from what has become regular practice, the Labor-HHS bill was one of the first out the gate this year; the often-contentious bill is typically considered later in the appropriations process once more bipartisan bills have been advanced.

At a Glance...

- **The House bill includes a total of \$41.084 billion for NIH in FY 2020**, a \$2 billion or 5 percent increase over the FY 2019 level.
- **The bill includes \$8.2 billion for the CDC**, a \$920.6 million increase above the FY 2019 enacted level and \$1.7 billion above the Administration's request for FY 2020.
- **The House bill would provide \$358.2 million for AHRQ in FY 2020**, a 6 percent or \$20.2 million increase compared to FY 2019.
- **The bill would provide BLS with \$675.8 million**, an increase of \$60.8 million from FY 2019.
- **Within the Department of Education, the bill would provide \$650 million to the IES**, which would be a 5.6 percent increase compared to its FY 2019 enacted level and 24.6 percent above the FY 2020 funding request from the Administration

The next step for the bill is consideration by the full House. However, as [previously reported](#), Congress must first act to raise discretionary spending caps if the increases included in the Labor-HHS bill are to be realized in FY 2020. In a surprising turn of events, the Labor-HHS bill was enacted on time in FY 2019 for the first time in more than 20 years, giving many in the science advocacy community hope for a timely appropriation this year. Still, with higher level budget negotiations ongoing, it remains too early to speculate how or when the FY 2020 appropriations process will end.

Stay tuned to [COSSA's coverage](#) for developments.

Summarized below are the House Appropriations Committee's proposals for the National Institutes of Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, Bureau of Labor Statistics, and Department of Education.

The bill, Committee's full report, and webcast of the markup can be found [here](#).

National Institutes of Health

The House bill includes a total of \$41.084 billion for NIH in FY 2020, a \$2 billion or 5 percent increase over the FY 2019 level. This amount is nearly 20 percent above the President's request for FY 2020.

Under the House bill, each of NIH's institutes and centers would receive healthy increases above the FY 2019 levels (see chart below for details). Within the increase, the Committee calls for a 5 percent increase for other activities not specified in the report.

Similar to previous years, the House bill rejects attempts by the Trump Administration to create a new institute by transferring the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) into NIH (see the AHRQ section for details).

Bill language and the Committee report accompanying the bill provide specific funding allocations for several of NIH's major programs and initiatives, including:

- No less than \$2.39 billion to the National Institute on Aging for **Alzheimer's disease research**.
- \$411 million for the **Brain Research through Application of Innovative Neuro-technologies (BRAIN) initiative** within the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke.
- No less than \$250 million for the **HEAL Initiative** to address the opioid crisis.
- \$381.6 million for the **Institutional Development Awards (IDeA) program**, an increase of \$20 million.
- \$500 million for the **All of Us Precision Medicine Initiative**, an increase of \$124 million from FY 2019.

Noted below is relevant report language included in the Office of the NIH Director section of the House report.

Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research

The report commends the work of NIH's Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research (OBSSR) in coordinating behavioral and social sciences research across institutes and centers (ICs). However, the report notes that OBSSR funding has remained flat over several years despite the sizable increases to the NIH budget. In response, the committee urges NIH "to provide OBSSR funding commensurate with increases given to the ICs."

Common Fund

The House bill includes \$617.8 million, a 16 percent increase, for the NIH Common Fund. Common fund resources are used to support research in areas of emerging opportunity, of current public health significance, or to address noteworthy knowledge gaps in key areas. It is also intended for high-impact projects lasting no more than 10 years.

Advisory Committees

The House report expresses concern that NIH institute and center advisory councils are not following legal requirement that they include two representatives from the fields of public health and behavioral or social sciences, and "urges compliance with this statute and requests a report on the fields of public health and behavioral and social sciences that are represented on each advisory committee."

Sexual Harassment Policies

Like other federal agencies, the NIH has taken measures in recent months to respond to calls to enhance funding agency oversight and response to claims of sexual and other forms of harassment within the research community. The House Committee commends NIH for steps it has taken to date but suggests that "NIH must play a more active role in changing the culture that has long perpetuated the problem." The report continues:

“The Committee directs NIH to require institutions not just to notify the agency when key personnel named on an NIH grant award are removed because of sexual harassment concerns, but also when they are placed on administrative leave for such concerns, and to submit to the Committee plans to implement measures that attend to harassment in extramural settings with the same level of attention and resources as those devoted to other research misconduct. The Committee also directs NIH to support research in the areas identified in the [[National Academies](#)] Report, including the psychology underlying harassment and the experiences and outcomes of diverse groups when subjected to harassment. Additionally, the Committee directs NIH to collaborate with the National Academies to develop best practices for developing more diverse and inclusive cultures in the grantee research environments, including training individuals in institutions that receive NIH funds to recognize and address sexual harassment, and evaluating the efficacy of various sexual harassment training programs.”

Coordination with the NEH

Expressing support for interagency partnerships and collaborations between the biomedical sciences and humanities, the House report “strongly encourages NIH to engage with [the National Endowment for the Humanities] in collaborative funding initiatives that combine research in health and medical fields with scholarship originating in the humanities disciplines.” The intent of such interactions should be to “create opportunities for new approaches to both research and practice in health care.”

	FY 2019 Enacted	FY 2020 Request	FY 2020 House	House vs. FY 2019	House vs. Request
National Institutes of Health	39084	34367.6	41084.0	5.12%	19.5%
National Cancer Institute	6143.9	5246.7	6444.2	4.9%	22.8%
National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute	3488.3	3002.7	3658.8	4.9%	21.9%
National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research	461.8	397.5	484.4	4.9%	21.9%
National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases	2029.8	1897.2	2129.0	4.9%	12.2%
National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke	2274.4	2026.0	2385.6	4.9%	17.7%
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases	5523.3	4754.4	5808.3	5.2%	22.2%
National Institute of General Medical Sciences	2872.8	2472.8	3033.2	5.6%	22.7%
<i>Eunice Kennedy Shriver</i> National Institute of Child Health and Human Development	1506.5	1269.7	1580.1	4.9%	24.4%
National Eye Institute	796.5	685.6	835.5	4.9%	21.9%
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences	774.7	733.4	812.6	4.9%	10.8%
National Institute on Aging	3083.4	2654.1	3286.1	6.6%	23.8%
National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases	605.1	520.8	635.6	5.1%	22.0%
National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders	474.4	408.4	497.6	4.9%	21.9%
National Institute of Nursing Research	163.0	140.3	171.0	4.9%	21.9%
National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism	525.6	452.4	551.3	4.9%	21.9%
National Institute on Drug Abuse	1419.8	1296.4	1489.2	4.9%	14.9%
National Institute of Mental Health	1870.3	1630.4	1961.7	4.9%	20.3%
National Human Genome Research Institute	575.6	495.4	603.7	4.9%	21.9%
National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering	389.5	335.2	408.5	4.9%	21.9%
National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health	146.5	126.1	153.6	4.9%	21.9%
National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities	314.7	270.9	341.2	8.4%	26.0%
John E. Fogarty International Center for Advanced Study in the Health Sciences	78.1	67.2	84.9	8.7%	26.3%
National Library of Medicine	442.0	380.5	463.6	4.9%	21.9%
National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences	806.4	694.1	845.8	4.9%	21.9%
National Institute for Research on Safety and Quality*	0.0	256.0	0.0	n/a	-100.0%

* Administration's proposed reorganization

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

The House bill includes \$8.2 billion for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), a \$920.6 million increase above the FY 2019 enacted level and \$1.7 billion above the Administration's request for FY 2020. This amount includes \$7.1 billion in discretionary funding, \$854.3 million in transfers from the Prevention and Public Health Fund, and \$225 million in transfers from the Nonrecurring Expenses Fund to expand CDC's Atlanta facilities.

The bill includes flat funding of \$160.4 million for the CDC's principal statistical agency, the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), rejecting a cut proposed by the Administration. In addition, NCHS is prominently highlighted as part of a new \$100 million multi-year initiative within the larger Public Health Scientific Services account to modernize CDC's data surveillance and IT infrastructure. COSSA was among the organizations that [called](#) for appropriators to make this investment. Should the initiative be passed, it will be up to the agency to determine how to best allocate the money, but it is clear from the report language that some portion is intended to be used for modernization activities at NCHS. The report reads:

*“Public Health Data Surveillance/IT Systems Modernization. — The Committee acknowledges that CDC has taken important steps to modernize its surveillance infrastructure through the implementation of its Surveillance Strategy, but recognizes that more needs to be done to ensure that CDC can develop and deploy world-class data and analytics that scale rapidly in emergencies, provide predictive capacity to identify emerging threats, reduce burden on public health partners who are reporting data and ensure bidirectional information flows. The nation’s public health data systems are antiquated, rely on obsolete surveillance methods, and are in dire need of security upgrades. Lack of interoperability, reporting consistency, and data standards leads to errors in quality, timeliness, and communication. In addition, CDC must take steps to ensure that the public health workforce possesses and maintains state of the art data science skills needed to put the data to use through public health action. **The Committee includes \$100,000,000 for the first year of a multi-year initiative for CDC to lead the effort to improve public health data by providing support to Federal data modernization efforts including the National Center for Health Statistics, State, local, tribal and territorial partners, and to work with academic and private sector partners to innovate new tools and approaches for maximizing the public health impact of the data that keeps our communities safe and healthy. Within 120 days of enactment of this Act, the Committee requests a multi-year plan for this initiative, including at least five years of budget projections, as well as the innovation strategy for surveys conducted by the National Center for Health Statistics [emphasis added].”***

The bill would provide \$25 million in new funding for firearm injury and mortality prevention research at the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control—which if enacted would be the first funding for research on gun violence at the CDC in over 20 years:

“The Committee directs CDC to focus on activities that will have the greatest potential public health impact including strengthen data collection to better understand firearm deaths and non-fatal injuries to help inform firearm injury prevention; and conduct evaluation and other applied research projects that align with the Institute of Medicine/National Research Council recommendations to better understand public health prevention strategies for reducing firearm injury and death. Projects should focus on addressing the gaps in knowledge, such as the characteristics of firearm violence, risk and protective factors for self-directed and interpersonal firearm violence, and effectiveness of interventions to prevent firearm injury such as safe storage practices.”

	FY 2019 Enacted	FY 2020 Request	FY 2020 House	House vs. FY 2019	House vs. Request
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention	7282.4	6531.8	8203.0	12.6%	25.6%
HIV, Viral Hepatitis, STI, and TB Prevention	1132.3	1318.1	1335.2	17.9%	1.3%
Chronic Disease Prevention, Health Promotion	1187.8	951.3	1350.6	13.7%	42.0%
National Center for Health Statistics	160.4	155.0	160.4	0.0%	3.5%
Environmental Health	209.4	157.0	243.4	16.2%	55.0%
Injury Prevention and Control	648.6	628.8	697.6	7.5%	10.9%
Occupational Safety and Health	336.3	190.0	346.3	3.0%	82.3%
Global Health	488.6	457.0	513.6	5.1%	12.4%

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

Once again, the House rejects the Administration’s repeated proposal to move the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) into the National Institutes of Health. The House bill would provide \$358.2 million for AHRQ in FY 2020, a 6 percent or \$20.2 million increase compared to FY 2019. This increase would give AHRQ’s budget some stability should Congress elect not to reauthorize the Patient Centered Outcomes Research (PCOR) Trust Fund, expiring in FY 2020. The PCOR Trust Fund has transferred over \$100 million each year since 2010 in addition to AHRQ’s appropriated budget for the agency to disseminate findings from the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute.

The bill an increase of \$2 million (\$4 million total) to support research on diagnostic errors within AHRQ’s Patient Safety portfolio. It also includes \$3 million in additional funding for research on the risks and benefits of kratom and cannabidiol (CBD), plant-based products used to treat pain in place of opioids. Lastly, the committee report includes \$500,000 in funding for research on whether insurance companies’ prior authorization policies negatively affect patient outcomes.

	FY 2019 Enacted	FY 2020 Request	FY 2020 House	House vs. FY 2019	House vs. Request
Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality	338.0	256.0	358.2	6.0%	39.9%
Research on Health Costs, Quality, and Outcomes	196.7	130.6	215.1	9.4%	64.7%
Patient Safety	72.3	65.3	80.8	11.8%	23.7%
Health Services Research, Data, and Dissemination	96.3	57.9	105.2	9.3%	81.7%
Health Information Technology	16.5	0.0	16.5	0.0%	+\$16.5m
U.S. Preventive Services Task Force	11.6	7.4	12.6	8.6%	70.9%
Medical Expenditure Panel Surveys	70.0	71.8	71.8	2.6%	0.0%

Bureau of Labor Statistics

The bill would provide the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) with \$675.8 million, an increase of \$60.8 million from FY 2019. While the Administration had requested at \$40 million increase for BLS, the entirety of the proposed increased would have been used for a multi-year move of the BLS headquarters. The House provides \$10 million to begin the process of relocation.

The House bill includes \$40 million for modernization activities at the Bureau. Language in the committee report directs the funding to be used for investments in the following areas:

- *“Modernize the Consumer Expenditure Survey and provide robust data to support the Supplemental Poverty measure;*
- *Provide an annual supplement to the Current Population Survey to allow for collection of data on contingent and alternative work arrangements every two years and data on other topics related to the labor force in the alternate years, including an occasional veterans supplement;*
- *Expand Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey to provide greater industry detail and State-level data;*
- *Modernize Industrial Price and Import/Export Program systems;*
- *Modernize Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages systems for data collection and communication with States;*
- *Modernize infrastructure for BLS public internet and public database;*
- *Continue research and work toward a pilot test of a new Survey of Employer Provided Training;*
- *Continue research and work toward a pilot test of a quick-response employer survey (either Annual Refiling Survey or Employment Cost Index platform);*
- *Add a second Electronic Data Collection Facility to expand electronic collection and improve resilience; and,*
- *Invest in staff development, cybersecurity, and other computationally intensive or IT capacity related upgrades.”*

These investments were [recommended](#) by BLS stakeholders including the Friends of BLS, of which COSSA is a member.

The bill also provides \$10 million in funding for a new cohort for the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth, as the Survey’s most recent cohort was born in the early 1980s. In addition, the Committee encourages BLS to study the impact of artificial intelligence on the economy.

	FY 2019 Enacted	FY 2020 Request	FY 2020 House	House vs. FY 2019	House vs. Request
Bureau of Labor Statistics	615.0	655.0	675.8	9.9%	3.2%
Labor Force Statistics	276.0	276.0	302.9	9.7%	9.7%
Prices and Cost of Living	210.0	210.0	222.9	6.1%	6.1%
Compensation and Working Conditions	83.5	83.5	88.4	5.9%	5.9%
Productivity and Technology	10.5	10.5	14.2	35.2%	35.2%
Executive Direction and Staff Services	35.0	75.0	47.4	35.4%	-36.8%

Department of Education

Within the Department of Education, the House bill provides \$650 million for the **Institute of Education Sciences** (IES), the research, evaluation, and statistical agency of the Department of Education. This amount represents a 5.6 percent increase in funding for IES compared to its FY 2019 enacted level and 24.6 percent above the FY 2020 funding request from the Administration. Nearly every account within IES would see part of this proposed increase, including Research, Development, and Dissemination; Regional Education Laboratories; the National

Center for Education Statistics (NCES); Research in Special Education; Statewide Data Systems; and Special Education Studies and Evaluations. The Assessment account within IES, which is responsible for the National Assessment of Educational Progress, would receive flat funding. Notably, the House bill provides increases for the Regional Education Laboratories and the Statewide Data Systems, which the Administration proposed eliminating in the FY 2020 IES budget request.

For the **International Education and Foreign Language Studies programs**, the bill proposed significant increases. The Domestic Programs (also known as Title VI) would receive \$80.4 million and the Overseas Programs (also known as Fulbright-Hays) would receive \$8.73 million, representing a 23 percent increase for both programs compared to their FY 2019 enacted levels. Both programs were proposed for elimination in the Administration’s FY 2020 budget request.

	FY 2019 Enacted	FY 2020 Request	FY 2020 House	House vs. FY 2019	House vs. Request
Institute of Education Sciences	615.5	521.6	650.0	5.6%	24.6%
Research, Development, and Dissemination	192.7	187.5	205.4	6.6%	9.5%
National Center for Education Statistics	109.5	112.5	117.5	7.3%	4.4%
Regional Educational Laboratories	55.4	0.0	60.4	9.0%	+\$60.4m
Research in Special Education	56.0	54.0	61.0	8.9%	13.0%
Special Education Studies and Evaluations	10.8	10.8	11.7	8.2%	8.3%
Assessment	158.7	156.7	158.7	0.0%	1.3%
Statewide Data Systems	32.3	0.0	35.3	9.4%	+\$35.3m
International Education and Foreign Language Studies	72.2	0.0	89.1	23.5%	+\$89.1m
Domestic Programs (Title VI)	65.1	0.0	80.4	23.5%	+\$80.4m
Overseas Programs (Fulbright-Hays)	7.1	0.0	8.7	23.2%	+\$8.7m

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