

Analysis of Final FY 2024 Appropriations for Federal Science Agencies— PART II | March 21, 2024

With little time to spare, Congressional appropriators came to final agreement this week on fiscal year (FY) 2024 funding for the remaining six appropriations bills. As [recently reported](#), Congress passed and President Biden signed into law a package containing six of twelve annual appropriations bills, including the bill that funds the National Science Foundation, Census Bureau, National Institute of Justice, and Bureau of Justice Statistics, among other agencies and departments. This latest package, announced this week, contains the following FY 2024 bills: Labor, Health and Human Services, Education; Defense; Financial Services; Legislative Branch; Homeland Security; and State and Foreign Operations.

Of particular interest to the COSSA community is the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (LHHS) appropriations bill, which funds the National Institutes of Health and other health agencies, the Department of Education, and the Department of Labor. The following pages detail the final appropriations levels for these agencies included in the FY 2024 LHHS bill.

As [previously reported](#), the FY 2024 appropriations bills are bound by the strict [budget caps](#) agreed to last year. As with the other FY 2024 package passed earlier this month, these caps have resulted in reductions to many accounts, returning some agency budgets back to FY 2023 levels or below.

(in millions)	FY 2023 Enacted	FY 2024 Budget Request	FY 2024 House	FY 2024 Senate	FY 2024 Enacted	FY 2024 vs. FY 2023
National Institutes of Health	48959.0	50770.1	45122.5	49224.0	48581.0	-0.8%
Centers for Disease Control	9217.6	11580.9	7591.6	9197.5	9222.1	0.0%
Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality	373.5	447.5	0.0	370.5	369.0	-1.2%
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration	7370.4	10274.8	7678.6	7550.2	7446.4	1.0%
Institute of Education Sciences	807.6	870.9	707.4	793.1	793.1	-1.8%
International Education and Foreign Language Studies	85.7	85.7	35	85.6	85.6	-0.1%
Bureau of Labor Statistics	698.0	758.4	658.0	698.0	698.0	0.0%
USDA Economic Research Service	92.6	98.5	98.5	92.2	90.6	-2.2%
USDA National Agriculture Statistics Service	211.1	241.1	187.5	200.6	187.5	-11.2%
National Institute of Food and Agriculture	1701.0	1868.0	1938.3	1691.6	1678.8	-1.3%
DOD RDT&E	139760.5	144979.6	146836.3	143382.7	148320.4	5.9%
DOD Defense Health	39225.10	38414.0	39365.4	39085.2	39898.6	1.72%

Assuming the package sails through Congress and arrives on President Biden's desk by this weekend, the FY 2024 appropriations process will be finished, albeit nearly six months late. In addition to the cuts made to several agencies, the lateness of the final budget puts extra strain on science agencies that need to obligate their funding by the end of the fiscal year on September 30. Agencies' employees will work feverishly over the coming weeks to develop their spending plans, which will detail how each plan to address reductions in funding. These plans are due to Congress but not public.

With FY 2024 behind us, Congress will now turn its attention to the FY 2025 appropriations process. The President released his budget request to Congress on March 11. COSSA is preparing a detailed analysis of the budget, which will be released shortly.

Read on for details of the FY 2024 final appropriations for the Department of Health and Human Services, including the National Institutes of Health, Department of Education, Department of Labor, Department of Agriculture, and Department of Defense.

The bill text and accompanying reports are available on the House Appropriations Committee [website](#).

Stay tuned to [COSSA's coverage](#) for the latest developments, including our analysis of the President's FY 2025 budget request.

I. Labor, Health and Human Services, Education Appropriations Bill

The Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (LHHS) Appropriations Bill contains annual funding 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.

The bill text and accompanying report are available on the House Appropriations Committee [website](#).

National Institutes of Health

The final agreement includes a total of \$48.6 billion in program funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in FY 2024, a decrease of \$378 million or 0.8 percent below the FY 2023 enacted level. The appropriation is about \$2.2 billion below the amount requested by the Biden Administration but significantly higher than the House mark, which included an 8 percent cut to the agency. Within the total, the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H) will be held flat (at \$1.5 billion) as would most of NIH's institutes and centers (IC); a few ICs received small budget increases while the Office of the NIH Director is reduced by \$50 million, taken specifically from the Common Fund.

Below are details of notable provisions and language within the final bill and accompanying explanatory statement.

Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health

The final FY 2024 appropriation includes \$1.5 billion for the **Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H)**, which was established in 2023 (see [previous coverage](#)), keeping funding flat with the FY

2023 enacted level and in-line with the [Senate’s proposal](#). The Biden Administration was seeking \$2.5 billion for ARPA-H, while the House bill included only \$500 million. Especially in these tight budgetary times, funding for ARPA-H as a new agency will continue to be up for debate, especially should funding risk coming at the expense of core NIH activities.

In the report accompanying the bill, appropriators urge ARPA-H to prioritize research on rare cancers.

Office of the NIH Director

The final agreement includes \$12.5 million for research related to **firearm injury and mortality** for the fifth year in a row. The explanatory statement notes, “Given violence and suicide have a number of causes, the agreement recommends NIH take a comprehensive approach to studying these underlying causes and evidence-based methods of prevention of injury, including crime prevention.” The House bill sought to eliminate this funding in FY 2024.

National Institute of Mental Health

One of the only ICs to receive an increase in FY 2024 is the **National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH)**, which receives an increase of \$75 million. The agreement incorporates language from the Senate bill calling on NIMH to support research to “accelerate better diagnostics, improved therapeutics and behavioral treatments, and enhanced precision of mental healthcare; develop a new Precision Psychiatry Initiative; and support studies of social media’s impact on mental health.” In particular, the report supports NIMH’s efforts to “identify research gaps and opportunities for understanding relationships among social media behavior, social media engagement, and youth mental health.”

(in millions)	FY 2023 Enacted	FY 2024			Final FY 2024 Enacted	FY 2024 vs. FY 2023
		President’s Request	House Bill	Senate Bill		
National Institutes of Health	48959.0	50770.1	45122.5	49224.0	48581.0	-0.8%
National Cancer Institute	7104.2	7820.2	7104.2	7380.2	7224.2	1.7%
National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute	3982.3	3985.2	3982.3	3982.3	3982.3	0.0%
National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research	520.2	520.1	520.1	520.2	520.2	0.0%
National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases	2300.7	2303.1	2300.7	2310.7	2310.7	0.4%
National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke	2588.9	2739.4	2674.9	2849.9	2603.9	0.6%
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases	6562.3	6561.7	5062.3	6562.3	6562.3	0.0%
National Institute of General Medical Sciences	3239.7	3239.7	3154.7	3239.7	3244.7	0.2%
<i>Eunice Kennedy Shriver</i> National Institute of Child Health and Human Development	1749.1	1747.8	1749.1	1759.1	1759.1	0.6%

National Eye Institute	896.5	896.1	896.5	896.5	896.5	0.0%
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences	914.0	938.8	914.0	914.0	914.0	0.0%
National Institute on Aging	4407.6	4412.1	4407.6	4509.6	4507.6	2.3%
National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases	685.5	687.6	685.5	685.5	685.5	0.0%
National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders	534.3	534.3	534.3	534.3	534.3	0.0%
National Institute of Mental Health	2112.8	2455.7	2198.8	2437.8	2187.8	3.5%
National Institute on Drug Abuse	1662.7	1663.4	1662.7	1672.7	1662.7	0.0%
National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism	595.3	596.6	595.3	595.3	595.3	0.0%
National Institute of Nursing Research	197.7	197.7	197.7	197.7	197.7	0.0%
National Human Genome Research Institute	663.2	660.5	663.2	663.2	663.2	0.0%
National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering	440.6	440.6	440.6	440.6	440.6	0.0%
National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities	524.4	525.1	524.4	524.4	534.4	1.9%
National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health	170.4	170.3	170.4	170.4	170.4	0.0%
National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences	923.3	923.3	923.3	923.3	928.3	0.5%
John E. Fogarty International Center for Advanced Study in the Health Sciences	95.2	95.1	95.2	95.2	95.2	0.0%
National Library of Medicine	497.5	495.3	497.5	497.5	497.5	0.0%
Office of the Director	2655.5	2903.4	2082.1	2650.5	2605.5	-1.9%
Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H)	1500.0	2500.0	500.0	1500.0	1500.0	0.0%

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

The final agreement provides a total of \$9.2 billion for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). This includes \$1.19 billion in transfers from the Prevention and Public Health (PPH) Fund and \$7.9 billion in discretionary spending. The total is flat with the FY 2023 level, \$1.63 billion over the House level, \$24.6 million over the Senate, but \$2.36 billion below the Administration’s request.

The report contains several funding directives for the CDC and individual centers to research specific public health issues, including:

- \$350 million to support the CDC-wide **Public Health Infrastructure and Capacity** program.

- \$175 million for the Public Health Data Modernization activity to continue development on a **public health data sharing** process between State, tribal, local, and territorial partners.
- \$128.6 million for CDC-wide Public Health Leadership and Support activities, including \$5 million for a new **Office of Rural Health** (ORH).
- \$12.5 million within the Injury Prevention and Control account for research on **firearm injury and mortality prevention** (in addition to another \$12.5 million in funding for complementary research at NIH) and \$11 million for Injury Control Research Centers.
- \$6 million within the Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion account for the **Social Determinants of Health** program.

Within the **Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion** account, the bill includes \$110.5 million for the Safe Motherhood and Infant Health program to reduce the disparities in maternal and infant health outcomes. CDC is directed to use this funding to improve data collection and support for Maternal Mortality Review Committees (MMRC) and to collaborate with state and local authorities to support awareness and data sharing programs for maternal and infant health.

Within the **Injury Prevention and Control** account, the report includes \$505.6 million for Opioid Overdose Prevention and Surveillance. The report encourages the CDC to continue to develop preventative interventions of prescribing and dispensing opioids and improve the collection of morbidity and mortality data.

The final bill includes a total of **\$187.4 million for the National Center for Health Statistics**, flat with the FY 2023 level and the House and Senate bills, but \$2.1 million below the Administration’s request.

(in millions)	FY 2023 Enacted	FY 2024				Final FY 2024 Enacted	FY 2024 vs. FY 2023
		President’s Request	House Bill	Senate Bill			
Centers for Disease Control	9217.6	11580.9	7591.6	9197.5	9222.1	0.0%	
HIV, Viral Hepatitis, STI, and TB Prevention	1391.1	1544.6	1171.1	1395	1391.1	0.0%	
Chronic Disease Prevention, Health Promotion	1430.4	1813.5	1127.6	1435.4	1192.6	-16.6%	
National Center for Health Statistics	187.4	189.5	187.4	187.4	187.4	0.0%	
Environmental Health	246.9	420.9	181.9	246.8	191.9	-22.3%	
Injury Prevention and Control	761.4	1351.7	730.8	761.8	761.4	0.0%	
Occupational Safety and Health	362.8	362.8	247.7	362.8	362.8	0.0%	
Global Health	692.8	764.8	370.7	692.8	692.8	0.0%	

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

The final agreement provides **\$369 million for the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)**, a \$4.5 million or 1.2 percent decrease compared to FY 2023. The appropriation is \$1.5 million below the Senate level and \$78.5 million below the Administration’s request.

In their FY 2024 bill, the House proposed to eliminate AHRQ, stating “Similar work is done by several agencies funded in this bill, including the National Institutes of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health” ([see previous COSSA coverage](#)).

The explanatory statement includes several funding directives for specific research areas, including \$13.5 million for health-systems research for those living with **Long COVID**. Funding levels are not yet available for several subaccounts within AHRQ.

(in millions)	FY 2023 Enacted	FY 2024				Final FY 2024 Enacted	FY 2024 vs. FY 2023
		President’s Request	House Bill	Senate Bill			
Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality	373.5	447.5	0.0	370.5	369.0	-1.2%	
<i>Patient Centered Outcomes Research Trust Fund (mandatory)</i>	111.0	116.0	0.0	n/a	n/a	n/a	
Total AHRQ Program Level (including mandatory transfers)	484.5	563.5	0.0	n/a	n/a	n/a	
<i>Public Health Service Evaluation Funds</i>	n/a	45.0	0.0	n/a	n/a	n/a	
Research on Health Costs, Quality, and Outcomes	228.6	296.9	0.0	225.6	224.1	-2.0%	
Patient Safety	89.6	90.6	0.0	n/a	n/a	n/a	
Health Services Research, Data, and Dissemination	101.1	170.0	0.0	n/a	n/a	n/a	
Digital Healthcare Research	16.3	18.3	0.0	n/a	n/a	n/a	
U.S. Preventative Task Force	11.5	18.0	0.0	11.5	n/a	n/a	
Medical Expenditure Panel Surveys	71.8	71.8	0.0	71.7	71.8	0.0%	
Research Management and Support	73.1	78.8	0.0	73.1	n/a	n/a	

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

The minibus provides a total of \$7.4 billion for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). This amount is a \$76 million increase from FY 2023 but a \$232.2 million decrease from the House mark, a \$103.8 million decrease from the Senate level, and a \$2.8 billion decrease from the Administration’s request.

The agreement provides an increase of \$18 million to the **988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline** and directs, as per the Senate report, SAMHSA to use additional funding to “expand existing intervention and suicide prevention hotline and web services.” The agreement also includes a recommendation for SAMSHA to develop interventions that target youth in crisis, including a youth peer-run support line.

The final bill also directs SAMHSA to develop an interagency coordinating plan to address concerns and improve adolescent mental health with other Departments. The bill also reminds SAMSHA to complete

the **Rural Mental and Behavioral Health** report that was requested during the FY 2023 bill that the Committees have yet to receive. The report is intended to address concerns on how to improve accessibility to behavioral health services in rural communities.

(in millions)	FY 2023 Enacted	FY 2024				Final FY 2024 Enacted	FY 2024 vs. FY 2023
		President's Request	House Bill	Senate Bill			
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration	7370.4	10274.8	7678.6	7550.2	7446.4	1.0%	
Subtotal, Health Surveillance and Program Support	135.1	137.8	130.1	135.1	135.1	0.0%	
Program Support	84.5	84.5	79.5	84.5	84.5	0.0%	
Health Surveillance (non-add)	50.6	53.3	50.6	50.6	50.6	0.0%	
Public Awareness and Support	13.3	13.3	N/A	13.2	13.3	0.0%	
Performance and Quality Information Systems	10.2	10.2	10.2	10.2	10.2	0.0%	
Drug Abuse Warning Network	13.0	20.0	N/A	13.0	10.0	-23.1%	

Department of Education

Institute of Education Sciences

Within the Department of Education, the omnibus provides **\$793.1 million for the Institute of Education Sciences (IES)**, a \$14.5 million or 1.8 percent decrease below the FY 2023 enacted level. Within this amount, the largest cut stems from Statewide Data System (\$10 million), reflecting a 26 percent decrease.

The bill includes \$193.3 million to administer the **National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)**, of which \$8.3 million is allocated to research and development. NAEP activities related R&D funding are also required to be included in future Congressional Justification documents.

The report mandates the **National Center for Education Statistics (NCES)** to resume biennial data collection for the National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS) in 2024 and 2026.

International Education and Foreign Language Studies

The final bill allocates **\$85.6 million for the International Education and Foreign Language Studies programs**, a \$100,000 or 0.1 percent decrease from the FY 2023 level. The total includes \$75.5 million for Domestic Programs (also known as Title VI) and \$10.3 million for Overseas Programs (also known as Fulbright-Hays).

(in millions)	FY 2023 Enacted	FY 2024				Final FY 2024 Enacted	FY 2024 vs. FY 2023
		President's Request	House Bill	Senate Bill			
Institute of Education Sciences	807.6	870.9	707.4	793.1	793.1	-1.8%	

Research, Development, and Dissemination	245.0	291.9	245.0	245.0	245.0	0.0%
Statistics	121.5	127.0	121.5	121.5	121.5	0.0%
Regional Educational Laboratories	58.7	60.7	0.0	53.7	53.7	-8.6%
Research in Special Education	64.3	64.3	64.3	64.3	64.2	-0.1%
Special Education Studies and Evaluations	13.3	13.3	13.3	13.3	13.3	-0.1%
Assessment (NAEP)	192.8	193.3	193.3	193.3	193.3	0.3%
Statewide Data Systems	38.5	38.5	0.0	28.5	28.5	-26.0%
International Education and Foreign Language Studies	85.7	85.7	35	85.6	85.6	-0.1%
Domestic Programs (Title VI)	75.4	75.4	35	73.3	75.5	0.2%
Overseas Programs (Fulbright-Hays)	10.3	10.3	0	10.3	10.3	-0.1%

Bureau of Labor Statistics

The final bill includes \$698 million for the Bureau of Labor Statistics in FY 2024, flat with the FY 2023 level and Senate amount. The final appropriation is a \$40 million above the amount sought by the House but \$60.4 million below the Administration’s request.

(in millions)	FY 2023 Enacted	FY 2024				Final FY 2024 Enacted	FY 2024 vs. FY 2023
		President’s Request	House Bill	Senate Bill			
Bureau of Labor Statistics	698.0	758.4	658.0	698.0	698.0	0.0%	
Labor Force Statistics	312.0	316.0	244.0	312.0	312.0	0.0%	
Prices and Cost of Living	246.0	264.8	246.0	246.0	246.0	0.0%	
Compensation and Working Conditions	91.0	94.9	51.0	91.0	91.0	0.0%	
Productivity and Technology	12.0	13.2	12.0	12.0	12.0	0.0%	
Executive Direction and Staff Services	37.0	38.8	37.0	37.0	37.0	0.0%	

II. Agriculture Appropriations Bill

The Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill contains annual funding for the Department of Agriculture’s two statistical agencies, the Economic Research Service (ERS) and National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), as well as the Department’s primary extramural research agency, the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA).

The bill text and explanatory statement are available on the House of Representatives [website](#).

Economic Research Service

The final FY 2024 appropriations bill provides \$90.6 million for the Economic Research Service (ERS), a decrease of \$2 million below FY 2023, \$7.9 million below the House level and the Administration’s request, and \$1.6 million below the Senate bill. The agreement directs ERS to develop a report identifying ways to improve participation in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) and address disparities between the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and WIC programs.

National Agricultural Statistics Service

The agreement includes a total of \$187.5 million for the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), a decrease of \$23.6 million below FY 2023 but flat with the House mark, \$13.1 million below the Senate bill, and \$53.6 million below the Administration’s request. Of the total, \$46.9 million is directed to the Census of Agriculture.

National Institute of Food and Agriculture

The final bill provides \$1.68 billion for the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), \$22.2 million below FY 2023, \$259.5 million below the House mark, \$12.8 million below the Senate level, and \$189.2 million below the Administration’s request. This includes \$1.08 billion for Research and Education Activities, \$561.7 million for Extension activities, and \$41.1 million for Integrated activities.

(in millions)	FY 2023 Enacted	FY 2024				Final FY 2024 Enacted	FY 2024 vs. FY 2023
		President’s Request	House Bill	Senate Bill			
Economic Research Service	92.6	98.5	98.5	92.2	90.6	-2.2%	
National Agriculture Statistics Service	211.1	241.1	187.5	200.6	187.5	-11.2%	
Census of Agriculture	66.4	80.9	46.9	55.9	46.9	-29.5%	
National Institute of Food and Agriculture	1701.0	1868.0	1938.3	1691.6	1678.8	-1.3%	
Hatch Act	265.0	265.0	265.0	265.0	265.0	0.0%	
Agriculture and Food Research Initiative	455.0	550.0	460.0	455.0	445.2	-2.2%	
Research and Education Programs	1094.1	1215.0	1085.2	1084.6	1076.0	-1.7%	
Economic Research Service	92.6	98.5	98.5	92.2	90.6	-2.2%	
National Agriculture Statistics Service	211.1	241.1	187.5	200.6	187.5	-11.2%	
Census of Agriculture	66.4	80.9	46.9	55.9	46.9	-29.5%	

III. Defense Appropriations Bill

The Defense Appropriations Bill includes annual funding levels for some of the federal government’s largest research accounts, including the Department of Defense’s Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation (RDT&E) budget and the Defense Health Program, and funds the Defense-Wide and armed

services research accounts responsible for the Department’s social science research program, the Minerva Research Initiative.

The bill text and explanatory statement are available on the House of Representatives [website](#).

Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation

Within the Department of Defense (DOD) budget, **the final bill provides \$148.3 billion to the Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation (RDT&E) account in FY 2024**, an increase of \$8.6 billion over the FY 2023 level. Within RDT&E research activities, Advanced Technology Development (6.3) receives a 3.3 percent decrease, while Basic Research (6.1) and Applied Research (6.2) will see larger cuts by 9.7 percent and 3.8 percent, respectively.

Defense Health Program

Outside the RDT&E account, **the Defense Health Program is provided \$39.9 billion in the final agreement**, a level higher than requested by either chamber of Congress or the President’s budget. The Defense Health Program is a perennial favorite in Congress due to its significant biomedical research activities.

Minerva Research Initiative & Social Sciences for Environmental Security

The explanatory statement accompanying **the final bill includes \$3.2 million for the Social Sciences for Environmental Security program**, a \$1.5 million decrease. The [Minerva Research Initiative](#) (MRI), DOD’s signature social science program, is not mentioned in the explanatory statement due to the program’s unique funding structure outside of normal appropriations.

(in millions)	FY 2023 Enacted	FY 2024				FY 2024 vs. FY 2023
		President’s Request	House Bill	Senate Bill	Final FY 2024 Enacted	
Research, Development, Test & Evaluation (RDT&E)	139760.5	144979.6	146836.3	143382.7	148320.4	5.9%
Basic Research (6.1)	2921	2479.7	2506.6	3224.7	2636.0	-9.7%
Applied Research (6.2)	7597	6017.7	6733.0	7129.8	7501.0	-3.8%
Advanced Technology Development (6.3)	11692	9327.4	10147.1	10012.1	11314.0	-3.3%
Defense Health Program	39225.10	38414.0	39365.4	39085.2	39898.6	1.72%

#####