

Federal Appropriations Analysis and Update

To: State Aging and Disability Directors

From: Damon Terzaghi, Adam Mosey, Elaine Sawyer

Re: Federal Fiscal Year 2020 Senate Appropriations Bill Released

Date: December 17, 2019

Background

Yesterday evening, the House Appropriations committee released the final proposed Appropriations Bill for the Federal Government. The bill would provide funding for the full government for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2020 (FY2020), which runs through September 30, 2020. This legislation is the result of many months of negotiation between the full House and Senate and builds upon the deal struck over the summer that set overall funding levels for the Federal government during FY2020 and FY2021. This afternoon, the U.S. House of Representatives swiftly passed the funding package. The U.S. Senate is expected to pass the package to be signed into law by the President by the end of the week.

Takeaways and Analysis

The bill appropriates modest but important funding increases across a number of OAA programs. Key programs that saw increased funding include:

- An additional \$15 million for both Congregate Meals, resulting in a total of \$510.3 million, and Home Delivered Meals, resulting in \$266.3 million;
- A restoration of SHIP to \$52 million, which is an increase of \$3 million from last year but is the same as prior year funding levels before it was cut;
- An increase of \$5 million for HCBS Supportive Services to \$390 million;
- An additional \$4.7 million for the Family Caregiver Support Program for a total of \$185.9 million;
- Protection for Vulnerable Older Adults, which includes the Long-term Care Ombudsman (LTCO) program, was increased by \$1 million to \$22.6M with a note in the bill text that discussed using the additional funding to support an expansion of the LTCO to assisted living facilities;
- Increasing Native American Family Support by \$250,000 to \$10.3M and Native American Aging Programs by \$500,000 to \$34.7 million;
- An additional \$2 million for State Councils for Developmental Disabilities for a total of \$78 million;

- Increasing the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research by \$3 million to \$111.97 million;
- Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) grants saw a \$1.5 billion increase to \$13.8 billion;
- Increasing the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program by \$150 million to \$3.74 billion;
- Increasing the Section 202 Supportive Housing for the Elderly to \$793 million from \$678 million;
- The National Institute on Aging (NIA) received an additional \$350 million for Alzheimer’s related research, bringing its total funding to \$3.54 billion.

In addition to the annual appropriations, the legislation also includes short-term extensions for a number of other programs. Several of these extensions are important to the Aging and Disability community, including:

- An additional \$176 million for Money Follows the Person;
- Extending the Spousal Impoverishment Protections originally enacted in the Affordable Care Act through May 22, 2020;
- Providing increased transparency, reporting, and program integrity provisions for the territories, while also extending their Medicaid Federal Matching (FMAP) increase through September 30, 2021 at the following levels:
 - 76% for Puerto Rico; and
 - 83% for the other four Territories.
- An extension of outreach and education funding through May 22, 2020. This funding was originally provided by the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act (MIPPA) for Aging and Disability programs. The funding extension included:
 - \$5.48 million for SHIPs;
 - \$3.16 million for AAAs;
 - \$2.1 million for ADRCs; and
 - \$5 million for the National Center for Benefits Outreach and Enrollment.

Conclusion

This bill is the result of months of negotiations between both parties in each of the Congressional chambers as well as the Administration. We therefore expect it to be passed and signed into law. Due to the higher caps negotiated over the summer, the majority of aging and disability programs saw modest increases to their funding levels. We will keep the members informed as this legislation makes its way through Congress and, hopefully, is enacted. As always, please feel free to contact anyone on the Advancing States team with questions or concerns.