



FEDERAL ACTION NETWORK
AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 – Congress Raises NDD Spending Caps; Keeps Government Running for Six More Weeks

Following a second brief government shutdown, Congress approved its fifth Continuing Resolution (CR) on Friday, February 9th, the [Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 \(H.R. 1892\)](#), to keep the government running at last year's funding levels. The CR, which expires on March 23, gives Congress six more weeks to complete its work on the FY 2018 budget.

Most notably, the two-year bipartisan budget deal eliminates the non-defense discretionary (NDD) sequestration cuts. The Bipartisan Budget Act raises the spending caps by more than \$300 billion for both defense and NDD programs. The agreement provides \$165 billion (\$80 billion in FY 2018 and \$85 billion in FY 2019) for defense spending and \$131 billion (\$63 billion in FY 2018 and \$69 billion in FY 2019) for NDD spending. The discretionary relief provided for FY 2018 is \$117 billion more than requested in the President's FY 2018 budget proposal.

Specifically, of interest to APA, the agreement provides:

- \$2 billion over two years for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) above the increases provided by the 21st Century Cures Act
- \$6 billion in resources for the opioid and mental health crises providing state grants to fight drug abuse and expand substance abuse and mental health treatment, as well as prevention and law enforcement activities related to the opioid epidemic
- \$495 million over two years for the National Health Service Corps
- \$363 million over two years for Teaching Health Centers
- \$5.8 billion for the bipartisan Child Care Development Block Grant Program
- \$4 billion to rebuild and improve VA Hospitals and Clinics
- \$7 billion in funding for Community Health Centers
- \$800 million over two years for the Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program
- An extension of the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) for an additional four years to a total of ten years
- An extension of the Medicare health provisions, including permanently repealing the therapy cap, delaying the Medicaid disproportionate share hospital (DSH) cuts, and five years of funding for home visiting programs

The Bipartisan Budget Act also reduces the Prevention and Public Health Fund (PPHF) by \$1.3 billion over ten years. However, it did not address immigration or DACA, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals.

The next step in the process requires the House and Senate Appropriations Committees chairs to apportion the additional dollars to the 12 appropriations subcommittees to allocate to specific programs. The best-case scenario is that the 12 individual bills will be combined into an omnibus spending bill for consideration by the full Congress on or before March 23.

In related news, the Trump Administration released its FY 2019 budget proposal on February 12, which attempted to incorporate the increased budget caps. For more on the FY 2019 budget, [see APA CEO Arthur Evan's statement](#) and [APA Science Advocacy Blog](#).