Appropriations Update: Senate Appropriations Committee Approves FY 2026 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Funding Bill

Lewis-Burke Associates LLC – August 5, 2025

The full Senate Appropriations Committee approved the Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education (L-HHS-ED) appropriations bill on August 1 by a bipartisan vote of 26-3. The wide-ranging bill, which sets funding levels for biomedical research, public health activities, education, and workforce programs, would provide a total of $196.9 billion in discretionary funding for FY 2026. We expect the House to take up their version of the bill when they return from August Recess in September. Considering the delays in the annual appropriations process broadly, it is unlikely the L-HHS-ED bill will be jointly negotiated by the House and Senate before the September 30 expiration of FY 2025 funding, and a continuing resolution (CR) will likely be needed to fund some or all of the government (including these agencies) until a final funding package is negotiated.

Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

The **Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)** would receive $8.8 billion in discretionary funding, a $71 million decrease from the FY 2025 enacted level. The Senate bill does not support the proposed reorganization of HRSA into a new Administration for a Healthy America (AHA), as detailed in President Trump's budget request. Within HRSA, the Bureau of Health Workforce (BHW) would receive $1.4 billion, $ 21 million decrease below the FY 2025 level and $1.1 billion below the budget request. The bill would provide modest increases for **Title VII Health Professions workforce programs and Title VIII Nursing workforce programs**; Title VII programs would receive $506 million, a decrease of $14 million compared to FY 2025, while Title VIII programs would receive $303 million, a decrease of $2 million. The bill would also provide:

- Level funding of $113 million for the **Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training (BHWET)** programs.
    - The BHWET programs' level includes $25 million for the Addiction Medicine Fellowship and $14 million for Peer Support Specialists in the Opioid Use Disorder Workforce, both consistent with FY 2025 enacted levels.
- $48.2 million for the **Geriatrics programs** including the Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program and Geriatric Academic Career Awards, consistent with both FY 2024 and 2025 enacted levels;
- $40 million for the **Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Recovery (STAR) Loan Repayment Program**, flat funding with FY 2024 enacted levels;
- $64 million for the **Nurse Education, Practice, Quality, and Retention program**, which was proposed to be eliminated in the President's budget request.
    - The report also continues a set-aside of $11 million for experiential learning opportunities.
- $374 million for **rural health programs**, a $10 million increase over FY 2025 levels.
    - Rural health programs were proposed to be funded at $284 million and located within a new AHA Primary Care component in the President's budget request.

  - The bill would fund the **Rural Communities Opioid Response Program (RCORP)** at $145 million, consistent with the FY 2025 level, including $10 million for the Rural Centers of Excellence.
  - The **Rural Health Care Outreach Program** would be funded at $103 million, a $2 million increase.
- $42 million for the **Office for the Advancement of Telehealth (OAT)**, an increase of $4 million over the FY 2025 enacted level. The **Telehealth Centers of Excellence** program would receive $8.5 million, consistent with FY 2025 levels. The report continues support for the **Telehealth Network Grant** program and encourages HRSA to include telepharmacy as a topic for future awards.
- $45 million for the **Medical Student Education**, a cut of $15 million relative to FY 2024 levels.
- $128.6 million in discretionary funding for the **National Health Service Corps (NHSC)** and $390 million for the Children's Hospitals Graduate Medical Education Program (CHGME).
- Flat funding at FY 2024 levels for the following programs: Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students ($55 million); Area Health Education Centers ($47 million); Public Health and Preventive Medicine programs ($18 million); Advanced Nursing Education ($95 million); and the Nursing Faculty Loan Program ($29 million).
- Health Careers Opportunity Program would receive a $1 million decrease ($15 million); Centers of Excellence would be cut by $3 million ($28 million); and Nursing Workforce Diversity programs would receive $22 million, a $2 million increase below FY 2024 enacted levels.

Other workforce provisions of note in the report include continued encouragement for HRSA to work with Congress to explore support for state-based nursing workforce centers; interest in nursing traineeships and fellowships that provide stipends to help address the nursing shortage; and a provision directing HRSA to explore creation of a real-time data dashboard for all graduate medical education training.

The **Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)** would receive $7.4 billion, maintaining FY 2024 enacted levels. Additionally, the bill would maintain most of the agency's core programs and would not consolidate SAMHSA into a new Administration for a Healthy America (AHA), as proposed in President Trump's budget request. The bill would provide $2.8 billion for Mental Health programs, maintaining FY 2024 enacted levels, and $1.1 billion for Programs of Regional and National Significance (PRNS), maintaining FY 2024 enacted levels. The **Mental Health Block Grant (MHBG)** would be funded at $1 billion, the same as FY 2024 levels. Key mental health programs funded in the bill include:

- The **Garrett Lee Smith Youth Suicide Prevention Program** would receive $43.8 million, flat funded compared to FY 2024 levels. The report also includes $11 million for the Youth Suicide Prevention Resource Center and would provide $8.5 million for grants to institutions of higher education to address campus mental health needs;
- **Project AWARE**, which provides mental health resources for children and youth, would maintain FY 2024 enacted levels at $140 million. Of that total, $12 million would be for student access to culturally relevant trauma support services and $17.5 million would be used for grants to support efforts in high-crime, high-poverty areas to address the impacts and root causes of civil unrest, community violence, and collective trauma.
- The **National Child Traumatic Stress Initiative** would receive $98.9 million, a $5 million increase over FY 2024 enacted levels.

- **Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs)** would receive $385.5 million, $14.5 million less than the FY 2024 enacted level. The bill highlights the Committee's support for a CCBHC data infrastructure and repository program that would be led in partnership with at least one state with a statewide CCBHC network.
- The **Primary and Behavioral Health Care Integration program** would be flat funded at $55.9 million;
- **Criminal Justice Activities** would be flat funded at $11.3 million; and
- The **Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Program** would be flat funded at $15 million. Of note, the Committee is very supportive of efforts to bolster the infant and early childhood mental health workforce.

The Committee continues to express support for the **988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline**, and would provide $534.6 million, an increase of $15 million above the FY 2024 level. **Substance Abuse Treatment** programs would receive flat funding to FY 2024 enacted levels or $4.2 billion in total funding, and **Substance Use Prevention** programs would receive flat level funding at $236.9 million. Key treatment and prevention programs that would be funded by the bill include:

- The bill would provide $1.6 billion for **State Opioid Response (SOR) grants** to address the opioid crisis, of which 15 percent would be set-aside for states with the highest age-adjusted opioid use disorder mortality rates;
- **Comprehensive Opioid Recovery Centers** would receive $7 million, a $1 million increase above FY 2024 enacted levels;
- The **Treatment, Recovery, and Workforce Support grant program** would receive $12 million, consistent with FY 2024 levels; and
- The bill would provide $8 million for the **Emergency Department Alternatives to Opioids program** to allow hospitals and emergency departments to develop, implement, and study alternatives to opioids for pain management.

The bill would provide the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)** with $9.2 billion in both discretionary and mandatory funding, a marginal decrease from the FY 2025 enacted level but significantly greater than the proposed funding level of $4.3 billion for the agency in the President's budget request. Of this total, $7.7 billion is discretionary funding. Within the total funding for the agency, it would provide $71 million for the agency to invest in **public health workforce fellowship and training programs**. The Committee calls for training programs focused on, but not limited to, epidemiologists, contact tracers, lab scientists, community health workers, data scientists, behavioral scientists, and disease intervention and prevention specialists, among others. The bill would provide an additional $3 million for activities under the **National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Diseases**. In addition, it would provide $197 million for work under the **antibiotic resistance initiative** and $64 million for **vector-borne disease initiatives**, relatively flat from FY 2025 levels. It would also provide $40 million for the **Advanced Molecular Detection program**. The bill would provide $235.5 million for **breast cancer screening and diagnostic services** to uninsured and underinsured women and directs CDC to "continue efforts to reduce breast and cervical cancer disparities especially in underserved communities."

CDC's **National Center for Environmental Health** would receive flat funding compared with the FY 2025 enacted level. The Committee directs the agency to provide guidance, data, and technical assistance on the possible health effects associated with climate change. It also encourages the agency to collaborate with the National Integrated Heat Health Information System (NIHHIS) to "develop and implement a system for tracking and making publicly available the healthcare costs associated with the increased demand for medical assistance during extreme heat events." The bill would continue funding programs in the ***Cardiovascular Advances in Research and Opportunities Legacy Act*** and continue the WISEWOMAN program to support low-income, uninsured, and underinsured women. It would also provide $65 million to support grantees in the **Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH)** program, and the Committee acknowledged the role REACH plays in addressing healthcare disparities in minority communities. **The Center for Forecasting and Outbreak Analytics (CFA) and Ready Response Enterprise Data Integration (RREDI) Platform** would receive $50 million, with direction to collaborate with academic institutions to build domestic capacity in disease modeling. Firearm injury and mortality prevention research would receive flat funding at $12.5 million. The bill report stresses the importance of the Advisory Committee for Immunization Practices (ACIP), and would direct CDC to work collaboratively with medical professional societies to "help determinate any updates necessary for the immunization schedules." The language is response to HHS Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr.'s removal of vaccine experts from the ACIP. The bill report also expressed support for the Vaccines for Children Programs and the promotion of routine vaccinations.

For FY 2026, the bill would provide $3.67 billion in discretionary program management funding for the **Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)**, flat from FY 2025 enacted levels. Of this amount, $2.48 billion would be for program operations, which administers programs under CMS, provides for beneficiary outreach and education, and maintains the agency's information technology (IT) infrastructure to support claims processing systems. Medicare and state Medicaid programs are mandatory programs and funding is dictated outside of annual discretionary appropriations.

The bill report urges CMS to help facilitate timely and equitable beneficiary access to Alzheimer's diagnostic tools and services and reconsider its decision to limit coverage of FDA-approved monoclonal antibodies for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease. It also urges the agency to examine existing barriers to biosimilar adoption, including Part D and Medicare. The bill expresses concern with ongoing generic drug shortages that impact many cancer drugs, emergency medicines, and anesthesiology medicines and urges CMS to work with Congress and "relevant stakeholders on analyzing Medicare and Medicaid payment policies' impact on supply chains and economic incentives." It also expresses concern with the increase in closures of rural hospitals, some of which have Critical Access Hospital (CAH) designation, and directs the agency to propose options to relieve those hospitals and consider new payments systems that allow them to operate more viably.

Regarding Graduate Medical Education, the bill report encourages CMS to examine priority consideration of future slot distribution within Health Professional Shortage Areas to teaching hospitals associated with Historically Black Medical Schools or facilities physically located in rural areas. In addition, the Committee encourages the agency to partner with stakeholder organizations to "assist States in implementing nutritional support and other health related social needs initiatives to increase access to healthy foods."

The bill would fund the **Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response (ASPR)** at $3.6 billion, flat from FY 2025 enacted levels. A large majority of the agency's funding is directed to support the advanced research, development, regulatory approval, and procurement of drugs, vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics, and medical devices to protect the public from existing and future public health threats. Much of the advanced research and development work of ASPR is supported by the **Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA)**, which the bill would fund at $1 billion, also equal with FY 2025 enacted levels. The bill includes multiple directives for BARDA to prioritize specific research topics, including antimicrobial resistance (AMR), blood supply, naturally occurring infectious diseases, and tuberculosis. It also calls for a report from the agency on all existing partnerships it has with entities based in China. The bill report highlights the success of Operation Warp Speed, supported heavily by ASPR, in developing platform technologies, and urges ASPR to "focus on developing and validating biotechnology platform technologies that may be capable of addressing a variety of health security threats." In addition, it directs federal agencies to align investments in medical countermeasures "to meet both military and civilian needs," and encourages coordination with the Department of Defense (DOD), along with NIAID, FDA, CDC, and the Department of Energy (DOE), to address current and future needs and avoid duplicative efforts.

The bill would fund the **Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)** at $345.4 million, a $23.6 million decrease compared to FY 2025 levels. Priority areas highlighted in the bill include no less than $2 million for the Center for Primary Care Research; $10 million for the Long COVID Centers of Excellence and the Long COVID Care Network; $5 million for a Menopause Research to Action Network which will be focused on advancing research on perimenopause and menopause; and continued emphasis on maternal health, opioid, liver disease, and patient safety research. The **Administration for Community Living (ACL)** would receive $2.5 billion, a $10 million increase compared to FY 2025 enacted levels, for aging and disability services programs. This includes $43 million for ACL's University Centers of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, as well as $119 million for ACL's National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research. The bill would provide $52.2 billion for the **Administration for Children and Families (ACF)**, a decrease of $508 million from the FY 2024 enacted level. The **Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC)** would receive $69.2 million, consistent with the FY 2025 enacted level. The **Office of Minority Health (OMH)** would receive $70.8 million, with $10 million of its total funding supporting equitable maternal health outcomes and $4 million funding the Center for Indigenous Innovation and Health Equity. The Committee commended the Center's efforts partnering with institutions of higher education focused on indigenous health research and policy and encouraged it to expand them further.

The Senate bill would provide $1.5 billion in funding for the **Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H)**, flat with FY 2025 levels and $555 million more than the budget request. As in previous years, the bill makes this funding available to be spent over three years, in this case through September 30, 2028. The bill rejects the Administration's proposal to reorganize ARPA-H under the authority of a new Assistant Secretary for a Healthy Future and instead maintains ARPA-H as an independent entity. The Committee directs ARPA-H to continue its quarterly briefings on "its establishment process, hiring, and scientific priorities and progress" and to balance both short-term research with long-term scientific challenges within the agency's portfolio.

The Senate report retains much of the directive language provided to ARPA-H in FY 2025, focusing on priorities such as amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), long COVID, women's health, and emerging public health threats. The report also applauds ARPA-H's efforts on the Sprint for Women's Health and its work to establish commercialization infrastructure for ARPA-H performers through its Investor Catalyst network.

The Committee "strongly urges" ARPA-H to pause funding for any awards associated with the program and instructs ARPA-H to notify the Appropriations Committee at least 30 days in advance of entering into any interagency agreements valued at greater than $25 million. Also mirroring the Committee's interest with NIH, and to encourage transparency and ethical research practices, the Senate's report instructs ARPA-H to catalog its use of animal models and novel alternative models (NAMs) across programs and provide this information to the Committee and the public in an annual report.

Department of Health and Human Services

(in millions of $)

	FY 2025 Enacted	FY 2026 Request	FY 2026 Senate	FY 2026 Senate vs. FY 2025 Enacted	FY 2026 Senate vs. FY 2026 Request
Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)	**126,012**	**94,668**	**116,857**	**-9,155 (7.27%)**	**22,189 (23.44%)**
Administration for Healthy America (AHA)	N/A	19,015	N/A	N/A	N/A
Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)	**8,910**	**N/A**	**8,839**	**-71 (0.80%)**	**N/A**
Primary Care	1859	7,176	1,859	--	-5,317 (74.09%)
Rural Health	365	284	374	9 (2.47%)	90 (31.69%)
Telehealth	42	42	42	--	--
Health Workforce	1,404	948	1,383	-21 (1.50%)	435 (45.89%)
Maternal and Child Health	1,170	1,092	1,161	-9 (0.77%)	69 (6.32%)
Make America Health Again Initiative (MAHA)	N/A	260	N/A	N/A	N/A
Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion	1,434	119	1,429	-5 (0.35%)	1,310 (1100.84%)
National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)	363	73	364	1 (0.28%)	291 (398.63%)
Environmental Health	243	728	243	--	-485 (66.62%)

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)	**7,376**	**N/A**	**7429**	**53 (0.72%)**	**N/A**
Mental Health	2,809	1,463	2,800	-9 (0.32%)	1,337 (91.39%)
Substance Use Treatment	4,159	20	4,184	25 (0.60%)	4,164 (20820.00%)
Substance Use Prevention	237	89	237	--	148 (166.29%)
Administration for Children, Families, and Communities (ACFC)	N/A	23,300	N/A	N/A	N/A
Administration on Community Living (ACL)	**2,520**	**2,606**	**2,529**	**9 (0.36%)**	**-77 (2.95%)**
National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR)	119	100	119	--	**19 (19.00%)**
Administration for Children and Families (ACF)	**52,748**	**34,025**	**52,240**	**-508 (0.96%)**	**18,215 (53.53%)**
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) discretionary	**5,560**	**4,321**	**7,655**	**2,095 (37.68%)**	**3,334 (77.16%)**
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Program Management	**3,669**	**N/A**	**3,669**	**-**	**N/A**
*Assistant Secretary for a Healthy Future *formerly the I2 (OASH)*	4,718	3,672	N/A	-4,718 (100.00%)	N/A
Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response (ASPR)	**3,635**	**0**	**3,617**	**-18 (0.50%)**	**3,617 (100%)**
Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA)	**1,015**	**654**	**1015**	**--**	**361 (55.20%)**
Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H)	**1,500**	**945**	**1,500**	**--**	**555 (58.73%)**

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)	369	0	345	-24 (6.50%)	345 (100%)
Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT (ONC)	69	0	69	--	69 (100%)

Bolded entries in the far-left column represent the current structure of HHS. Italicized entries represent the reorganization proposed in the President's Budget Request for FY 2026. Proposed constituent agencies for each italicized entry are listed directly below the name of the proposed new entity.

National Institutes of Health (NIH)

The bill would provide $47.2 billion for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), a $400 million or 0.85% percent increase over Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 funding levels. The increase includes $226 million for specific initiatives in the NIH Innovation Account authorized in the *21st Century Cures Act* (Cures; P.L. 114-255) for FY 2026, a $99 million increase above FY 2025 Cures funding levels. This includes $31 million for the ***All of Us*** **Precision Medicine Program** and $195 million for the **Brain Research through Application of Innovative Neurotechnologies (BRAIN) Initiative,** split evenly between the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS) and the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH). FY 2026 marks the final year of funding authorized by the Cures Act; beginning in FY 2027, support for these programs will need to come from the NIH's base budget. The bill would provide largely flat funding for all Institutes and Centers (ICs) with limited targeted increases for cancer, Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementia (ADRD), diabetes, rare disease, and maternal health research.

Despite the significant cuts and reorganization proposed by the President's budget request, the bill would sustain funding across programs and ICs at the NIH and retain the current organization of the agency. Throughout the bill's accompanying report, the Committee notes numerous concerns it has related to the recent reductions in force, delayed spending of FY 2025 funding, grant freezes and terminations, disbanding of advisory councils, and restructuring conducted by this Administration in FY 2025. The Committee specifically notes the current structure of the NIH is established in statute and any change by the Secretary of HHS to that structure requires 180 days written notice to Congress "of any determination to restructure or reorganize the functions of NIH's ICs." The bill and the report also include language to prohibit the increased usage of forward or multi-year funding of grants awarded by the agency beyond the number of grants awarded through this mechanism in 2024. This language is in response to the proposal in the FY 2026 President's Budget Request to continue a FY 2025 policy to reserve half of the agency's budget allocation for competing RPGs for awards that fully fund their outyear commitments as part of the initial grant obligation.

The Committee also uses its report to express concerns about the implementation of NIH's Autism Real World Data Platform (RWDP), a major political priority for the HHS Secretary and the Trump Administration. The report includes oversight language directing NIH to report on how funding for the RWDP has been awarded thus far and to address other concerns that the Committee has expressed with the program's structure and operations.

Notably, the bill would retain the investigator salary cap at Executive Level II as well as the legislative language prohibiting the Administration or HHS from making changes to facilities and administrative (F&A) cost policies. In response to the Administration's proposed 15 percent cap on F&A costs, the Committee underscores the critical role these funds play in supporting the indirect costs of biomedical research at institutions. The report also highlights the work of the Joint Associations Group (JAG), which the Committee notes is developing "transparent, equitable, and efficient" alternatives to the current federal F&A reimbursement model. The Committee expresses interest in reviewing the JAG's proposed model for consideration.

Consistent with NIH priorities from the previous Administration, this bill would include a $150 million increase for **cancer research**. The bill would also provide a $20 million increase above FY 2025 enacted levels to support the **Implementing a Maternal health and Pregnancy Outcomes Vision for Everyone (IMPROVE) initiative** to combat alarming rates of maternal mortality and a $30 million increase in funding towards the **Office of Research on Women's Health**. Additionally, the Committee would continue to provide the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) with $40 million to continue expanding research on **health conditions related to the environment** and provides $12.5 million, through the Office of the Director, for **firearm injury and mortality prevention research**, consistent with FY 2025 enacted levels. The bill also would include $10 million to continue support **health disparities research** at the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR).

The Committee continues to emphasize its support for increasing diversity across the biomedical research workforce and noted its concern for the terminations for bridge programs through the National Institute for General Medical Sciences (NIGMS) such as the **Maximizing Opportunities for Scientific and Academic Independent Careers (MOSAIC) program** and the **Maximizing Access to Research Careers (MARC) program**. The Committee directs the NIH to reestablish these programs and encourages broad support of programs that provide opportunities for the nation's next generation of researchers and enhance diversity in biomedical research. The Committee would provide no less than $431 million for biomedical research capacity building through the **Institutional Development Award (IDeA)** program, consistent with FY 2025 levels. The bill would sustain funding at $80 million for **biomedical research facilities grants**, awarded using NIH's C06 mechanism, to expand, remodel, or renovate research infrastructure. The Committee continues to encourage NIH to allocate no less than 25% of this facilities funding to institutions of emerging excellence, and notes this could include institutions in IDeA states to ensure geographic diversity.

NIH's **Alzheimer's Disease and Alzheimer's Disease-Related Dementias (AD/ADRD)** programs would receive a $100 million increase over FY 2025 enacted levels, to be evenly split between NINDS and the National Institute on Aging (NIA). This split aligns with the Senate's initial proposal for FY 2025 AD/ADRD funding but contrasts with previous years' enacted funding in which NIA received roughly 90% of the appropriated funds for AD/ADRD. The Committee also encourages NIA and NINDS to expand the use of AD/ADRD funding to fund research of other neurological disorders closely related to dementia such as Parkinson's Disease.

The bill would provide flat funding compared to FY 2025 for key programs within the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID). This would include $270 million for basic, translational, and clinical research to develop a **universal influenza vaccine**, $52 million for the twelve **Regional Biocontainment Laboratories** (split evenly) to support efforts to prepare for and respond to infectious diseases, $23 million for the two **National Biocontainment Laboratories** to support resources for high-containment BSL-4 laboratories, and no less than $565 million to support **antimicrobial resistance research**. The bill would also provide $629.6 million for the **Clinical and Translational Science Awards (CTSA)** program at the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS), consistent with FY 2025 enacted levels. Notably at NCATS, the Committee would provide a $10 million increase in funding for **rare disease research**.

Consistent with Trump Administration priorities, the Committee continues to support NIH's effort to develop and expand its efforts in **artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning (ML), and big data**. To support these efforts, the Committee would provide $135 million for AI and ML activities, consistent with FY 2025 enacted funds. The report also includes language encouraging NIH to continue its collaborative efforts with agencies like the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the Department of Energy (DOE) on **other emerging technologies** such as quantum information sciences, advanced computing, bioengineering, and synthetic biology, and digital twins. Towards this end, the Committee acknowledges NIH's participation in the National AI Research Resource (NAIRR) but does not provide any dedicated funding for this initiative. The Committee also notes its support of the transformation of the National Library of Medicine (NLM) "from its traditional role as a repository of data and research results to one where it serves as an active hub coordinating the use of ever-expanding data resources and facilitates researcher access to advanced analytics, including artificial intelligence and machine learning techniques." Aligned with the NIH's effort to prioritize human-based research technologies, the Committee encourages continued research and development of Novel Alternative Methods (NAMs) to reduce reliance on animal testing. However, the report does not call for restrictions or reductions in the use of animal models in research.

National Institutes of Health

(in millions of $)

	FY 2025 Enacted	FY 2026 Request	FY 2026 Senate	FY 2026 Senate vs. FY 2025 Enacted	FY 2026 Senate vs. FY 2026 Request
NIH, Total	**46,801**	**27,506**	**47,201**	400 (0.85%)	21,195 (77.06%)

National Cancer Institute (NCI)	**7,224**	**4,531**	**7,374**	150 (2.08%)	2,843 (62.75%)
National Institute on Aging (NIA)	**4,508**	**2,687**	**4,558**	50 (1.11%)	1,871 (69.63%)
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID)	**6,562**	**4,175**	**6,592**	30 (0.46%)	2,417 (57.89%)
National Institute on Body Systems	6,978	4,311	6,988	10 (0.14%)	2,677 (62.10%)
National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI)	**3,982**	**N/A**	**3,982**	--	**N/A**
National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases (NIAMS)	**685**	**N/A**	**685**	--	**N/A**
National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK)	**2,311**	**N/A**	**2,321**	10 (0.43%)	**N/A**
National Institute on Neuroscience and Brain Research	4,021	2,445	4,191	170 (4.23%)	1,746 (71.41%)
National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR)	**520**	**N/A**	**520**	--	**N/A**
National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS)	**2,604**	**N/A**	**2,774**	170 (6.53%)	**N/A**
National Eye Institute (NEI)	**897**	**N/A**	**897**	--	**N/A**
National Institute of General Medical Sciences	5,775	3,667	4,372	-1,403 (24.29%)	705 (19.23%)
National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering (NIBIB)	**441**	**N/A**	**441**	--	**N/A**
National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS)	**928**	**N/A**	**938**	10 (0.43%)	**N/A**
National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS)	**3,245**	**N/A**	**1,832**	-1,413 (43.54%)	**N/A**

National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI)	**663**	**N/A**	**663**	**--**	**N/A**
National Library of Medicine (NLM)	**498**	**N/A**	**498**	**--**	**N/A**
National Institute for Child and Women's Health, Sensory Disorders, and Communication	2,293	1,414	2,313	20 (0.87%)	899 (63.58%)
Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD)	**1,759**	**N/A**	**1,779**	20 (0.87%)	**N/A**
National Institute on Deafness and Other Communications Disorders (NIDCD)	**534**	**N/A**	**534**	**--**	**N/A**
National Institute of Behavioral Health	4,446	2,785	4,452	6 (0.13%)	1,167 (59.86%)
National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH)	**2,188**	**N/A**	**2,194**	6 (0.27%)	**N/A**
National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)	**1,663**	**N/A**	**1,663**	**--**	**N/A**
National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA)	**595**	**N/A**	**595**	**--**	**N/A**
National Institute on Nursing Research (NINR)	**198**	**N/A**	**198**	**--**	**N/A**
National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD)	**534**	**N/A**	**534**	**--**	**N/A**
National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health (NCCIH)	**170**	**N/A**	**170**	**--**	**N/A**
John E. Fogarty International Center (FIC)	**95**	**N/A**	**95**	**--**	**N/A**
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS)*	**914**	**594**	**914**	**--**	320 (53.87%)
Office of the Director (OD)	**2,593**	**1,650**	**2,448**	-145 (5.59%)	798 (48.36%)

Building and Facilities	**350**	**210**	**350**	**--**	140 (66.67%)
21st Century Cures Act	**127**	**31**	**226**	99 (77.95%)	195 (629.03%)

Bolded entries in the far-left column represent the current structure of NIH. Italicized entries represent the reorganization proposed in the President's Budget Request for FY 2026. Proposed constituent ICs for each italicized entry are listed directly below the name of the proposed new entity. FY 2025 enacted levels for italicized entries are extrapolations and represent the combined sum of the FY 2025 enacted funding for the ICs proposed to be combined into the new entity. FY 2026 Senate levels for the italicized entries are also extrapolations and represent the combined sum of the FY 2026 Senate levels for the ICs proposed to be combined into the new entity.

* Does not include funding for the Superfund Research Program (SRP), which is provided separately to NIEHS in the Interior-Environment appropriations bill.

Department of Education (ED)

The **Department of Education (ED)** would receive $79.0 billion in discretionary funding under the Senate bill, a $900 million decrease over the FY 2025 enacted level and a rejection of the Trump Administration's proposed dissolvement of the agency. The Senate would provide $12.3 billion more than the funding level proposed by the President's budget request.

At the K-12 level, the Senate rejects the proposed K-12 Simplified Funding Program from the President's budget request, which would have created a block grant consolidating many individual K-12 programs, as well as the proposed elimination of several K-12 programs. Instead, funding proposed by the Senate Committee includes:

- $235 million, which is a decrease of $24 million from the FY 2025 enacted level and a rejection of the proposed zeroing out of the program in the President's budget request, for the **Education Innovation and Research (EIR)** program. The report encourages ED to support projects "that serve rural and economically transitioning communities, including those programs that integrate agricultural technology, data science, and project-based learning to strengthen workforce readiness and teacher capacity."
- $90 million for the **Supporting Effective Educator Development (SEED)** program, which is level with FY 2025 funding and a rejection of the budget request's proposed elimination of funding for this program. The report includes a directive for ED to continue to make new awards supporting the preparation of principals and other school leaders that are available for service in low-income schools
- $23 million for **American History and Civics Education**, which would include a $3 million for Presidential and Congressional Academies for American History and $20 million for American History and Civics Education National Activities, both of which are level with FY 2025 enacted funding
- $91 million for the **Promise Neighborhoods** program, which is level with FY 2025 funding
- $115 million for the **IDEA Personnel Preparation** program, which is flat funding compared to FY 2025, to address the shortage of teachers for students with disabilities

- $100.1 million for **Congressionally Directed Spending** in the K-12-Fund for the Improvement of Education account

For **Pell Grants**, the bill would provide $7,395 for the maximum individual Pell Grant award for the 2026-2027 school year, the same award level for the 2025-2026 school year and a rejection of the proposed decrease to $5,710 as the maximum Pell award under the President's budget request. The Committee continues to note its support of the Pell Grant program in supporting effective prison education programs and directs ED to provide guidance to institutions on how to better support formerly incarcerated students as they reenter society. The report notes the creation of the Workforce Pell Grant program in the *One Big Beautiful Bill Act* (OBBA) and directs ED to report on "how the Department will verify the completion, job placement rates, and tuition and fees compared with the value-added earnings of each program."

The Senate would reject the President's large, proposed cuts to the **Federal Work-Study** and **Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants** (SEOG) programs and provide flat funding compared to the FY 2025 enacted level for each. Federal Work Study would receive $1.2 billion and SEOG would receive $910 million. The report cites the importance of higher education data and would direct ED to "fully implement and enforce all statutory data reporting and collection requirements under the HEA, including the requirement to update and improve the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System [IPEDS]." Other financial aid policies included in the report would direct the "Department to issue appropriate and timely fines for violations of the Clery Act," especially as it relates to antisemitic and anti-Muslim prejudice, and it supports for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements and would require ED to ensure "a fully functioning FAFSA" by October 1, 2026 to avoid delays in student aid disbursement.

The **Strengthening Institutions Program (SIP)** would receive $107 million in funding, which is a $5 million decrease compared to the enacted level. The Title V **Developing Hispanic Serving Institutions (Developing HSIs)** program would see $228.8 million in funding, which is flat funded when compared to FY 2025 enacted levels. The report would support funding for projects that increase collaborations between HSIs and Local Education Agencies serving significant numbers of Hispanic students. The **Promoting Post-Baccalaureate Opportunities for Hispanic Americans (PPOHA)** program would be flat funded at $27.4 million, with encouragement to fund consortia of HSIs that award PhDs. The **Strengthening Asian American and Native American Pacific-Islander-Serving Institutions** (AANAPISI) program would receive $18.6 million, which would be flat funding compared to the enacted level.

The bill proposes to fund the **Title VI International Education and Foreign Language Studies** programs at $80.6 million, a $5 million decrease compared to the enacted level. The **TRIO Programs** would receive proposed FY 2025 funding at $1.19 billion, which is the same as the FY 2025 enacted level. The accompanying report would encourage ED to provide technical assistance to active Educational Opportunity Centers and to consider how other TRIO programs can support justice-impacted students. The **Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs** (GEAR UP) would receive $388 million, which is the same as FY 2025 enacted level. The Title VI International Education and Foreign Language Studies, TRIO, and GEAR UP programs were all proposed for elimination in the FY 2026 President's budget request.

The **Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need** (GAANN) program would receive $23.5 million, the **Child Care Access Means Parents in Schools** (CCAMPIS) program would receive $75 million, the **Teacher Quality Partnerships** program would receive $65 million, and the **Augustus F. Hawkins Centers of Excellence program** for HBCUs and MSIs to support diverse teacher preparation would receive $15 million – all of which were flat funded with FY 2025 levels, besides the Teacher Quality Partnerships program, which would receive a $5 million decrease. The accompanying report would encourage ED to prioritize funding for Teacher Quality Partnership proposals that develop data literacy skills in prospective teachers, provide need-based scholarships to teacher candidates, and continue to support "Grow Your Own" teacher development programs.

The Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE) account would be provided a total of $146 million, which is a $25 million decrease from the enacted level. The Senate Committee would continue funding for two Biden Administration programs: the **Research and Development Infrastructure and Postsecondary Student Success** grant programs. The Research and Development Infrastructure grant program is for four-year HBCUs, Tribal Colleges, and MSIs and would be provided $38 million, a decrease of $12 million compared to FY 2025 levels. The Postsecondary Student Success Grant program to support student outcomes, retention, and completion efforts would be provided $40 million, a $5 million decrease compared to the enacted level. The **Basic Needs** grant program for student supports, including mental health programs, would remain flat at the FY 2025 level of $10 million total, the **Open Textbook Pilot** program would receive flat funding at the FY 2025 level for a total of $7 million, the Centers of Excellence for Veterans Student Success program would be flat funded at $9 million, and the Committee would provide $40 million, a $5 million decrease over FY 2025, for the **Rural Postsecondary and Economic Development Grant Program.** The FIPSE account also would include approximately $227 million in FIPSE Congressionally Directed Spending requests from Senators.

Career, Technical, and Adult Education programs broadly would receive $2.18 billion in FY 2026 under the Senate bill, the same as the FY 2025 enacted level. Within that amount, Career and Technical Education (CTE) activities would receive $1.45 billion, including $12.4 million for CTE national activities, "including up to $6,100,000 for Innovation and Modernization grants." The report accompanying the bill would direct ED to support the Career Connected High School Program; prioritize funding projects that include innovative CTE programs and evidence school based mentoring within the Innovation and Modernization Grants program; and "any plans the Department has to include a priority for grants that support the establishment of online savings accounts" within the Innovation and Modernization Grants authority.

The Committee bill would provide $793.1 million for the **Institute of Education Sciences (IES)**, level with the funding provided in FY 2025. Within IES, the efforts supported by the Research, Development and Dissemination line would receive $245 million, level funded when compared to FY 2025. The accompanying report highlights the Committee's support for the Accelerate, Transform, and Scale Initiative, noting "The Committee supports steps IES has taken to use funds for creating scalable, high impact solutions to improve education outcomes for all learners and eliminate persistent achievement and attainment gaps, including through pilot efforts modeled on Federal advanced research projects agencies." The report notes $1.5 million for a National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine Literacy Study. The report also states, "The Committee encourages NCES to consider collecting data on applications, admission, and enrollments by applicants with legacy status at institutions eligible to participate in Title IV programs under the HEA and those IHEs that also provide legacy preferences according to their IPEDS response." Additionally, the report states the Committee's support for the School Pulse Panel and directs the IES Director and NCES Commissioner to submit staffing plans and information on their planned use of resources provided by Congress to meet the statutory requirements of the agency The Senate would provide $64.2 million for special education research at IES, $53.7 million for the Regional Education Laboratories (REL) program, and $28.5 million for the Statewide Data Systems program. This would be flat funding for the special education, SLDS, and REL programs.

The Senate report includes several policy requirements for ED and education ecosystem stakeholders, including one that would require accreditors respect the stated missions of higher education institutions and another that would encourage ED to gather information on post-secondary transfer articulation agreements. The report would also encourage ED to offer guidance to institutions of higher education related to best practices to combat religiously based discrimination and the timely reporting of violations of campus policies related to discrimination. The Committees would also urge ED to support universities in efforts to increase civics knowledge among students and would encourage the Department to develop detailed estimates of net prices of university programs for students of different income levels. The Committee also includes report language that would direct the department to report on a monthly basis the staffing allocations for student aid administration, office of civil rights, and other program offices and would urge ED to ensure institutions of higher education are fully complying with the foreign reporting requirements of Section 117 of the *Higher Education Act*. Related to funding priorities, the report would encourage ED to ensure grants are being made to educational institutions in rural areas; promote partnerships with Local Education Agencies to implement high-quality tutoring models; and support efforts for secondary schools to partner with universities, businesses, and other workforce development stakeholders to prepare students for careers in emerging technology fields.

Department of Education
(in thousands of $)

	FY 2025 Enacted	FY 2026 Request	FY 2026 Senate	FY 2026 Senate v. FY 2025 Enacted	FY 2026 Senate v. FY 2026 Request
Elementary and Secondary Education*					
Education Innovation and Research	259,000	0	235,000	-24,000 (-9%)	235,000 (100%)
Personnel Preparation	115,000	0	115,000	--	115,000 (100%)
CTE National programs	12,421	10,200	12,421	--	2,221 (-22%)
Supporting Effective Educator	90,000	0	90,000	--	90,000 (100%)

Development (SEED)					
American History and Civics National Activities	20,000	0	20,000	--	20,000 (100%)
Student Financial Assistance*					
Pell Grant+	7,395	5,710	7,395	--	1,685 (22%)
SEOG	910,000	0	910,000	--	910,000 (100%)
Federal Work-Study	1,230,000	0	1,230,000	--	1,230,000 (100%)
Higher Education*					
Title V Aid for Developing HSIs±	228,890	228,900	228,900	--	--
Promoting Post-Baccalaureate Opportunities for Hispanic Americans	27,500	27,500	27,500	--	--
Strengthening Institutions	112,070	0	107,070	-5000 (-4%)	107,070 (100%)
Strengthening Asian American- and Native American Pacific Islander-serving Institutions (AANAPISI)	18,700	18,700	18,700	--	--
Title VI International Education and Foreign Language Studies	85,664	0	80,664	-5,000 (6%)	80,664 (100%)
TRIO Programs	1,191,000	0	1,191,000	--	1,191,000 (100%)
GEAR UP	388,000	0	388,000	--	388,000 (100%)
GAANN	23,547	0	23,547	--	23,547 (100%)
Teacher Quality Partnerships	70,000	0	65,000	-5,000 (7%)	65,000 (100%)
Child Care Access Means Parents in Schools	75,000	0	75,000	--	75,000 (100%)

Augustus F. Hawkins Centers of Excellence	15,000	0	15,000	--	15,000 (100%)
Institute of Education Sciences	793,106	261,300	793,106	--	531,806 (67.1%)
Research, Development and Dissemination	245,000	--	245,000	--	245,000 (100%)
Research in Special Education	64,255	--	64,255	--	64,255 (100%)
Regional Education Laboratories	53,733	--	53,733	--	53,733 (100%)
Statewide Data Systems	28,500	--	28,500	--	28,500 (100%)

*Categories included for ease of reading the chart.
† The Pell Grant is listed as the total maximum grant award an individual could receive, including mandatory and discretionary funding. It is *not* listed in thousands of dollars.

Department of Labor (DOL)

The Department of Labor (DOL) would receive $13.6 billion in discretionary funding, which is $146 million more than in FY 2025. Programs of note that would receive funding include:

- *Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act* (WIOA) programs for Adult ($875.6 million), a $10 million decrease compared to FY 2025, Youth ($948.1 million), and Dislocated Workers ($1.1 billion), both of which are level with FY 2025 enacted levels;
- $300.8 million for the Dislocated Workers National Reserve, level with the FY 2025 enacted level. Under this funding, the following amounts would be directed and level with the FY 25 enacted:
    - $20 million for "**Career Pathways for Youth Grants,**" with a focus on soft skill development ang age appropriate workforce development programs;
    - $65 million for the **Strengthening Community College Training Grants** program; and
    - $50 million for the **Workforce Opportunity for Rural Communities** program.
- $105 million for YouthBuild, level with the FY 2025 enacted level;
- $110 million for **Reentry Employment Opportunities** programs, which is $5 million less than FY 2025;
- $6 million for the **Workforce Data Quality Initiative,** which is level funding with FY 2025; and
- $285 million for **Registered Apprenticeships** (RA) grants, the same as the FY 2025 funding. The Committee encourages the expansion of registered apprenticeships into new industries and for the inclusion of underrepresented populations in RA programs.

Policy directives included in the report accompanying the spending bill include directives for DOL to "in coordination with the Department of Education and the Department of Health and Human Services, to provide guidance on informing one-stop center customers about the availability, including eligibility requirements, of supportive services or assistance" programs. DOL is also directed to help States develop digital systems to support unified approaches to workforce development and strategies for "delivery of online training and development programming."

Other interagency directives for DOL include working with HHS, ED, and other federal agencies to "improve data quality and transparency regarding participation in and outcomes from Federal education and training programs." In the apprenticeship space the report notes, "The Committee also encourages the Department to support apprenticeship opportunities that incorporate non-traditional industries, while providing appropriate flexibility for such industries" and calls on DOL to partner with the National Endowment for the Humanities and National Endowment for the Arts to explore the feasibility of RA for creative industries. The Employment and Training Administration would be directed to prioritized workforce development for careers in advanced robotics, railroad and transit, submarine construction, water and wastewater and as lab technicians. The report also urges DOL to support the employment needs of small businesses.

The bill would also include $93.5 million in Congressionally Directed Spending requests from Senators.

Department of Labor
(in thousands of $)

	FY 2025 Enacted	FY 2026 Request	FY 2026 House	FY 2026 Senate	FY 2026 Senate vs. FY 2025 Enacted	FY 2025 Senate vs. FY 2026 Request
Training and Employment Services						
Adult Training	885,649	0		875,649	-10,000 (1%)	-885,649 (100%)
Youth Training	948,130	0		948,130	--	-948,130 (100%)
Dislocated Worker Assistance	1,095,553	0		1,095,553	--	-1,095,553 (100%)
National Dislocated Workers Grants	300,859	0		300,859	--	-300,859 (100%)
Apprenticeship Program	285,000	0		285,000	--	-285,000 (100%)
Workforce Data Quality Initiative	6,000	0		6,000	--	-6,000 (100%)

Institute of Museum and Library Sciences (IMLS)

Rejecting the Trump Administration's proposed closure of IMLS in the FY 2026 budget request, the Senate bill proposes the **Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS)** receive $291.8 million for FY 2026, a $3 million decrease from the enacted FY 2025 amount. Like past years, the Committee report recommends $2 million in funding for the continuation of work on the information literacy task force. The Senate report would fund the Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian program at $10 million and the 21st Century Museum Professional program at $1 million. The National Leadership Grants for Museums would be funded at $9.3 million, while the National Leadership Grants program for Libraries would be funded at $15.3 million. In addition, the DOL Employment and Training Administration would be directed to work with IMLS to integrate the education and workforce development activities that take place in libraries better into states' workforce development ecosystems. While the report does not direct any additional funding towards activities around the 250th anniversary of the founding of the nation, it does note IMLS' role in funding existing activities and encourages partnerships with local museums.

Sources and Additional Information:

- The Senate FY 2026 L-HHS-ED appropriations bill is available at https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/senate-bill/2587/text.
- The accompanying report can be found at https://www.appropriations.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/fy26_lhhs_senate_report.pdf.
- The Majority's bill summary is available at https://www.appropriations.senate.gov/download/fy26-lhhs-bill-summary.
- A list of Congressionally Directed Spending items in the bill can be found at https://www.appropriations.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/fy26_lhhs_cds.pdf.