

## **DEC Federal Funding Update as of June 12, 2017**

Numerous funding updates and alerts have surely come to your attention in the last few weeks. This update is provided to clarify current and proposed funding and steps to expect in the next few months. This update addresses both **Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2017**, which is the current federal fiscal year, and plans for **FFY 2018** which begins October 1, 2017. Details on the FFY 2017 final funding levels (which included an across-the-board cut of .19% in all federal programs), and the funding levels proposed by the President for FFY 2018, are outlined and included in the table below.

President Trump signed the final funding levels for FFY 2017 into law on May 5th, 2017, and released his FFY 2018 budget proposal on May 23rd, 2017. This FFY 2018 budget provides his recommendations for funding levels for federal programs starting October 1, 2017. DEC is very disappointed this FFY 2018 budget generally requests a freeze at the FFY 2017 level for all IDEA programs and contains significant proposed cuts in other programs in the U.S. Departments of Education and Health and Human Services. Of significant concern is the President's substantial proposed cut of \$800 million to Medicaid, as well as cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and possible repeal of the current Affordable Care Act (ACA).

The next step in finalizing FFY 2018 funding levels is for Congress to finalize the budget and allocate the available budget among the 13 appropriations committees in the House and the Senate. These House and Senate committees will work to come to agreement on specific funding levels for all federal programs. The final FFY 2018 spending bill must be approved by the full House and the Senate and then signed into law by the President. Given the significant levels of disagreement and the short time available between now and September 30<sup>th</sup>, it is expected that a continuing resolution will be necessary again to keep the government operating past the October 1st start of FFY 2018.

Several major challenges exist to providing adequate funds to programs important to young children and their families in FFY 2018. One is the continued existence of tight caps on federal spending, signed into law in 2011 under former President Obama. The Congress is required by law to adhere to these caps unless they can reach agreement on increasing them. Without an agreement to raise the caps, many domestic programs will face specific deep cuts or overall across-the-board sequestration cuts in FFY 2018. Also looming ahead is the threat of disagreement over the need to extend the federal debt ceiling. An increase in the debt ceiling must be agreed to by the Congress and the President sometime this summer. Not surprisingly, there is some talk of this causing additional disagreements.

### **Detail on the FFY 2017 Final Funding Levels – October 1st, 2016 through September 30th, 2017**

First let's look at the FFY 2017 final funding. On May 5th, President Trump signed the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2017, providing funding for federal programs for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2017. These included formula grant funds for IDEA Part B, 619 and

Part C for July 1st, 2017. Discretionary funds appropriated for the U.S. Department of Education were approximately \$60 million less than the FFY 2016 level. Specific funding levels are included in the table below.

IDEA Part B special education grants to states were increased by \$90 million, while funds to the ESSA Title II professional development grants were cut by \$200 million. The FFY 2017 bill also contained an increase of \$95 million for the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) and an increase of \$85 million in Head Start. The final appropriations agreement provides level-funding for all three Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (DD Act) programs: \$38.6 million for University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD); \$73 million for Developmental Disabilities Councils; and \$38.7 million for Protection and Advocacy Systems.

### **Detail on the President's FFY 2018 Budget Proposal**

The President's budget for FFY 2018 requests \$59 billion in discretionary appropriations for the Department of Education which is a \$9 billion (or 13 percent) reduction below the 2017 annualized continuing resolution (CR) level. The request includes \$1.4 billion to support new investments in public charter schools and private school voucher programs. It also includes an \$800 billion decrease for Medicaid which will directly affect the available funds for IDEA services.

DEC shares our parent organization CEC's concern "that the budget falls short in meeting the expanding population and needs of children with disabilities." DEC also agrees with CEC in opposing any policy or funding methodology "that would create private school vouchers, including tuition tax credits, education saving accounts or scholarships, as they are contrary to the best interest of children and youth with disabilities, their families, the public school system, local communities and taxpayers. Vouchers both contradict and undermine central purposes of civil rights laws designed to protect children and youth with disabilities. Vouchers underserve many students with disabilities who often cannot find private schools to accept them or provide a free appropriate public education."

The FFY 2018 budget request also suggests elimination of all funding for 22 programs in the U.S. Department of Education including the Preschool Development Grant; the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Program that funds before and after school programs as well as summer programs; Title II of ESSA that supports effective instruction; and the Jacob K. Javits Gifted and Talented Students Education Program, which is the only dedicated federal investment for students with gifts and talents, particularly those from undeserved backgrounds.

The President's budget would cut \$72 billion over ten years from the Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) programs. It would also cut the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) by more than 25 percent over those 10

years. The budget also proposes to eliminate the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG), a \$1.7 billion program.

The action for FFY 2018 funding now moves to Congress for next steps toward finalizing specific funding levels for individual programs. Below are the funding levels for selected specific programs for FFY 2016, FFY 2017 and proposed for FFY 2018.

<b>Program</b>	<b>FFY 2016</b>	<b>FFY 2017 Annualized CR</b>	<b>FFY 2018 President's Proposal</b>
IDEA Part B 611	\$11.913 billion	\$11.890 billion	\$11.890 billion
IDEA Part C	\$458.6 million	\$457.7 million	\$457.7 million
IDEA Preschool 619 of Part B	\$368.2 million	\$367.5 million	\$367.5 million
IDEA Part D State Personnel Development	\$41.6 million	\$41.6 million	\$41.6 million
IDEA Part D TA and D (excludes Special Olympics)	\$44.3 million	\$44.3 million	\$44.3 million
IDEA Part D Personnel Preparation	\$83.7 million	\$83.5 million	\$83.5 million
IDEA Part D PTIs	\$27.4 million	\$27.4 million	\$27.4 million
IDEA Part D Technology, Media and Materials	\$30.0 million	\$30.0 million	\$30.0 million
Special Education Research	\$54.0 million	\$53.9 million	\$53.9 million
MCH Block Grant	\$638.0 million	\$637.0 million	\$667.0 million
Home Visiting	\$400 million	\$372 million	\$400 million
Universal Newborn Hearing Screening	\$18 million	\$18 million	-0-
CCBDG	\$2.761 billion	\$2.756 billion	\$2.761 billion

Head Start	\$9.168 billion	\$9.151 billion	\$9.168 billion
Developmental Disabilities	\$161.0 million	\$161.0 million	\$86.0 million (eliminates DD Council)
Title II Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants	\$2.256 billion	\$2.056 billion	-0-
21 <sup>st</sup> Century Learning Centers (before/after school and summer programs)	\$1.167 billion	\$1.192 billion	-0-
Preschool Development Grants	\$250 million	\$249.5 million	-0-

### What You Can Do

DEC joins CEC to call on Congress to reject the Administration's budget proposal, repeal the sequestration caps, and increase appropriations for key education and health programs to maximize opportunities for children and youth with exceptionalities.

Visit CEC's Legislative Action Center to tell your members of Congress TODAY to invest in programs for children with exceptionalities and support public education, protect Medicaid, and oppose private school vouchers!

We need to maintain the momentum as we advocate for needed investments in special and gifted education, early intervention, early learning, and research programs in the FY 2018 budget.

DEC will continue to follow progress on the FFY 2018 funding deliberations. Keep informed by signing up for the DEC Policy E-Brief which is sent to subscribers at no cost every 2 weeks. To opt-in to receive this eBrief, [click here](#). You can also check the DEC website News for periodic updates, or sign up to receive DEC News alerts.