

Washington Update

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

APRIL 3, 2018

FY 2018/FY 2019 FUNDING

On March 23, the President signed into law H.R. 1625, the *FY 2018 Consolidated Appropriations Act*, which is a \$1.3 trillion omnibus spending bill that combines all twelve of the 2018 funding bills into one package. The omnibus measure implements the Bipartisan Budget Agreement that was enacted in February by allocating the funding to specific Federal programs and agencies. Most Federal programs of importance to the County received a funding boost due to the extra funding provided through the Budget Agreement.

The House and Senate Appropriations Committees are also continuing the hearing process for FY 2019 funding with the goal of enacting 12 appropriations bills by the October 1 start of the next fiscal year. Following the President's February 12 Budget Submission to Congress, we immediately began working with the House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittees and our House and Senate Delegation members in support of the Federal programs and funding streams that impact the County's responsibilities.

OPIOID ABUSE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT

The FY 2018 Labor-HHS Appropriations section of the *Consolidated Appropriations Act* includes targeted spending to address opioid abuse:

- \$1 billion for new grants to States and Indian tribes to address the opioid epidemic
- \$476 million (+\$350 million) at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to support increased opioid overdose surveillance and prevention activities at the national, state, and local level

- \$500 million in research on opioid addiction through the National Institutes of Health
- \$130 million for the Rural Communities Opioid Response program

Funding provisions for the Department of Justice also include \$447 million for grant programs to address the opioid crisis, including \$330 million for Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act Programs such as Drug Courts, Veterans Treatment Courts, Residential Substance Abuse Treatment, and funding for the Mentally Ill Offender Act.

HOUSING/COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

We are working with the House and Senate Delegation in support of FY 2019 funding for HUD programs of importance to the County and have provided detailed programmatic requests for their use in contacting the Appropriations Committees. In addition, Congressman Carbajal co-signed joint Dear Colleague letters to the House Appropriations Committee in support of CDBG, HOME Investment Partnership, and Homeless Assistance funding.

The recently enacted FY 2018 omnibus spending measure includes the following levels of funding for HUD programs of importance to the County, reversing President Trump's proposal to reduce or eliminate these programs:

- \$3.3 billion for CDBG (+10%)
- \$1.36 billion for HOME (+43%)
- \$2.5 billion for Homeless Assistance (+5%)
- \$375 million for Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS (HOPWA) (+5%)
- \$678 million for Elderly Housing (+35%)
- \$40 million for HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing Program (HUD-VASH) (level)

PUBLIC SAFETY

We continued to advocate in support of funding for the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP) and other State and local law enforcement assistance grant programs. The Department of Justice announced the FY 2017 SCAAP application process on February 28, with applications due by April 11. The *FY 2018 Consolidated Appropriations Act* provides \$240 million for the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program, compared to the previous year's funding of \$210 million.

Other State and local law enforcement assistance programs funded in the FY 2018 omnibus include:

- \$492 million for Violence Against Women Act programs
- \$416 million for Byrne Justice Assistance Grants
- \$130 million for DNA Initiative Grants
- \$48 million for Reduce Sexual Assault Kits Backlog grants
- \$77 million for Anti-Human Trafficking grants
- \$76 million for Missing and Exploited Children programs

The bill also provides \$700 million for firefighter assistance grants through FEMA.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Several House and Senate Committees have been holding hearings on the Administration's Infrastructure Initiative. On February 12, the President released additional details about the plan, which proposes \$200 billion in Federal spending that is intended to leverage up to \$1.5 trillion in total spending, with the bulk coming from State and local governments and the private sector.

The lack of a specific funding mechanism has so far hindered the development of the Plan by Congress and this legislative debate is likely to carry over into next year. However, Speaker Ryan (R-WI) is proceeding with a piecemeal

approach on infrastructure that includes over \$10 billion in the recently enacted *FY 2018 Consolidated Appropriations Act* and planned legislation to reauthorize the Federal Aviation Administration and the Water Resources Development Act.

Infrastructure spending enacted in the *FY 2018 Consolidated Appropriations Act* includes:

- \$2.525 billion increase for several highway programs.
- \$1 billion increase in the TIGER Grant Program.
- \$834 million increase for Federal Transit Administration Programs.
- \$1 billion for airport grants.
- \$685 million for expansion of broadband service, primarily through a new \$600 million USDA rural broadband pilot program that will provide Rural Utilities Service loans and grants.

PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES

We continue to work with the local Delegation in support of FY 2019 funding for PILT. As part of these efforts, Congressman Carbajal recently joined with a bipartisan group of members to co-sign a joint letter urging the House Appropriations Committee to ensure that PILT is fully funded in FY 2019.

The *FY 2018 Consolidated Appropriations Act* increases PILT funding to \$530 million, compared to \$465 million in 2017. Santa Barbara County received \$1.86 million through PILT last year.

SOCIAL SERVICES

The *FY 2018 Consolidated Appropriations Act* reversed President Trump's proposal to eliminate the Social Services Block Grant program, providing \$1.7 billion for the program, the same as last year.