



October 28, 2015

Budget Deal Reached by Congress

Things are getting back on track to finalize funding for workforce development programs. Last month, we reported on a continuing resolution that funded federal programs until December 11th. A temporary funding bill was needed because Congress could not reach agreement on funding levels due to overall levels - or spending caps - imposed in 2013.

Congress has agreed to a two-year budget deal that helps address some of the issues. The House passed the measure earlier today by a vote of 266-167 and the Senate is expected to pass it later this week - probably over the weekend.

What Does the Agreement Do?

In short, the new "Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015" would:

- Increase discretionary spending by \$80 billion over two years
- Divide relief equally between defense and nondefense programs
- Spread relief over two years (FY 2016 and FY 2017), providing an additional \$50 billion in FY 2016 and \$30 billion in FY 2017
- Extend the debt ceiling until March 5, 2017

Offsets include a one-year extension of mandatory spending sequestration, selling oil reserve and airwaves spectrum, and some changes to entitlements.

While this is great news - this is only the first step in determining funding levels for specific workforce programs.

What Comes Next?

Next, the overall spending amounts will be divided among the different appropriations subcommittees.

Once the subcommittees have their overall allocation, they will decide how much funding each program should receive. All of these funding recommendations will be combined in one large funding bill called an Omnibus Bill and sent back to Congress for passage.

What Is NAWDP's Position?

NAWDP supports budget policies that strengthens our the economic competitiveness through ensuring an investment in talent management, job training, and workforce development.

Put simply, Congress should pass a clean Omnibus Bill that provides funding for all workforce development programs at the maximum amounts allowable.

We appreciate all of your support for workforce development and for the work that you do on behalf of our nation's job seekers and businesses.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Bridget Brown, CWDP
Executive Director