



December 10, 2014

Agreement Reached on FY15 Funding Levels

Congress has reached an agreement on FY15 funding for workforce, job training, and education programs. The overall bill totals about \$1.1 trillion, and with the exception of Department of Homeland Security, provide funding for federal programs until September 2015.

In addition, a partial restoration of the Pell Grant Ability-to-Benefit provision is included. Under this bill, an individual may qualify for a Pell Grant without a high school diploma if s/he is enrolled in an eligible career pathway program.

In terms of funding levels, we are seeing some small gains in some programs and flat funding in others.

Program	FY14	Omnibus (FY15)
WIOA Adult	\$766,080,000	\$776,736,000
WIOA Youth	\$820,430,000	\$831,842,000
WIOA Dislocated Worker	\$1,001,598,000	\$1,015,530,000
Native American	\$46,082,000	\$46,082,000
Migrant Seasonal Farmworker	\$81,896,000	\$81,896,000
Wagner-Peyser/Employment Services	\$664,184,000	\$664,184,000
YouthBuild	\$77,534,000	\$79,689,000
JobCorps	\$1,688,155,000	\$1,688,155,000
Senior Community Service Employment Program	\$434,371,000	\$434,371,000

Spending bills must originate in the House. Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) has indicated that he hopes for a House vote by Thursday. Since the existing CR expires Thursday (December 11th), we can expect a short-term continuing resolution to be passed in order to give the Senate time to vote.

As with any omnibus bill, there are a lot of riders and provisions having very little to do with the appropriations process in this 1603 page bill. In fact, many legislators have raised concerns that they have not been provided time to read the legislation. Neither political party is interested in shutting down the government, especially right before the holidays.

Next Steps

Let's take a moment to reflect on the accomplishments for the year. Not only have we successfully worked together to halt many of the significant funding cuts for workforce programs, we also have new legislation that will improve the effectiveness of many of our programs.

Much more still needs to be done to ensure that we meet the needs of our business and job seekers. In the next year, NAWDP will be focusing its efforts on welcoming a new Congress, the implementation of WIOA, efforts to reauthorize TANF and other workforce programs, and FY16 funding bills.

As 2014 comes to a close, I want to thank each of you who worked with us on legislative issues. For those of you who wrote letters, drafted fact sheets, leveraged the media, or reached out directly to decision-makers about the importance of workforce development, I hope you know that your efforts made a significant difference.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at Bridget@nawdp.org or 202/589-1790.

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