

Government and Public Affairs Update

Appropriations Update: Fiscal Year 2011 Resolved- Finally!

On April 14, over six months (and seven Continuing Resolutions (CR) later) after the start of Fiscal Year (FY) 2011, the House and the Senate passed a final FY 2011 spending bill (H.R. 1473). H.R. 1473 funds all Federal agencies to the end of fiscal year on September 30, 2011. The bill includes \$38.5 billion in cuts below current funding levels and \$78.5 billion in cuts below levels requested in the President's FY2011 budget proposal. In addition to agency specific reductions, H.R. 1473 reflects a 0.2 percent across-the-board decrease to all non-security discretionary accounts.

The final FY 2011 bill includes funding for the following agencies important to the Population Association of America (PAA):

- **National Institutes of Health** - NIH received \$30.7 billion, a \$260 million (.8 percent) cut below the FY 2010 amount. A reduction of \$210 million will be shared across the 27 Institutes and Center that make up NIH. Another \$50 million would come from an intramural buildings and facilities account. The 0.2 percent across-the-board cut would reduce the agency's budget by another \$40 million, cutting the NIH by approximately \$300 million or one percent below its FY 2010 budget.
- **Census Bureau** - The Bureau's FY 2011 funding was already reduced significantly from the FY 2010 level because of the completion of the decennial count. In the final FY 2011 funding package, the agency received \$893.3 million for its Periodic Censuses and Programs, \$93 million below the FY 2011 request. The reduced funding level may jeopardize the agency's plans to implement its FY 2011 initiatives, including increasing the American Community Survey's sample size and bolstering its research program for the 2020 Census.
- **National Center for Health Statistics** - The bill does not specify funding for the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) within the CDC. The agency is exempt from the 0.2 percent across-the-board cut because it is funded through the Public Health Services (PHS) evaluation tap, which is protected against such cuts. Accordingly, NCHS's funding for the remainder of FY 2011 will be at the discretion of the CDC director and the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services. NCHS's current budget is approximately \$138 million in base discretionary funding. Advocates for the agency expect the agency will be funded at the FY 2010 level.
- **National Science Foundation** - The NSF will receive approximately \$65.7 million below its current funding levels, bringing its final FY 2011 appropriation close to \$6.8 billion. NSF will decide how to allocate funding for the research directorates, including the Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences directorate. The Coalition for National Science Funding estimates the reduced funding will result in 134 fewer awards, supporting 1,500 fewer researchers, students, teachers, and technical support personnel than last year.
- **United States Agency for International Development (USAID)** - The bill provides \$615 million to the USAID international family planning and reproductive health account, which supports the Office of Population Health and

programs important to the PAA, including the Demographic and Health Survey. This funding is \$33.5 million (or five percent) below the comparable FY 2010 level of \$648.5 million.

- **The Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA)** will lose \$186,000 from its FY 2010 mark of \$93.4 million. This is the second year in a row BEA has had its requested increase rejected in the final funding package.

Agency	FY 2011	FY 11 President's Budget	Difference from president's budget	FY 2010 Final Budget	Difference from FY 2010
NIH	\$30.7 billion	\$32.0 billion	-\$1.3 billion	\$31.0 billion	-\$300 million
Census Bureau	\$ 1.1 billion (house) \$1.2 billion (Senate)	\$1.3 billion	-100 or 200 million	\$7.3 billion (reflects decennial census)	-\$6.2 billion
NCHS	\$138.7 million	\$161.9 million	-\$23.2 million	\$138.7 million	0
NSF	\$ 6.8 billion	\$7.4 billion	-\$600 million	\$6.9 billion	-\$100 million
AID FP/RH	\$615 million	\$715.7 million	\$100.7 million	\$648.5 million	-\$33.3 million

The bill requires all federal agencies to report a comprehensive spending plan to the Congress by mid-May. This report will inform how federal agencies plan to allocate their funding in the remaining months of FY 2011.

Looking to the FY 2012 Budget Process

The 2011 spring issue of *PAA Affairs* reported on the President's FY 2012 proposed budget, which was released on February 1, 2011. See link:
<http://www.populationassociation.org/publications/paa-affairs/paa-affairs-archive/>

In response to the President's proposed budget, Congress began crafting its budget blueprint. On April 15th, before leaving for a two-week recess, the House of Representatives passed its version of the FY 2012 budget resolution. The House-adopted budget calls for another \$30 billion in cuts, capping non-war discretionary spending at \$1.019 trillion versus the \$1.05 trillion level just agreed to for the current fiscal year. The U.S. Senate Budget Committee is scheduled to consider its version of the FY 2012 budget resolution in mid-May. Although the budget resolution is not binding, it influences the outcome of spending bills by dictating allocations to the House and Senate appropriations subcommittees.

Agency News

NICHD Scientific Vision process – Last fall NICHD announced its Scientific Vision initiative. The goal of this unique planning effort is to identify the most promising scientific opportunities of the next decade, reflecting the Institute's broad mission. To

achieve the initiative's objective, NICHD convened nine thematic workshops this spring. At these workshops, a diverse group of invited experts from multi-disciplinary fields, including select members of PAA, discussed scientific opportunities.

By mid-May, NICHD expects to have all of its workshop white papers posted on its Vision home page at: <http://www.nichd.nih.gov/vision/comments/>. Comments are being accepted through June 10, 2011. At a final conference in late June, invited experts and Institute stakeholders will consider all of the comments and make final recommendations for the Vision statement. The statement will be published in a leading scientific journal later this year.

The PAA is organizing comments on several of the papers and encouraging individual members to share their thoughts as well on the research opportunities and gaps identified in the workshop papers.

Legislative Update

Presidential Appointment and Efficiency Act of 2011 – Includes Fixed Term for Census Director. On April 13, the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs passed S. 679, the Presidential Appointment and Efficiency Act of 2011. The bill proposes removing almost 200 nominees for positions in federal agencies from U.S. Senate confirmation. Among those positions slated for removal from future Senate confirmation are the Directors of the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) and the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), as well as members of the National Science Board – currently operating with only 15 of its 24 members Senate-confirmed.

During the Committee's deliberations, Senator Thomas Carper (D-DE) inserted language making the U.S. Census Bureau Director's position a presidentially appointed, five-year fixed term. The Senate Rules and Administration Committee will next consider the bill before it goes to the Senate floor for final passage.

PAA in Washington, DC

PAA Advocacy Day!-- On March 30, the day before the PAA annual meeting in Washington, DC, 60 PAA members from 18 states visited almost 90 House and Senate offices. The purpose of this event was to bring PAA members to Capitol Hill to meet with members of Congress and their staffs to educate them about the population sciences and to seek support for our federal funding agencies. It was also a terrific opportunity for PAA members to present their research activities and advances. Follow up questions and requests from numerous congressional offices suggest PAA members did an excellent job connecting with their congressional representatives and communicating with them about the PAA and its priorities. Congratulations and thanks to all of the PAA members who participated in Hill visits that day.

"Better Data, Better Decisions: How the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey Benefits Business and Government." On March 7, PAA cosponsored two briefings on Capitol Hill, sponsored by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, regarding the American Community Survey (ACS). The purpose of the briefings was to educate

congressional staff and other policymakers on how American industries and state and local governments use economic, demographic, and social data from the ACS to make targeted, wise investments.

The panelists were:

- **Cindy Guy**, associate director for policy research, Annie E. Casey Foundation, moderated the briefings and introduced the speakers.
- **Terri Ann Lowenthal**, legislative and policy consultant, The Census Project, discussed congressional interest in and uses of the ACS.
- **Patrick Jankowski**, vice president of research, Greater Houston Partnership explained how local economic development corporations rely on ACS data to attract industries and create jobs.
- **David Crowe**, chief economist and senior vice president, National Association of Home Builders, discussed how the housing industry uses ACS data to analyze the real estate market and assess housing policies.
- **Warren Brown**, Applied Demography program director at the Carl Vinson Institute of Government, University of Georgia, provided examples of how state agencies use ACS data to determine policies to best serve older persons and to improve the status of children

Presentations and webcast are available at: <http://www.prb.org/Journalists/Webcasts/2011/acs-benefits-business-government.aspx>