



Capitol News!

by the National Association of State Head Injury Administrators

Dear NASHIA Member,

Welcome to *Capitol News*, Issue 2, which you receive as a NASHIA member. This issue features highlights of the President's proposed budget for fiscal year 2021 released Feb. 10.

Next Wednesday, March 4, is the Congressional Brain Injury Task Force Awareness Day. If you are planning visits with your Representative and Senators, NASHIA will have packets of information available to you at the exhibit table at the Fair (Rayburn House Office Bldg., First Floor Foyer). We encourage you to have some of your State's materials as well, so they will have information should a constituent contact them and to also learn more about brain injury programs in your State. Please feel free to contact Becky Corby should you have any questions about office visits at rcorby@ridgepolicygroup.com.

On Monday, the Senate passed the Lifespan Respite Reauthorization Act (S. 995), which NASHIA supports. Read further to learn more. Meanwhile, visit our policy pages on our [website](#) to learn more about key issues. As always, do not hesitate to contact Susan Vaughn, Director of Public Policy should you have any questions at svaughn@nashia.org.

FY 2021 Appropriations

The President Proposes Cuts to Discretionary and Mandatory Programs

The President's fiscal year 2021 budget recommendations were delivered to Congress on Feb. 10. The President's budget maintains the defense appropriations level in the congressional agreement, but seeks significant (\$45 billion) cuts to the negotiated level for non-defense discretionary spending.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) have confirmed that both chambers will adhere to the two-year (FY 2020 and 2021) budget caps deal that was negotiated this past summer to set overall spending limits. House appropriators plan to start subcommittee markups for fiscal 2021 spending bills on April 21. Under the tentative schedule obtained by *CQ Roll Call*, the committee would wrap up all the markups by May 19, which the goal is to pass all the bills on the floor before the start of July. The Senate Appropriations Committee typically starts its process a little later.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Overall, the President's budget calls for a \$9.5 billion cut to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) discretionary budget in 2021 and a \$1.6 trillion cut over 10 years from mandatory health care spending. This includes a more than \$900 billion cut to Medicaid, a half a trillion-dollar cut to Medicare, and more than \$200 billion in cuts to other health programs.

Administration for Community Living

The proposed budget for the Administration for Community Living's (ACL) Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Program is for level funding, same as the current year, while the budget proposes to cut National Institute for Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR) by \$22 million. Click [here](#) to view NASHIA's recommendations for the ACL TBI and CDC TBI programs. Download the "[Dear Colleague](#)" letters that the Congressional Brain Injury Task Force is circulating among Members to support funding for the ACL TBI program and the NIDILRR program. We encourage you to share with your Representative to sign on.

Click [here](#) to view the funding proposals for ACL programs.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

The President's FY 2021 Budget proposes a total of \$5.627 billion in discretionary budget authority for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for FY 2021, a decrease from the FY 2020 appropriation of \$6.917 billion, a cut of \$1.289 billion (18 percent). The National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (NCIPC) would be increased from \$677 million to \$730 million, an increase of \$52 million (7.8 percent). However, this overall increase includes \$100 million in funding for a new "Drug-Free Communities" program, and significant cuts to existing line items within the NCIPC, including Intentional Injury (\$15 million cut), Unintentional Injury (\$2 million cut), Injury Prevention (\$8 million cut), Firearm Injury (\$12.5 million cut), and Injury Control Research Centers (\$9 million cut). Click [here](#) to see the funding recommendations for the NCIPC programs.

The National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities (NCBDDD) would experience a cut of \$48 million (30 percent) from \$161 million to \$112 million. The National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion would experience a cut of \$426 million (34 percent) from \$1.24 billion to \$813 million. Additionally, the budget proposes to consolidate much of the Center's dedicated funding for chronic disease prevention into a new "America's Health Block Grant," which would purport to allow States "flexibility to support interventions that best address chronic diseases with the highest incidence in their State." The Block Grant would be funded at \$350 million for FY 2021, but would zero out existing line items for Tobacco, Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity, Heart Disease and Stroke, Diabetes, and Arthritis.

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

Money Follows the Person Demonstration -- The Budget allows for a State Plan option to establish a Money Follows the Person program under the State Plan, with temporary enhanced funding. States spending less than 50 percent of their long-term service and supports funding on home and community based services would receive an enhanced FMAP for the first five fiscal years they provide these services.

Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)

The President's FY 2021 Budget proposes to eliminate most of the health workforce programs funded by the Bureau of Health Workforce (BHW). All graduate medical education (GME) funding provided by the BHW, including the Children's Hospitals GME program, would be consolidated into a single GME Block Grant.

National Institutes of Health (NIH) (in millions)

The President's budget provides a total of \$38.7 billion for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), a cut of more than \$3 billion (7.1 percent). The Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) would experience a \$140 million cut (9 percent) from \$1.557 billion to \$ 1.416 billion. The National Center for Medical Rehabilitation Research (NCMRR), housed within NICHD, would receive a proportional cut; the NCMRR receives a dedicated budget of

7.5% of the NICHD extramural research budget. In FY 2021, the NCMRR's budget would be set at \$81.1 million.

The National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS), the largest funder of rehabilitation research within the NIH, would experience a \$201 million cut (8 percent) from \$2.447 billion to \$2.245 billion. NINDS is also the lead agency for the BRAIN Initiative. Additionally, the President recommends consolidating the activities of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) within the National Institutes of Health as a new National Institute for Research on Safety and Quality. Below are just selected Institutes, not all NIH Institutes.

Other Disability Programs

The President's FY 2021 budget proposal:

- Eliminates the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) (- \$1.685 billion).
- Eliminates the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) (- \$740 million).
- Cuts the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) by more than \$180 billion over the next ten years.
- Cuts Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) by \$21 billion over the next ten years.

U.S. Department of Education

- The U.S. Department of Education would receive a 7.8% cut in discretionary budget authority, from \$72.2 billion in FY 2020 to \$66.6 billion in FY 2021.
- The early intervention, preschool, and discretionary programs under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) would be level-funded, with a \$100 million increase in grants to States for IDEA Part B.
- The Vocational Rehabilitation programs would be level-funded, except for a modest cost-of-living increase in the VR State grant program, as mandated by legislation, which would be partially offset by zero funding of the state supported employment program.

U.S. Department of Labor

The U.S. Department of Labor would receive a \$1.3 billion cut (10.5%), from \$12.4 billion in FY 2020 to \$11.1 billion in FY 2021. The President's budget cuts funding for the Office of Disability Employment Policy by \$11.4 million (30%), from \$38.5 million in FY 2020 to \$27.1 million in FY 2021.

Other Legislation

Senate Advances Reauthorization of the Lifespan Respite Care Act

On February 24, 2020, the Senate passed S. 995 to reauthorize the Lifespan Respite Care Program by voice vote. Now this bill will have to be reconciled with the bill passed by the House or go directly to the House floor for final passage. NASHIA signed on to an organizational support [letter](#) sent to Senate leaders the same day. The Lifespan Respite Care Program, though competitive grants to States to establish or enhance statewide Lifespan Respite systems, work to maximize existing resources and help ensure that quality respite is available and accessible to all family caregivers. More than half of care recipients are under age 75 and more than one-third are under the age of 50, Lifespan Respite rightly recognizes caregiving as a lifespan issue and serves families regardless of age or disability.

**We hope you plan to attend the ACL TBI Stakeholder Meeting
and the CBITF Awareness Days March 3-4, 2020!**

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The National Association of State Head Injury Administrators assists State government in promoting partnerships and building systems to meet the needs of individuals with brain injuries and their families.