

July, 2019

The Federal Fiscal Year 2020 Labor-HHS-Education Budget

The US House of Representatives has proposed a FY20 budget for Labor, Health, Human Services, and Education. The budget, if passed by the Senate, would represent a strong commitment from federal policymakers to continue and expand commitments to critical programs and services that are proven to improve the lives of children, youth, and families.

The State of Michigan relies heavily on federal funds to deliver vital benefits and opportunities for children, youth, and families, increasing the impact of Michigan's Congressional delegation decisions on access to critical supports. For example, proposals for Michigan Department of Health and Human Services' FY20 budget draws 70% of its funds from federal sources, including Medicaid, which covers about half of all births in Michigan, WIC, SNAP, and TANF-funded programs, mental health and substance abuse services as well as close to the entirety of Michigan's funding for abuse and neglect prevention, intervention, foster care and adoption. Michigan Department of Education's FY20 budget proposals include three of four dollars from federal funds. It is unclear exactly how much Michigan would receive from the U.S. House's increased funding proposals.

It is unclear when the U.S. Senate will release its own budget proposal. While the negotiation process means that not every House recommendation will make it into a final federal budget, not passing a budget at all will mean that none of these critical investments make their way to Michigan. We must continue to make sure that our members in both the U.S. House and Senate understand the significance to Michigan of investments that are proven to help meet critical needs for children, youth, and families in our state.

Federal appropriations are also governed by a "debt ceiling," that is, the maximum amount of debt that the Congress can appropriate to pay our current bills. We could reach our current legal debt ceiling as early as September. Congress needs to pass a deal to raise the deficit ceiling that raises caps on domestic spending before the August recess to ensure that critical supports for children and families are protected.

In addition to raising the debt ceiling, Congress also needs to pass a budget that includes increased funding for those supports, including increases for CCDBG, CAPTA and CB-CAP, 21st Century Community Learning Centers, and WIOA. Specific U.S. House proposed investments that need to remain in any final spending bill include:

Adult Education: The House's budget includes a \$178 million increase for Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) funding for increased programs for disconnected workers and for youth activities. Of this increase, \$55 million would include new grants to adult education programs to a total of \$900 million.

Afterschool: The House's budget increases funding for 21st Century Community Learning Center grants, which fund afterschool and summer learning programs for students in districts across Michigan, by \$100 million to a total of \$1.3 billion.

Child Care: The House's budget includes an additional \$2.4 billion for the Child Care and Development Block Grant to states, to a total of \$7.4 billion. Traditional Head Start funding is also increased by \$1.5 billion and \$500 million is included to expand Early Head Start and Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership grants, to a total of \$11.6 billion. The proposal also continues funding for the Child Care Access Means Parents in Schools program, which provides funds to colleges and universities to offer child care to parent students.

Child Welfare: The House includes \$90 million total, a \$4.5 million increase, for state Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act grants, and a \$35 million increase for CAPTA Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention grants (totaling \$75 million), which would support the child abuse prevention programs of the Michigan Children's Trust Fund. The House's budget also includes a \$20 million increase for Runaway and Homeless Youth Services operated by Michigan's network of youth- and family-serving organizations, to a total of \$147 million.

Physical and Mental Health: The House's budget includes additional funding for a variety of health care services, including \$50 million in increased spending to expand access to Federally-Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) that deliver both primary health care and some specialized services including HIV prevention to underserved communities. Many FQHCs work with schools to provide health services to students. The budget also adds \$51 million for maternal and child health programs, including funding to recruit midwives to meet a national shortage.

Postsecondary Education and Workforce Training: The House budget includes additions of \$100 million for federal TRIO programs including Upward Bound, Talent Search, and Student Support Services, and \$35 million in new funds for Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP), bringing their totals to \$1.16 billion and \$395 million, respectively. The budget also includes a \$150 increase for the maximum Pell grant award to \$6,345. Of the proposed \$178 million increase for (WIOA) funding, \$90 million would support youth activities including YouthBuild.

Substance Abuse Prevention: The House's budget includes additional \$128.5 million for substance abuse treatment programs and services, including a \$13 million increase for Project AWARE, which supports the coordination of K-12 school mental health services.

Other Education Funding: The House's budget includes a \$100 million increase in Title I funding to school districts (up to \$16.9 billion), a \$150 million increase in student support and academic enrichment grants (up to \$1.32 billion), \$243 million in increased English Language Acquisition programs for English language learners, \$500 million in additional grants to support educator practice including professional development. The House budget also includes \$22.5 million in increased funding for evidence-based Community School models to deliver services that meet the holistic needs of students and families.