

FY 2014 Omnibus Appropriations Bill

Head Start - Head Start received \$8.6 billion, an increase of \$1.025 billion (14%). This increase fully restores the sequestration cuts and provides:

- \$400 million for Head Start to restore losses to sequestration;
- \$100 million for a 1.3 % cost-of-living increase,
- \$25 million to support the continued implementation of the Designation Renewal System; and
- \$500 million for new Early Head Start/Child Care Partnerships.

Early Head Start/Child Care Partnerships - The \$500 million for new Early Head Start/Child Care Partnerships will be available through competitive funding opportunities in all states, territories, tribes and migrant and seasonal communities. This increase will provide *“high quality Early Head Start services to approximately 40,000 additional children, more than one-third increase. This leverages investments through the Child Care and Development Fund and will further improve the quality of early childhood care and education options for infants and toddlers.”* These grants will allow Early Head Start programs to partner with local child care centers and family child care providers serving low-income infants and toddlers. In the report language, Congress described two priorities for the competition: 1) to give priority to agencies that partner with local child care providers, including center and home-based care; 2) to prioritize applications that provide a unified birth-to-school entry continuum. Early Head Start programs awarded funds for an Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership will not be subject to designation renewal for this part of their grant for the first 18 month period.

Funding awards must be made by March 31, 2015. The bill also provides \$10 million for Federal administration and evaluation of these Early Head Start/Child Care Partnerships.

Child Care and Development Block Grant - The Child Care and Development Block Grant received a \$154 million increase which fully restores the sequestration cuts and provides a small increase. Set-asides for CCDBG include:

- Child Care Resource and Referral Activities: \$19,357,000
- National Toll-Free Referral Line and Website to develop and disseminate child care consumer education to help them access child care in their community: \$996,000
- Quality Expenditures: \$296,484,000
- Infant and Toddler Quality Improvements: \$108,732,000
- Child Care Research: \$9,851,000

Preschool Development Grants - The Department of Education received \$250 million in Race to the Top funding for preschool development grants. *“If awards are made to states to build capacity,”* the funding will be awarded competitively to states to build their capacity to develop, enhance, or expand high-quality preschool programs, including comprehensive services and family engagement, for preschool-age children from families at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level. Grants will be jointly administered by the Departments of Education and Health and Human Services, just like the Early Learning Challenge grants. Funds can be used for two kinds of grants: one to states with small or no pre-K programs, and the other to states with large pre-K programs. States can sub grant funds to local educational agencies and other early learning providers, such as Head Start programs and licensed child care providers, or consortia of providers, for the implementation of high-quality preschool programs for

children from families at or below 200 percent of poverty. Whoever is local grantee – school districts or community providers – must form strong partnerships with the other.

In the report that accompanies the bill, Congress adds that funds should be used to **help early childhood educators attain higher credentials and degrees** and that States receiving the grant shall ensure that **the use of child assessments conform with the recommendations of the National Research Council's reports on early childhood**. The Department of Education will set and report back to Congress a definition of high-quality pre-K, but is “expected” to work with the committees to do so. This workaround vastly increases the odds that the President and Democrats (plus a smattering of Republicans) in Congress will increase the numbers of children in high-quality pre-K programs.

Other early childhood programs - Congress restored most of the funds that were cut under the sequester in 2013 to the two largest PreK-12 formula grants: Title I grants for disadvantaged students (funded at \$14.4 billion in the bill) and special education state grants (\$11.5 billion).

- \$158 million total for maintain the Striving Readers Comprehensive Literacy grants, which includes grants to local educational agencies and early childhood providers for literacy professional development and support for children from birth to kindergarten;
- \$18 million increase for Part C early intervention grants; and
- \$194 million increase for WIC.