



FY 2021 Funding in the Omnibus

The fiscal year (FY) 2021 funding bill included tight budget caps imposed by the 10-year budget deal, which permitted only slight increases in most programs or level funding. Some programs, like vaccine distribution, K12 education, and child care received much higher or additional increases in separate, emergency-designated COVID relief bill provisions.

This overview focuses on selected FY 2021 appropriations and includes additional details on some of the emergency funding. Details on funding and provisions included in the December 2020 COVID relief bill are available [here](#).

Labor

- \$9.4 billion for the Employment and Training Administration, an increase of \$99 million above the 2020-enacted level. Within this amount, the bill includes \$2.8 billion for Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Grants, an increase of \$26 million above the FY 2020-enacted level.
- \$670 million for the Employment Service, an increase of \$2 million above the 2020-enacted level.
- \$1.7 billion for Worker Protection Agencies, an increase of \$15.3 million above the FY 2020-enacted level. Within this amount, the bill includes \$592 million for the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), an increase of \$10 million above the 2020-enacted level.

Effect on AFSCME Members: AFSCME members that administer the services and benefits of these workforce employment and training programs will have added funding and resources to continue to effectively help people that are seeking new employment. The funding for OSHA also provides grants for states' safety and health departments that protect workers.

Health

Emergency funding highlight:

\$19 billion in funds to states and localities by formula for COVID-19 testing and COVID-19 other activities. See [here](#) for state-by-state amounts. An additional \$3 billion in funds to states and localities by formula for COVID-19 vaccination activities. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports state breakouts [here](#).

Mandatory funding (set by formulas in prior law) highlight:

- Stopped \$4 billion in cuts in Medicaid payments through FY 2023 to public safety net hospitals that provide care to a greater number of low-income and uninsured individuals than other hospitals. These payments will be beneficial to state budgets.

FY 2021 funding:

- \$1.8 billion in substance abuse treatment grants to states and \$1.5 billion in state opioid response grants (state breakouts are [here](#)) which will help support AFSCME members who provide these vital recovery services and their clients. The past 12 months have marked the [highest number of deaths from drug overdoses](#) in our nation.
- Stable enhanced funding through Medicaid for Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic programs through Sept. 30, 2023.
- \$16 million to help repay student loans of substance use disorder treatment workers.

Effect on AFSCME Members: These funds will continue to support AFSCME member jobs in state hospitals and other public hospital settings, improve vaccine distribution, and support AFSCME member jobs in behavioral health settings.

Education

- \$5.9 billion for the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG), an increase of \$85 million; and \$10.7 billion for Head Start, an increase of \$135 million. The COVID package provides \$10 billion for CCDBG.
- \$16.5 billion for Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies, an increase of \$227 million above the 2020-enacted level and \$12.9 billion for special education grants to states known as IDEA, an increase of \$173 million above the 2020-enacted level.
- Public K12 education received \$54 billion in the COVID aid provisions. An additional \$4 billion is provided for a governors' discretionary fund, with \$2.75 billion set aside for private schools, and \$23 billion for higher education. Half of the higher education funds are mandated to be for student aid.

Effect on AFSCME Members: These funds will continue to support child care and public K12, investments in services AFSCME families rely on for their own families, as well as employment.

Infrastructure

- \$1 billion for National Infrastructure Investments (TIGER/BUILD), equal to the 2020-enacted level

Effect on AFSCME Members: These federal grants help state and local transportation agencies finance planning, construction, repair and maintenance for infrastructure projects, benefiting AFSCME members who work in those areas.

- \$2.765 billion for the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds

Effect on AFSCME Members: This program provides grants to states for drinking water systems and wastewater treatment systems, protects jobs, and prevents privatization.

Housing

- \$4.839 billion for the Public Housing Operating Fund formula allocation, a 7% increase of \$315 million. The bill provides flat funding of \$25 million for a needs-based allocation to Public Housing Authorities facing or at risk of financial shortfalls.
- \$2.765 billion for the Public Housing Capital Fund formula allocation, essentially flat-funding.
- The Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) was zeroed out again this year.

Effect on AFSCME Members: The increased funding for operating expenses will help provide stronger services and operations and thus benefit public housing residents and AFSCME members working in public housing.

Local Law Enforcement

- Grants to State and Local Law Enforcement – \$3.385 billion is provided, an increase of \$107 million above FY 2020. This includes \$484 million for Byrne JAG and \$386 million for the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Program.

Effect on AFSCME Members: COPS funding helps local law enforcement agencies hire and retain officers, preventing layoffs. The Byrne-JAG program funds local public safety initiatives and equipment, particularly safety equipment such as bulletproof vests.

For further information please contact the Federal Government Affairs Department at legislation@afscme.org

January 22, 2021

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