

Memorandum

From: Rick Spees, Jane Sargent and Jose Villalobos

To: Board of County Commissioners

CC: Phillip Drujak

Date: July 2, 2022

Subject: June 2022 Monthly Report

Appropriations Update:

On June 30th, the House finished marking up all twelve appropriations bills for Fiscal Year 2023. The bills are now ready to be considered on the House floor, which will happen in July. The House leadership plans to finish work on the bills by the August recess. As a standalone effort, the House action was very impressive. The fiscal year starts on October 1st. We are still three months away from that date. Could this be the year that Congress gets all the bills done before the next fiscal year starts? The year when Congress will not need to pass a Continuing Resolution (CR) to keep the government running after missing the fiscal year deadline? Maybe? NO.

As reported in previous reports, the parties are divided on the federal budget. The Democrats want to minimize the amount of increases for defense spending and significantly increase domestic spending. They also want to insert policy riders that the Republicans oppose. The Republicans want to spend less overall for the entire government. At the same time they want to significantly increase defense spending. Obviously that means they want to keep domestic spending level funded or with only a slight increase. Resolving these differences requires the leaders of both parties to work out a grand framework. And they tried to do this for several weeks. Unfortunately they were unable to reach an agreement. So the House leadership decided to proceed on its own.

Without an overall framework, the House bills were marked up with only the support of the Democrats. It is easy to pass legislation when only one party is involved. Thus the accomplishment referenced above—getting all twelve bills out of the House Appropriations Committee by June 30—is fine but basically irrelevant. Those versions of the bills will not pass the Senate and will not be enacted into law. At some point there will have to be a comprehensive agreement.

On the Senate side, the Democratic leadership is still holding out hope that an agreement can be reached. However their patience is wearing thin. They have announced that they will also start marking up the bills in the Senate Appropriations Committee in July with or without Republican help. They would do this for two reasons. First, they are hoping that starting the process will put enough pressure on the Republicans to come to the table. Second, they may decide that the Republicans are not really going to get serious until after the elections, when most people think the Republicans will take control of the House and maybe the Senate. In that case the budget bills become messaging tools—indicating to the voters what the Democratic priorities are on the budget. Then the Congress will pass a CR until after the elections when both parties will need to get the bills done.

If asked to make some predictions, here they are. The House will pass the bills on the House floor in July without Republican support. None of the bills will get done before the election and there will be a CR that will run until December. The only thing we can't predict is whether the Senate leadership will mark up the bills without Republican support or will wait to do anything until after the elections.

FY 2023 House Appropriations Bills:

As discussed above, the House Appropriations Committee made significant progress on the FY 2023 appropriations bills. The Committee marked up all 12 appropriations bills that make up the federal budget. They will be considered by the full House in July. The County made several programmatic and community project funding requests in the House bills. Below are highlights of those bills of interest to the County and local governments generally.

Commerce-Justice-Science Appropriations Bill Highlights:

Department of Justice

Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Programs: The House bill includes \$541 million for COPS programs, including \$277.4 million for COPS Hiring Grants. This above the FY 2022 level of \$511.7 million and \$246 million for COPS Hiring Grants, but below the President's budget request of \$651 million for COPS programs, including \$537 million for COPS Hiring Grants.

Byrne Justice Assistance Grants (JAG): The House bill includes \$716.9 million for the Byrne JAG program. Within the total amount proposed, there are several set-asides for other programs, including \$40 million for Project Safe Neighborhoods (\$20 million more than FY 2022). This also includes \$131.6 million for Community Project Funding. The President's budget requests \$533.5 million for the Byrne JAG program, not including earmarks. The FY 2022 level for Byrne JAG is \$674.5 million, which includes \$184.7 million for Community Project Funding so both the budget and the House bill increase the amount for the program.

State Criminal Alien Assistance Programs (SCAAP): The House bill includes \$234 million, the same as FY 2022, for SCAAP, which provides federal payments to state and local governments for the costs of incarcerating undocumented immigrants. The budget did not include funding for this program.

DNA Analysis Grants: The House bill includes \$168 million for these grants (\$21 million more than the President's budget and \$17 million more than FY 2022), including \$128 million for Debbie Smith DNA Backlog grants (\$16 million more than the budget request and \$8 million more than FY 2022) and \$20 million for State and Local Forensic Activities (\$1 million more than the budget request and \$5 million more than FY 2022).

Coverdell Forensic Science Grants: The House bill includes \$40 million for these grants, which is \$5 million more than the budget request and \$7 million more than FY 2022.

Opioid Initiative: The House bill includes \$460 million (\$42 million more than the budget request and \$45 million more than FY 2022) for programs to reduce opioid abuse authorized under the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA) of 2016. This includes \$200 million for the Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Program (COAP) (\$5 million more than the budget request and \$10 million more than FY 2022).

Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Programs: The bill includes \$410 million for juvenile justice programs, which is \$50 million more than FY 2022, but \$350 million less than the President's budget request.

Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Grants: The House bill includes \$642 million for Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) programs, which is \$67 million more than FY 2022, but \$358 million below the President's budget request.

Victims of Trafficking Grants: The House bill includes \$95 million for these grants, which is \$5 million more than the budget request and \$7 million more than FY 2022.

Bulletproof Vest grants: \$30 million (same as the budget request and FY 2022)

Body Worn Camera Partnership Program: \$35 million (same as the budget request and FY 2022)

Missing and Exploited Children Programs: \$107.5 million (\$12.5 million less than the budget request but \$8.5 million more than FY 2022) for these programs, including the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) program.

Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) Block Grants: \$40 million (same as the budget request and \$20 million more than FY 2022) for this program which aims to create safer neighborhoods through sustained reductions in gang violence and gun crime. The program is based on partnerships of federal, state and local agencies led by the U.S. Attorney in each federal judicial district.

Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Funds: The House bill includes a \$2.05 billion distribution from the Crime Victim Fund. VOCA funds are used to provide federal support to state and local programs that assist victims of crime. This is above the President's budget proposal of \$1.75 billion. However, this is below the FY 2022 VOCA distribution cap of \$2.6 billion and the FY 2021 cap of \$2.015 billion.

Miami Dade County Community Project Funding: The House bill includes \$3.75 million for MDPD for the Miami Dade Police Department Mobile Computing Upgrade under the COPS Technology account as requested by Congresswoman Salazar.

Department of Commerce

Economic Development Administration: The House bill includes \$445 million for Economic Development Assistance Programs (\$12.5 million more than the budget request and \$115 million more than FY 2022). This includes \$120.5 million for Public Works, \$36 million for Partnership Planning, and \$13 million for Technical Assistance grant programs.

Transportation-HUD Appropriations Bill Highlights:

Department of Housing and Urban Development

Community Development Block Grants (CDBG): The House bill includes \$3.3 billion (same as FY 2022) for the CDBG formula program, which is below the President's budget request of \$3.77 billion.

HOME: The House bill includes \$1.675 billion for the HOME Investment Partnerships program (\$275 million less than the budget request but \$175 million more than FY 2022)

Homeless Assistance Grants: \$3.604 billion for Homeless Assistance Grants (\$28 million more than the budget request and \$391 million above FY 2022)

Emergency Solutions Grants: \$290 million for the ESG program (same as the budget request and FY 2022)

Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS: \$600 million for HOPWA (\$145 million more than the budget request and \$105 million more than FY 2022)

Choice Neighborhoods: \$450 million (\$200 million more than the budget request and \$100 million more than FY 2022) for the Choice Neighborhood Initiative, which helps to revitalize underserved communities.

HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing: The House bill includes \$50 million for HUD-VASH (same as FY 2022). The budget request does not propose funding for new vouchers.

Public and Indian Housing: The House bill proposed \$31 billion for Tenant-Based Rental Assistance, which is \$1 billion less than the budget request but \$3.67 billion more than FY 2022. In FY 2021, the Public Housing Capital Fund and Public Housing Operating Fund were consolidated into the new Public Housing Fund. The bill includes \$8.73 billion for the Public Housing Fund (\$46.5 million less than the budget request and \$282 million more than FY 2022). Within this amount, \$65 million is provided for public housing emergency capital needs and not less than \$10 million of this amount is to be used for safety and security measures in public housing.

Miami Dade County Community Project Funding: The House bill includes the following CPF under HUD's Community Development Fund Account:

- \$4 million for the Miami-Dade County Public Housing and Community Development for the Sweetwater Affordable Housing project as requested by Congressman Diaz-Balart
- \$3 million for the Miami-Dade County Water and Sewer Department for the Miami-Dade County Septic to Sewer Project as requested by Congressman Diaz-Balart
- \$1.5 million for Miami-Dade County for the Connect to Protect – Assisting Property Owners to Convert from Septic Tank Systems to Sanitary Sewer as requested by Congressman Gimenez.

Department of Transportation

FTA Formula and Bus Grants: \$13.634 billion (same as the budget request but \$279 million more than FY 2022) for transit formula grants as authorized by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA).

FTA Transit Infrastructure Grants: The House bill includes \$646 million for transit infrastructure grants (\$446 million more than the budget request and \$142 million more than FY 2022), including \$200 million for bus and bus facilities competitive grants, \$75 million for Low-No-Emission Grants, \$50 million for Integrated Smart Mobility grants, \$2 million for bus testing, and \$267.4 million for Community Project Funding.

FTA Capital Investment Grants: \$3 billion for the New Starts/Small Starts program (\$162 million more than the budget request and \$764 million more than FY 2022)

USDOT National Infrastructure Investments (RAISE) Grants: The House bill includes \$775 million for another round of RAISE grants (formerly TIGER/BUILD grants). This is the same as FY 2022, but \$725 million less than the budget request.

Highways: The bill provides \$58.8 billion federal-aid highways, roads, tunnels and bridges consistent with the IIJA and the same as President's budget request. This is \$1.3 billion more than FY 2022.

Aviation: The bill includes \$18.7 billion for the Federal Aviation Administration (\$100 million less than the budget request and \$193 million more than FY 2022). This includes \$3.35 billion airport improvement grants and \$272.6 million for airport related Community Project Funding.

Labor-HHS-Education Bill Highlights:

Department of Health and Human Services

Ryan White HIV/AIDS Programs: The House bill provides \$2.695 billion (\$40 million more than budget request and \$200 million more than FY 2022) to provide HIV-related services.

Head Start: \$12.4 billion for Head Start (\$193.35 million more than the budget request and \$1.36 billion more than FY 2022)

Child Care: \$7.165 billion for Child Care and Development Block Grants (CCDBG) (\$396.7 million less than the budget request but \$1 billion more than FY 2022)

Preschool Development Grants: \$350 million (\$100 million less than the budget request and \$60 million more than FY 2022) to support States' efforts to expand or create high-quality pre-school systems for 4-year-olds from low- and moderate-income families.

Healthy Start: \$145 million for the Healthy Start program (same as the budget request and \$13.2 million more than FY 2022)

Older Americans Act Programs: \$2.86 billion for the Aging and Disability Services Programs (\$70 million less than the budget request and \$595 million more than FY 2022). This includes:

- \$450 million for Home and Community-Based Support Services
- \$1.26 billion for Senior Nutrition programs, which provides congregate meals and meals on wheels to needy seniors
- \$27.5 million for Preventive Health Services which fund activities that help senior remain healthy and avoid chronic diseases

- \$41.9 million for Protection of Vulnerable Older Americans for programs that provide grants to States for protection of vulnerable older Americans
- \$10 million for Falls Prevention grants that provide prevention tools in community settings
- \$12.4 million for the Voting Access for Individuals Disabilities program.

State Opioid Response Grants: \$1.775 billion for these grants authorized under the 21st Century Cures Act to combat the opioid epidemic (\$225 million less than the budget request and \$250 million more than FY 2022).

Mental Health Block Grants: \$1.36 billion for the MHBG (\$295 million less than the budget request but \$500 million more than FY 2022). The bill includes a 10 percent set-aside for evidence-based crisis care programs.

Department of Labor

Job Training: \$3.9 billion (\$186.6 less than the budget request and \$685 million more than FY 2022) for Training and Employment Services programs, which provide job training skills and assistance to low-skilled adults, dislocated workers, and low-income youth with barriers to employment. The bill includes \$150 million for Reentry Employment Opportunities, \$145 million for YouthBuild, \$10 million for the Veterans' Clean Energy Training Program, \$940 million for Adult Employment and Training Activities, and \$1.16 billion for formula grants to states to provide WIOA dislocated worker services.

Veterans Employment and Training: \$338.8 million (\$7.8 million more than the budget request and \$13.5 million more than FY 2022) to expand employment services to transitioning service members, veterans with disabilities, and their spouses and caregivers.

Department of Homeland Security

FEMA State and Local Programs: The bill includes the following for State and Local Programs:

- State Homeland Security Grant Program: \$520 million (below the budget request of \$616.2 million and the FY 2022 level of \$645 million)
- Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI): \$615 million (below the budget request of \$711.2 million and the FY 2022 level of \$740 million)
- Public Transportation Security Assistance, Railroad Security Assistance and Over-the-Road Bus Security Assistance: \$105 million (\$5 million above the budget request and the same as FY 2022)
- Port Security Grants: \$100 million (same as the budget request and FY 2022)
- Education, Training, and Exercises: \$312 million (same as the budget request and \$18.5 million above FY 2022)
- Firefighters Assistance Grants: \$370 million each for SAFER and Assistance to Firefighter Grants (AFG) (same as the budget request and \$10 million above FY 2022)

- Emergency Management Performance Grants: \$370 million (\$15 million more than the budget request and FY 2022)
- Emergency Food and Shelter Program: \$130 million (same as the budget request and FY 2022)
- FEMA Disaster Relief: \$19.945 billion for disaster relief to fund recent major disaster response and recovery activities (\$205 million more than the budget request and \$1.15 billion above FY 2022).

Customs and Border Protection (CBP): The bill includes \$15.74 billion, an increase of \$893.8 million above the FY 2022 enacted level and \$338.1 million above the request for CBP, including \$120 million for an additional 250 Customs officers, technicians and support staff, \$15 million for innovative technology, \$10 million for port of entry technology, and \$100 million for border technology.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE): \$8.4 billion for ICE, which is \$138 million for than FY 2022 and \$296.4 million above the budget request for immigration enforcement.

Transportation Security Administration (TSA): \$9.77 billion for TSA (\$1.28 billion more than FY 2022 and \$280 million below the request), which includes \$94.1 million to restore funding for TSA Security coverage at certain airport exit lanes.

Interior Appropriations Bill Highlights:

EPA, State and Tribal Assistance Grants: The bill provide \$5.2 billion for STAG grants, which provide funds for State, tribal and local governments for infrastructure grants to improve air and water quality and clean up contaminated sites and operate environmental programs. This includes funding for Community Project Funding including the following Miami-Dade County projects under the STAG, Clean Water State Revolving Fund:

- \$420,000 for the Miami-Dade County Stormwater Drainage Improvement project as requested by Congressman Diaz-Balart
- \$3,452,972 for the Miami-Dade County for Remediation of 127th Street Canal – Opa Locka project as requested by Congresswoman Wilson
- \$3,452,972 for Miami-Dade County for a Septic to Sewer Conversion Project – El Portal & Miami Shores as requested by Congresswoman Wilson.

Bipartisan Safer Communities Act:

Following a number of recent mass shootings, including the tragic school shooting in Uvalde, Texas, a group of bipartisan Senators started discussing the possibility of moving gun control legislation. In June, after weeks of negotiations, a bipartisan agreement was reached in the Senate on a gun violence prevention measure, the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act. The negotiations were led by Senators Chris Murphy (D-CT), John Cornyn (R-TX), Kyrsten Sinema

(D-AZ), and Thom Tillis (R-NC), and included a bipartisan group of 20 Senators. The package includes:

- **Support for State Crisis Intervention Orders:** Provides resources to states and tribes to create and administer laws that help ensure deadly weapons are kept out of the hands of individuals whom a court has determined to be a significant danger to themselves or others, consistent with state and federal due process and constitutional protections.
- **Investment in Children and Family Mental Health Services:** National expansion of community behavioral health center model; major investments to increase access to mental health and suicide prevention programs; and other support services available in the community, including crisis and trauma intervention and recovery.
- **Protections for Victims of Domestic Violence:** Convicted domestic violence abusers and individuals subject to domestic violence restraining orders are included in NICS, including those who have or have had a continuing relationship of a romantic or intimate nature.
- **Funding for School-Based Mental Health and Supportive Services:** Invests in programs to expand mental health and supportive services in schools, including: early identification and intervention programs and school based mental health and wrap-around services.
- **Funding for School Safety Resources:** Invests in programs to help institute safety measures in and around primary and secondary schools, support school violence prevention efforts and provide training to school personnel and students.
- **Clarification of Definition of Federally Licensed Firearms Dealer:** Cracks down on criminals who illegally evade licensing requirements.
- **Telehealth Investments:** Invests in programs that increase access to mental and behavioral health services for youth and families in crisis via telehealth.
- **Under 21 Enhanced Review Process:** For buyers under 21 years of age, requires an investigative period to review juvenile and mental health records, including checks with state databases and local law enforcement.
- **Penalties for Straw Purchasing:** Cracks down on criminals who illegally straw purchase and traffic guns.

The agreement was introduced on June 21st and was attached to another pending piece of legislation (S. 2938). The Senate passed the bill on June 23rd by a vote of 65 to 33, with all 50 Democrats and 15 Republicans voting in favor of the bill. The House passed the bill on June 24th, by a vote of 234 to 193 with all Democrats and only 14 Republicans voting for the bill. Congresswoman Salazar was the only Republican from Florida to vote in favor of the bill. President Biden signed the bill into law on June 25th. While critics of the legislation argue that more could have been done to curb gun violence, this is the first gun control legislation enacted into law in decades and an important step forward on this controversial issue.

Activities for July:

Congress is out of session for the July 4th recess. When they reconvene the House will be busy considering their versions of the FY 2023 appropriations bills. The House leadership would like to complete all of the bills before they break for the August recess on July 29th. The Senate Appropriations Committee has indicated they would like to start working on their bills in July, but that may be complicated by Chairman Patrick Leahy's recent health issues. Both chambers will be working on the annual defense authorization bill and continuing discussions over the America Competes Act addressing competitiveness with China. There will likely be ongoing discussions and attempts by Congressional Democrats to address the recent US Supreme Court ruling that overrules the *Roe* decision undoing a Constitutional right to abortion. The Administration and Congress will also continue closely tracking the situation between Russia and Ukraine and providing assistance and diplomatic support to help resolve the conflict. As always, we will continue to monitor and report on Presidential actions and other legislative developments of interest to the County.