

Conference Committee Approves Labor-HHS/Department of Defense FY 2019 Funding Measure (Minibus)

- ▶ The Conference Committee version of the Senate Labor-HHS funding measure, [H.R. 6157](#), part of a minibus with Department of Defense funding, was approved by the House 361-61 and signed by the President September 28. The Senate had approved it 93-7 on September 18.
- ▶ SAMHSA gets a \$584 million increase:
 - The Mental Health Block Grant is funded at the FY 2018 level of \$701.5 million. The increase passed by Senate is not included.
 - The Substance Prevention and Treatment block grant is funded at the FY 2018 level of 1.779 billion, but states will get \$1.5 billion in grants for opioid response (a \$500 million increase--\$50 million of which must go to Indian tribes or tribal organizations and 15 percent of which must be set-aside for states with the highest age-adjusted mortality rate related to opioid use disorders).
 - Suicide Lifeline gets a \$4.8 million increase to \$12 million, \$2 million more than the Senate proposed to increase funding in its version of the measure.

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- ▶ SAMHSA gets \$150 million, a \$50 million increase, for direct grants to Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs).
- ▶ There is an increase of \$10,000,000 for the National Child Traumatic Stress Initiative, to be allocated as:
 - \$4 million for mental health services for unaccompanied alien children, with a special focus on children separated from their parents;
 - \$3 million for mental health services for children in Puerto Rico;
 - \$1 million to expand access to mental health services for tribal children, and
 - \$2 million for training and dissemination of evidence-based treatments for trauma caused by violence.
- ▶ \$5 million for Assertive Community Treatment for individuals with serious mental illness (the Conference Committee rejects an additional \$5 million proposed by the Senate)

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- ▶ Congress provides \$89 million for the Medication-Assisted Treatment for Prescription Drug and Opioid Addiction program, a \$5 million increase.
 - Within this amount, \$10 million must be used for grants to Indian tribes, tribal organizations, or consortia.
- ▶ Funding for Mental Health Awareness Training is bumped up by \$1 million, to \$20,963,000.
- ▶ Funding for the National Strategy for Suicide Prevention is increased \$200,000 for the American Indian and Alaska Native program, and money for Tribal Behavioral Health Grants is increased by \$5 million, to \$20 million.
- ▶ Funding for Targeted Capacity Expansion under Substance Abuse Treatment is increased \$5 million to \$100,192,000.

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- ▶ An additional \$1 million, for a total of \$6 million, is provided for the Building Communities of Recover program.
- ▶ An addition \$250,000 is provided for Minority Fellowships in Substance Abuse Treatment, bringing total funding to \$4,789,000.
- ▶ An additional \$1 million is provided for the Sober Truth on Underage Drinking (STOP) Act program, bringing total funding to \$8 million.
- ▶ First Responder Training, funded at \$36 million in 2018, is zeroed out.
- ▶ Every other program is funded at 2018 levels.

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- ▶ The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) gets \$20 million for the establishment of three Rural Centers of Excellence on substance use disorders that are to provide scientific and technical assistance to county and State health departments and other entities seeking guidance on how to address the substance use disorder challenges in their community.
- ▶ Also under HRSA:
 - \$18 million within the \$75 million provided to Mental and Behavioral Health Education Training is designated for Graduate Psychology Education; and
 - of funds provided for Federally Qualified Health Centers for Fiscal Year 2019, not less than \$200 million must be obligated for improving quality of care or expanded service grants to support and enhance behavioral health, mental health, or substance use disorder services

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- ▶ There is also a \$425 million increase in funding at NIH for research on Alzheimer's disease, to a total of \$2.34 billion in Fiscal Year 2019.
- ▶ Also: an increase of \$1 million for telehealth in the schools and an increase of \$57.5 million for the NIMH brain initiative.
- ▶ More detailed information about what's included in the Labor-HHS funding is in the Conference Committee's [Joint Explanatory Statement](#).
- ▶ The Minibus also includes a Continuing Resolution until December 7 for agency funding not enacted before September 30.