

**Executive Summary**  
**Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2022**  
March 22, 2022

On March 15<sup>th</sup>, President Biden signed into law the Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22) omnibus spending bill, which funds the federal government for the current fiscal year. The bill previously passed the Senate on a bipartisan 68-31 vote, with Colorado Senators Michael Bennet and John Hickenlooper voting in favor of passage. This followed a bipartisan 361-69 House vote, with Colorado Representatives Diana DeGette (D-CO), Joe Neguse (D-CO), Doug Lamborn (R-CO), Jason Crow (D-CO), and Ed Perlmutter (D-CO) approving bill passage. Notably, passage of the omnibus spending bill comes nearly six months into the current fiscal year. The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2022 (H.R. 2471) can be read in full [here](#).

The omnibus bill provides \$1.5 trillion in discretionary funding across the 12 annual spending bills, including \$730 billion in non-defense spending, a \$46 billion or 6.7% increase over FY21 levels. The bill also provides \$782 billion in defense spending, a \$42 billion or 5.6% increase over FY21 levels. In addition to the 12 regular appropriations bills included in the omnibus, the package includes \$13.6 billion in support for Ukraine. The omnibus package includes modest funding increases for most federal agencies, including science and education programs. In most cases, the funding levels provided in the omnibus are far more modest than the levels called for by the higher education community as well as the levels proposed by the President and the House and Senate earlier this year. This is due to an agreement among congressional appropriators to increase defense spending levels, which ultimately paved the way to finalizing the new spending bills. Absent a deal on defense spending levels, lawmakers were expected to enact a year-long continuing resolution that would have locked in FY21 levels for the remainder of FY22.

Several of CU's national association partners have released statements on the omnibus bill, which express enthusiasm for the funding increases to research, development, and health accounts. Here are several such statements from our partner organizations:

- Association of American Universities [statement](#)
- Association of Public and Land-grant Universities [statement](#)
- Association of American Medical Colleges [statement](#)

For the first time in a decade, the federal funding bill includes community project funding, previously known as earmarks. CU received funding for three projects put forth by members of the Colorado congressional delegation, including \$950,000 for research equipment and facility upgrades at JILA, CU Boulder's joint research institute with NIST, \$1 million for a health care workforce initiative at CU Anschutz, and \$275,000 to expand CU Boulder's Rural Outreach Partnership program, which serves rural, low-income, and first-generation students across Colorado. Additionally, CU supported \$500,000 for a health training initiative at Children's Hospital Colorado at the CU Anschutz Medical Campus and \$950,000 for an equipment purchase at the Linda Crnic Institute for Down Syndrome, both of which were also successfully carried by the Colorado delegation.

Following are budget highlights for education, research, and health agencies of interest to CU. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Office of Government Relations, Outreach and Engagement.

#### **I. Department of Education (ED)**

- \$76.4 billion, a \$2.9 billion or 3.9% increase over FY21 levels.
- Increases the Pell Grant maximum award by \$400 to \$6,895, the highest increase to the maximum award in over a decade. CU has urged for doubling the maximum award to \$13,000.
- Eliminates \$1.05 billion for the Pell discretionary reserve as well as \$85 million from Pell mandatory funds.
- \$895 million for the Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant (SEOG) program, a \$15 million or 1.7% increase over FY21 levels.
- \$1.21 billion for the Federal Work Study program, a \$20 million or 1.7% increase over FY21 levels, including \$10.8 million for the Work Colleges program.
- \$1.137 billion for the TRIO program.
- \$378 million for the GEAR UP program.
- \$81.664 million for Title VI International Education programs.
- \$747.021 million for the Institute of Education Sciences.
- Over \$885 million in aid for institutional development at Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs), including Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs).
- Allows institutions to use HBCU and MSI funds provided through the higher education emergency relief fund (HEERF) for the acquisition of real property or construction directly related to preventing, preparing for and responding to coronavirus.

#### **II. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)**

- \$108.3 billion in base discretionary funding for HHS, a \$11.3 billion or 11.3% increase over FY21 levels.
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): \$8.401 billion, a \$582.4 million or 7.4% increase over FY21 levels. The legislation provides the CDC National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health Education and Research Centers with \$31 million, a \$1 million or 3.3% increase over FY21 levels.
- National Institutes of Health (NIH): \$45 billion for NIH, a \$2.25 billion or 5.2% increase over FY21 levels. This includes an increase of no less than 3.4% for each Institute or Center to broadly support biomedical and behavioral research.
- Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H): \$1 billion to establish ARPA-H within the HHS Office of the Secretary to advance high-risk, high-reward health research investigations and promote scientific breakthroughs.
- Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ): \$350.4 million for AHRQ, a \$12.4 million or 3.6% increase over FY21 levels.
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA): \$6.5 billion for SAMHSA programs, a \$530 million or 8.8% increase over FY21 levels.

**III. Department of Commerce**

- \$9.9 billion, a \$989 million or 11.09% increase over FY21 levels.
- National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST): \$1.2 billion, a \$166 million increase over FY21 levels. This includes \$850 million for Scientific and Technical Research Services, a \$62 million or 8% increase over FY21 levels, as well as \$206 million for Construction of Research Facilities, of which \$126 million is for extramural projects.
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA): \$5.88 billion, a \$447 million or 8.2% increase over FY21 levels. This includes \$599.5 million for the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, a \$29 million or 5% increase. The omnibus also provides \$200 million for climate research, including \$89 million for the Climate Laboratories and Cooperative Institutes, a \$13.5 million or 18% increase, along with \$12 million to provide actionable climate information to build community climate resilience through the national network of Regional Integrated Sciences & Assessments centers, and \$1.17 billion for the National Weather Service.

**IV. Department of Defense**

- \$728.5 billion in discretionary spending, a \$32.5 billion or 4.6% increase over FY21 levels.
- \$166.8 billion for military personnel, including full funding for a 2.7% military pay raise.
- \$119.2 billion for research, development, test and evaluation (RDT&E), a \$7.2 billion or 6.4% increase over FY21 levels.
- \$37.75 billion for medical and health care programs at the Department of Defense, including \$577.5 million for cancer research.
- \$3.87 billion for Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) research programs.

**V. Department of Agriculture**

- Food and Drug Administration (FDA): \$3.3 billion in discretionary funding, a \$102 million or 3.1% increase over FY21 levels. Total funding for the FDA, including revenue from user fees, is \$6.2 billion. This funding includes \$29 million to address the opioid crisis, medical supply chain surveillance, rare cancers, and increasing and strengthening in-person inspections of foreign drug manufacturers. This also includes \$50 million to accelerate medical product development as authorized in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Act, sponsored by Colorado Rep. Diana DeGette.

**VI. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)**

- \$112.2 billion for the VA, a \$7.8 billion or 7.4% increase over FY21 levels.
- \$97.5 billion for Veterans Medical Care, a \$7.5 billion or 8.3% increase over FY21 levels. This funding includes \$13.2 billion for mental health care, \$840.4 million for gender-specific care and programmatic efforts for women, and \$2.2 billion for homeless assistance programs. Also included in the Veterans Medical Care account is \$621 million for opioid abuse prevention, \$327.5 million for rural health initiatives, and \$84 million for whole health initiatives.
- \$111.3 billion in advance FY23 funding for veterans' medical care.

- \$882 million for medical and prosthetic research, a \$67 million or 8.2% increase over FY21 levels. This will fund approximately 2,563 total projects and support more than 1,700 researchers.
- \$2.2 billion for VA construction, a \$458 million or 26.2% increase over FY21 levels. This includes \$1.6 billion for major construction and \$553 million for minor construction.
- \$3.5 billion for the operating expenses of the Veterans Benefits Administration, a \$274 million or 8.4% increase over FY21 levels.

**VII. Department of Energy**

- \$44.9 billion, a \$2.9 billion or 6.9% increase over FY21 levels.
- \$7.475 billion for the Office of Science, a \$449 million or 6.3% increase over FY21 levels.
- \$450 million for the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Energy (ARPA-E), a \$23 million or 5.3% increase over FY21 levels.
- \$3.2 billion for the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, a \$338 million or 11.8% increase over FY21 levels.

**VIII. Department of the Interior**

- \$14.1 billion, a \$776 million or 5.8% increase over FY21 levels.
- \$1.41 billion for the Bureau of Land Management.
- \$1.65 billion for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, including \$277 million for ecological services, \$519 million for the National Wildlife Refuge System, and \$23 million for science support.
- \$1.39 billion for the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), a \$79 million or 6.02% increase over FY21 levels. This includes \$51.9 million for USGS's national network of Climate Adaptation Science Centers, a \$10.6 million or 26% increase over FY21.
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA): \$9.56 billion, a \$323 million or 3.4% increase over FY21 levels. EPA funding includes \$3.566 billion for EPA's core science and environmental program work, including \$587 million for geographic programs to aid in the restoration of nationally significant bodies of water and \$539 million for environmental compliance monitoring and enforcement activities and grants.
- \$5.48 billion for Wildland Fire Management, a \$211 million or 4% increase over FY21 levels, including a total of \$8 million for the Joint Fire Science Program, which is jointly funded by Interior and the USDA.
- \$3.7 billion for the Forest Service (non-fire), a \$239 million or 6.9% increase over FY21 levels.
- \$180 million each of the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities, a \$12.5 million or 7.4% increase over FY21 levels.

**IX. Department of Homeland Security**

- \$81.1 billion in discretionary resources, including \$77.9 billion for non-defense programs, \$3.2 billion for defense-related programs, and \$18.8 billion for major disaster response and recovery activities. Excluding offsetting collections and major disaster funding, this funding totals \$57.5 billion, a \$5.6 billion or 10.7% increase over FY21 levels.

- \$275 million to address U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) backlogs and delays.

**X. Department of State, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), and other development programs**

- \$250 million for the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), including \$35 million for partnerships between U.S. higher education institutions and those in developing countries to increase international higher education capacity.
- \$16 million for study abroad programs under the Benjamin Gilman International Scholarships program.
- \$275 million for the Fulbright Program.

**XI. Independent Agencies**

1. *National Science Foundation (NSF)*: \$8.84 billion, a \$351 million or 4.1% increase over FY21 levels. NSF funding includes \$7.2 billion, or a \$250 million increase, for NSF research and related activities, and \$1.01 billion, or a \$38 million increase, for education and human resources.
2. *National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)*: \$24 billion, a \$770 million or 3.3% increase over FY21 levels. NASA funding includes \$7.6 billion for the Science Mission Directorate, a \$313.4 million increase over FY21 levels, \$880.7 million for aeronautics research, a \$52 million increase over FY21 levels, and \$137 million for NASA's STEM engagement education initiatives, a \$10 million increase over FY21 levels, including \$54.5 million for the Space Grant Consortium.

**XII. Supplemental Policy Provisions**

1. *Reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)*: The reauthorization of VAWA includes a several provisions of interest to the higher education community, including the requirement that universities conduct a campus climate survey every two years on student experiences with domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, sexual harassment, and stalking using a survey instrument developed by the U.S. Department of Education. Moreover, the VAWA reauthorization includes broadening the authorization of grants to college and university campuses for the purposes of preventing and responding to violence as well as ensuring a trained campus workforce.

*Prepared by CU's Office of Government Relations, Outreach and Engagement*