

Appropriations Bill for FY 09 Provides Additional Funding for Programs Important to Women and Families

Background: Last year, President Bush's proposed budget (<http://www.nwlc.org/pdf/NWLCBudgetAnalysis.pdf>) for Fiscal Year 2009 (October 1, 2008 to September 30, 2009) proposed cuts in a wide range of services important to women and their families. Congress refused to make those cuts, resulting in a stalemate. The regular appropriations bills to fund domestic agencies were not enacted. Instead, Congress passed and President Bush signed a temporary measure that funded these services through March 6, 2009, generally at FY 08 levels. On March 6, Congress passed and President Obama signed a resolution extending that funding through March 11, 2009.

Congress has now passed legislation to fund government services for the rest of FY 09. (These appropriations are for regular program operations; increases for certain programs in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act are in addition to these funds.) In contrast to President Bush's budget, which cut funding for domestic programs, this appropriations bill increases funding above the FY 08 level for a number of services that are especially important to women and their families, including:

➤ Child care and early education

- Child Care and Development Block Grant: \$2.127 billion, an increase of \$65 million. Of the total, \$271.4 million is reserved for quality-related activities, including \$99.534 million to improve the quality of infant and toddler care, \$18.96 million for child care resource and referral and school-aged child care activities, \$1 million for the Child Care Aware toll-free hotline, and \$9.9 million for child care research, demonstration and evaluation activities.
- Head Start: \$7.1 billion, an increase of \$235 million, of which \$2 million is reserved for centers of excellence in early childhood education.
- Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Part C for Infants and Toddlers: \$374 million, an increase of \$3.7 million (total \$374.099 million).
- Child Care Access Means Parents in Schools: \$16 million, an increase of \$500,000.
- Teacher Quality Enhancement Grants: \$50 million, an increase of \$16.3 million.
- 21st Century Community Learning Centers: \$1.1 billion for afterschool programs, an increase of \$50 million.
- The following programs did not receive increases (funding levels for FY 09 are shown in parentheses): Even Start (\$66.5 million); preschool grants (\$439.4 million); Early Reading First (\$112.549 million).

➤ K-12 and Higher Education

- Title I Grants for Low-Income Children: \$15 billion, an increase of \$648 million, to help disadvantaged students improve academic achievement.
- After-School Programs: \$1.1 billion, an increase of \$50 million.

- Vocational Education: \$1.3 billion (no change from 2008 level).
- Federal TRIO and GEAR UP Programs: \$848 million, an increase of \$20 million, for TRIO, and \$313 million, an increase of \$10 million, for GEAR UP, to increase disadvantaged students' high school completion and enrollment in higher education by providing a variety of academic, counseling, and college preparatory services.
- Pell Grants: \$17.3 billion, an increase of \$3 billion, which reflects an increase in the maximum Pell Grant by \$119 to \$4,360. With additional mandatory funding under the College Cost Reduction Act, the maximum grant is \$4,850, increased \$800 since 2006.
- Student Financial Aid: \$1.9 billion (no significant change from 2008 level) for programs including Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants, Perkins loans, and the Leveraging Educational Assistance Partnerships.
- Office for Civil Rights: \$97 million, an increase of \$7 million.
- Women's Educational Equity: \$2.4 million, an increase of \$576,000, to promote education equity for women and girls through competitive grants for research, development and implementation of gender-equity policies and practices.

➤ **Employment**

- Department of Labor Women's Bureau and Civil Rights Center: \$10.4 million, an increase of \$950,000, for the Women's Bureau, and \$6.5 million, an increase of \$353,000, for the Civil Rights Center.
- Women in Apprenticeship grants: \$1 million, an increase of \$17,000, to prepare organizations to recruit, select, train, and retain women in apprenticeship and nontraditional occupations.
- Federal Contractor Equal Employment Opportunity Standards Enforcement: \$82 million, an increase of \$1.1 million, to ensure that employers doing business with the federal government comply with the equal employment opportunity and affirmative action provisions of their contracts.
- Dislocated Workers: \$1.2 billion (no change from 2008 level) to help train and place workers who have lost their jobs during the economic crisis.
- Job Corps: \$1.7 billion, an increase of \$73 million, to provide at-risk youth occupational and employment skills.
- State Unemployment Insurance Operations: \$2.8 billion, an increase of \$260 million, to help states process record numbers of unemployment claims.
- Employment Service: \$704 million, an increase of \$200,000 to help people find jobs.

➤ **Equal Employment Opportunity Commission**

- \$344 million, a \$15 million increase, to help reduce the backlog of claims.

➤ **Women's Health**

- Title X Family Planning Program: \$307.5 million, a \$7.5 million increase, to provide family planning and other preventive health services to low-income individuals.

- Maternal and Child Health Block Grant: \$662 million, a \$2.6 million increase, to provide prenatal and health services to two million women, as well as primary and preventive health care to more than 17 million children each year.
- WISEWOMAN Program: \$19.5 million, a nearly \$1 million increase, to provide cardiovascular screenings, interventions, and important health information to low-income, underinsured, and uninsured women.
- Safe Motherhood Program: \$44.8 million, a \$1.7 million increase, to promote women's health before, during, and after pregnancy.
- Substance Abuse Treatment for Pregnant and Parenting Women: \$16 million, a \$4.2 million increase, to provide comprehensive, family-based treatment for women and their children.
- Part D of the Ryan White CARE Act: \$76.8 million, a \$3.2 million increase, to provide coordinated, family-centered health care and support services to women, children, youth, and families living with HIV/AIDS.
- Gynecologic Cancer Education and Awareness Program (Johanna's Law): \$6.8 million, a \$325,000 increase, to support the national education campaign on gynecologic cancers.
- Office of Women's Health: \$33.7 million, a \$2.7 million increase, to support the Office on Women's Health in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), the government's champion and focal point for women's health issues.
- Community Based Abstinence Education: \$94.7 million, a \$14.3 million cut to a program that has proven to be incomplete and ineffective.
- Affordable Contraception: The appropriations bill also includes an important provision that would restore affordable contraception to the millions of women who depend on college and university health centers and certain safety net providers for their birth control.

➤ **Nutrition Assistance**

- Nutrition for Women, Infants and Children (WIC): \$6.9 billion, an increase of \$1.2 billion, to address rising need and rising food costs.
- Commodity Supplemental Food Program: \$160.4 million, an increase of \$20.7 million, to provide nutritious food to low-income seniors, pregnant and post-partum women, and young children.
- Senior Nutrition: \$810 million, an increase of \$52 million, to provide meals to seniors.

➤ **Violence Against Women**

- Over \$65 million in additional funds for services, including a \$15 million increase for Violence Against Women Act programs to prevent and prosecute violence against women and improve services to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking; a \$45 million increase for the Victims of Crime Act; and a \$5.1 million increase for the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act.

➤ **Housing Assistance**

- Section 8 vouchers: \$16.8 billion, an increase of \$341 million, for tenant-based vouchers to help low-income individuals and families afford housing, and \$7.1 billion, an increase of \$668 million, for project-based vouchers.
- Homeless Assistance Grants: \$1.7 billion, an increase of \$91 million, for housing and services for the homeless.

➤ **Legal Services**

- \$390 million, an increase of \$40 million, for provision of legal services to low-income people.

➤ **Helping Elderly and Low-Income Tax Filers**

- Grants to organizations offering tax counseling for the elderly: \$5.1 million, an increase of \$2.1 million.
- Clinics providing dispute-resolution services for low-income taxpayers: \$9.5 million, a \$500,000 increase.