

Office of Federal Relations

FY 2019 APPROPRIATIONS ANALYSIS

October 1, 2019

Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

Congress provided a total of \$90.5 billion for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). This represents an increase of \$2.3 billion above last year's enacted level.

National Institute of Health (NIH)

FY 2019: \$39,084 million
FY 2018: \$37,084 million
FY 2017: \$34,084 million

NIH is the nation's medical research agency. It provides essential research that improves public health, lengthens life and reduces illness and disability. Roughly half of the NIH-funded extramural research is performed by the nation's medical schools and teaching hospitals. The University of Florida received a total of \$188 million in NIH funding for fiscal year 2018. At UF Health, the University's academic health center, NIH research funding has grown for seven consecutive years. Growth of NIH-funded grants at UF increases our contribution to the medical discoveries that will lead to better health for all Floridians, and it also creates thousands of well-paying jobs in our local community. For FY16, NIH research directly and indirectly supported 379,471 jobs nationwide.

Congress provided \$39.1 billion for NIH, an increase of \$2 billion, or 5.4% above FY 2018. This is the fourth year in a row that NIH has received a substantial increase, after more than a decade of flat budgets and lost spending power. Overall NIH has increased by \$9 billion or 30% since 2016. Notable areas of specific increase are an additional \$425 million for Alzheimer's disease, a \$100 million increase for the cancer moonshot, and a \$86 million raise for the All of Us precision medicine student. The final bill did not include several proposed policy riders, including a failed effort to ban NIH from funding research using fetal tissue from elective abortions.

Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA)

FY 2019: \$642 million
FY 2018: \$626 million
FY 2017: \$539 million

HRSA, an agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, is the primary Federal agency for improving health care to people who are geographically isolated, economically or medically vulnerable. These programs ensure that patients in rural and underserved areas have access to the health professionals and care they need. This is important for the State of Florida which is projected to have a deficit of 3,060 full time equivalent (FTEs) health professionals in the next decade. HRSA funding helps attract and retain the faculty needed to train the next generation of health care workers. Since 2000, University of Florida has received \$95.9 million in HRSA funding, and about \$4 million in 2018.

Congress provided a \$25 million increase in HRSA for grants to medical schools at public universities to expand or support graduate education for physicians in states with the highest projected shortages of primary care providers.

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)

FY 2019: \$338 million
FY 2018: \$334 million
FY 2017: \$324 million

AHRQ develops evidence-based tools and resources that are used by organizations nationwide to improve the quality, safety, effectiveness, and efficiency of health care. AHRQ also helps fund research that provides comprehensive, science-based information on common, costly medical conditions and new health care technologies and strategies. The information improves health care and saves both patients and the government money. Since 2003, UF has received \$4.3 million in AHRQ funding. AHRQ grants allows UF to leverage its substantial infrastructure and experience to conduct meaningful data collection to provide guidance on how best to design and analyze quality of health care.

Congress provided modest increases for AHRQ. Within the total AHRQ funding, Congress included \$2 million to support grants to address diagnostic errors, which may include the establishment of Research Centers of Diagnostic Excellence to develop systems and new technology solutions to improve diagnostic safety and quality.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

The CDC's mission is to protect the nation's health by putting science into action; rapidly detecting and containing diseases, outbreaks, biosecurity threats and environmental hazards; and working with state and local health departments to strengthen communities and disease public health impact.

Congress provided a total of \$7.9 billion for the CDC, with most programs held flat or slight increases, and more substantial increases for opioid-related programs. The President's budget request had proposed decrease in funding for the CDC by \$26 million (-6%) from FY 2018 levels.