



Committee on Appropriations – Democrats

NO MONEY SHALL BE DRAWN FROM THE TREASURY BUT BY APPOINTMENT OF THE APPROPRIATIONS MADE BY LAW. US CONSTITUTION ARTICLE I, SECTION 9, CLAUSE 7



Congresswoman Hilda Lowey,
Ranking Democratic Member

2016 Budget Request: Key Proposed Changes in Discretionary Appropriations

President Obama's budget requests \$1.091 trillion in net discretionary budget authority, divided into \$561 billion in defense and \$530 billion in non-defense discretionary spending, and ending across-the-board "sequestration" budget cuts. The budget also requests a total of \$57.9 billion in Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) funding.

This document details key changes in the structure and levels of discretionary appropriations that President Obama's budget request proposes to make.

Agriculture

The President's 2016 budget requests \$21.638 billion in discretionary budget authority through the Agriculture Subcommittee, which is \$817 million more than the 2015 enacted level.

- The budget requests \$2.744 billion for the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), an increase of \$147 million over the 2015 enacted level. Most of the proposed increase is for food safety – training FDA inspectors, grants to states to strengthen their capacity, technical assistance to industry, and safety of imported food. There is also a request for a \$33 million increase in medical product safety, nearly half of which is for work to combat antibiotic resistant bacteria.
- The budget requests \$322 million for the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC), which is a 29% increase over the 2015 enacted level.
- The budget requests \$1.4 billion for Food for Peace (international food aid), slightly below the 2015 enacted level, and again asks for authority to use up to 25% for emergency interventions such as local or regional procurement, food vouchers or cash transfers. The budget requests level funding for McGovern-Dole, and language to allow purchase of local and regional commodities in that program.

Commerce, Justice, Science

The President's budget requests \$52.8 billion in net discretionary budget authority through the Commerce-Justice-Science Subcommittee, which is \$2.7 billion more than the 2015 enacted level.

- The President's budget requests an increase of 15.9% for the Department of Commerce over the 2015 enacted level, targeted mostly to four areas:
 - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), including increases for a future weather satellite, regional coastal resilience grants, climate and weather research, NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service, and a new ocean research vessel.
 - 2020 Census preparation, including research and testing to help control the ultimate cost of the 2020 Census.
 - Manufacturing, Innovation, and Economic Development: including public-private manufacturing research institutes, and laboratory research on cybersecurity and other technologies.
 - Export Growth and Export Security: including increases for more U.S. commercial service officers overseas and stepped-up efforts to increase foreign direct investment in the U.S.

- The President's budget requests solid increases for law enforcement and legal components of the Department of Justice, including:
 - \$134.7 million (38.8%) increase for immigration judges and activities to address the backlog of immigration cases awaiting adjudication.
 - \$162 million (17.2%) increase for General Legal Activities, including civil rights and cyber security.

- The President's budget requests a \$95.5 million increase for Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) and a \$43.5 million increase for the Office on Violence Against Women.

- The President's budget requests a \$379 million increase for the National Science Foundation (NSF), including increased investments in neuroscience, engineering for sustainability, and expanded STEM education.

Defense

The President's budget requests a total of \$576.8 billion in discretionary budget authority through the Defense Subcommittee, which is \$22.6 billion more than the 2015 enacted level. Within that total, the President's budget requests a \$35.7 billion increase in the base appropriations, and a \$13.1 billion reduction in Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) appropriations.

- The President's budget proposes a 1.3% increase for Basic Pay, and proposes several measures to stem the overall growth of personnel related expenses, including slowing the growth of the housing allowance, reducing the commissary operating subsidy, consolidating TRICARE plans, and increasing co-pays and deductibles.
- The President's budget requests a \$13.8 billion increase for procurement programs and a \$6.1 billion increase for research and development focused, enabling investments in new aircraft, weapons, and naval vessels; and improvements to existing assets.
- The President's \$50.9 billion request for OCO includes funding to support roughly 5,000 troops in theater; \$5.3 billion for Counter-ISIL operations (of this amount, \$1.3 billion supports training and equipping of the Iraqi military and training moderate Syrian opposition forces); \$3.8 billion for the Afghan Security Forces Fund; \$2.1 billion for the Counterterrorism Partnership Fund; and \$789 million for the European Reassurance Initiative.

Energy and Water Development.

The President's budget requests \$36.017 billion in budget authority through the Energy and Water Development Subcommittee, a 5% increase over the 2015 enacted level.

- The President's budget requests a 42% increase for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE), including large increases for Advanced Manufacturing, Geothermal, and Vehicle Technology.
- The President's budget requests an 83% increase for the Office of Electricity to address cyber-security and reliability concerns resulting from recent events including Hurricane Sandy; a 5.3% increase for the Department of Energy Office of Science; and a 16% increase for ARPA-E.

- The President's budget requests a \$723 million reduction for the Army Corps of Engineers. As in past years, the bulk of the reduction comes in the Construction account, \$467 million below the 2015 enacted level.

Financial Services

The President's budget requests \$24.2 billion through the Financial Services and General Government Subcommittee, which is a \$2.7 billion (12.5%) increase over the 2015 enacted level.

- The President's budget requests a \$222 million (14.8%) increase for the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) to protect financial consumers through hiring investigators and other new employees, and leveraging technology to help SEC keep pace with the markets it regulates.
- The President's budget requests a \$1.3 billion (12%) increase for the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to improve taxpayer services and implement legislative mandates.
- The President's budget requests a \$748.2 million (147%) increase for General Services Administration (GSA) construction.
- The President's budget requests a \$187 million (21.1%) reduction for the Small Business Administration (SBA), due in part to the Business Loan Program and the 504 certified development loan programs not requiring a subsidy, however there will not be a reduction in the number of businesses served.
- The President's budget includes a 1.3% pay raise for most federal employees, and includes permanent budget and legislative autonomy for the District of Columbia.

Homeland Security

The President's budget requests \$41.2 billion in net discretionary budget authority through the Homeland Security subcommittee, which is \$1.5 billion (3.8 percent) above the 2015 conference level.

** Congress has not yet enacted a full-year 2015 Homeland Security Appropriations bill due to the Republican majority's inclusion of poison-pill riders related to the President's executive actions on immigration.*

- The President's budget requests a \$802 million (6.4%) increase for Customs and Border Protection (CBP) for priorities including hiring, replacement of border fencing, care of unaccompanied children, and procurement of aircraft and border security technology.
- The President's budget requests a slight reduction in total funding for Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), but increases for immigration attorney positions, Alternatives to Detention, and investigations of human smuggling and trafficking.
- The President's budget requests a \$296.3 million (3%) reduction for the U.S. Coast Guard, which is largely attributable to last year's OCO funding and the winding down of the National Security Cutter procurement.
- The President's budget requests a \$273.3 million (16.4%) increase for the U.S. Secret Service, including for Presidential candidate nominee protection, new hiring of agents and Uniformed Division officers, and White House security improvements.
- The President's budget requests a \$157 million (10.5%) increase for the National Protection & Programs Directorate, including a \$65.1 million increase for cybersecurity.
- The President's budget requests a \$390.3 (3.6%) increase for FEMA. Within FEMA, the budget requests a \$178.6 million increase for flood mapping, and \$200 million increase for Pre-Disaster Mitigation, and a 11.8% cut to State and Local Grants.

Interior and Environment

The President's budget requests \$32.2 billion in discretionary budget authority through the Interior and Environment subcommittee. This is a \$2.16 billion (7.2%) increase over the 2015 enacted level.

- The President's budget requests \$8.59 billion for the Environmental Protection (EPA), which is \$451 million more than the 2015 enacted level and the first time since 2012 that the Administration has proposed an increase for EPA. This includes increases in climate change work, water infrastructure, categorical grants, and on-the-ground support for communities.

- The President's budget requests a significant increase of \$279 million for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund, which is offset by a large cut of \$333 million to the Clean Water State Revolving Fund.
- The President's budget again proposes to exempt 30% of firefighting funds from the discretionary budget cap and fund this portion of the fire budget through the existing disaster relief budget cap. This would increase budget authority available to the Interior Department and Forest Service.
- The President's budget requests \$326 in increases for the National Park Service for the Centennial Initiative, in addition to a \$50 million initiative to commemorate America's Civil Rights story.

Labor, HHS, Education

The President's budget requests \$169.2 billion in discretionary budget authority through the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education subcommittee, which is nearly \$11 billion (7%) more than the 2015 enacted level.

- The President's budget requests increases of \$300 million for job training programs, plus combined increases of \$500 million for employment services for unemployed workers, including \$400 million for employment services found at one-stop career centers.
- The President's budget requests increases of \$1.5 billion (18%) for Head Start and \$370 million (15%) for Child Care.
- The President's budget requests increases of \$1 billion (3%) for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and \$155 million (2.3%) for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
- The President's budget requests an overall increase of \$1.4 billion for State formula grants, including Title I, IDEA, and English Language Acquisition Grants to States.
- The President's budget requests an overall increase of \$1.6 billion for competitive grants in elementary and secondary education, including Preschool Development Grants, Promise Neighborhoods, Charter Schools and Investing in Innovation.

- The President's budget requests funding to support an estimated increase of \$140 in the maximum Pell Grant, and an overall increase of \$400 million for competitive grants in postsecondary education.

Legislative Branch

The President's budget requests \$3.5 billion through the Legislative Branch Subcommittee, which is \$172.3 million (5.16%) more than the 2016 level, not including Senate items.

- The President's budget requests a \$30.9 million (8.9%) increase for the Capitol Police to support continued staffing levels, staffing and travel for political conventions, and various IT and physical security projects.
- The President's budget requests flat funding for the House of Representatives, including Members' Representational Allowances.
- The President's budget requests a \$31 million (6%) increase for the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to restore the agency's staffing levels.

Military Construction, VA

The President's budget requests \$78.9 billion in total discretionary budget authority through the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs subcommittee, which is \$13.1 billion (10%) more than the 2015 enacted level.

- The President's budget requests FY2017 advance appropriations for the three medical accounts of \$63.2 billion, which is \$3.3 billion (6%) more than the 2016 advance appropriations enacted through the FY2015 appropriations bill. The President's budget also requests an additional \$1.3 billion for the medical accounts for 2016.
- The President's budget requests funding for 21,871 claims processors, which is an increase of 770 over the 2015 level.
- The President's budget requests a \$1.8 billion (29%) increase in military construction funding.

- The President's budget requests authority for another round of Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC).

State, Foreign Operations

President Obama's budget requests \$53.2 billion in total discretionary budget authority through the State and Foreign Operations subcommittee, which is \$3.97 billion (7%) more than the 2015 enacted level, not including 2015 emergency Ebola funding. That total includes \$46.2 billion in base funding (\$6.2 billion more than 2015) and \$7.0 billion in OCO funding (\$2.2 billion less than 2015). Additionally, the Administration has adopted a more expansive definition of OCO, to include combating ISIL in the Middle East, humanitarian efforts related to the Syria conflict, and countering Russian aggression.

- The President's budget requests \$3 billion for Development Assistance (\$493 million more than the 2015 enacted level) and \$6.1 billion in total Economic Support Funds (\$1.4 billion increase from total 2015 enacted level).
- The President's budget requests \$4.6 billion to support Treaty obligations to the United Nations and other organizations, of which \$2.93 billion is requested for assessed peacekeeping costs, an \$811 million increase from the 2015 enacted level.
- The President's budget requests \$410 million for Peace Corps, which is \$30.5 million more than the 2015 enacted level.
- The President's budget requests funding for several new initiatives, including expanded engagement in Central America to address poverty, violence, corruption, and transnational criminal organizations; a multilateral Green Climate Fund; and a regional fund to counter Russian aggression.

Transportation, HUD

The President's budget requests \$136.1 billion in total budgetary resources through the Transportation and Housing and Urban Development subcommittee, which is \$28.8 billion more than the 2015 enacted level. Of this total, \$55.7 billion is requested as discretionary budget authority, which is \$1.95 billion more than the 2015 enacted level.

- The President's budget requests significant increases for highway (increase of \$9.8 billion or 24%), transit (increase of \$7.5 billion or 69%), and rail (increase of \$3.4 billion or 208%) programs, and again proposes to shift these surface transportation programs to the mandatory side of the budget.
- The President's budget requests \$1.25 billion in mandatory funding for the TIGER program, which is \$750 million more than the 2015 enacted level.
- The President's budget requests an \$800 million increase for Tenant Based Section 8 Housing programs in order to replace vouchers lost due to sequestration and to pay for rising rent costs.
- The President's budget requests a \$200 million reduction in Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) funding and a \$150 million increase in HOME investment partnerships.