



FFIS Weekly Update–September 27, 2016

NEW RELEASES COMING FROM FFIS THIS WEEK

FFIS plans to release the following reports of interest to states:

- *A Budget Brief* describing the continuing resolution (CR) and its Zika provisions
- FY 2018 Medicaid matching rates
- Notice of a new Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) proposal that would consider state fiscal capacity when evaluating disaster assistance
- Index of State Economic Momentum (in *State Policy Reports*)

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

[Senate Considers Procedural Motion on CR, Additional Negotiations Likely](#) The Senate will vote today to allow consideration of the CR. Observers expect the vote to fail, as there is still disagreement over whether to include funding for Flint, Michigan. Negotiations will continue, and all reports indicate that Congress will avoid a shutdown.

The CR would keep the federal government operating until December 9, 2016. Discretionary programs would be funded at FY 2016 levels, subject to a -0.496% across-the-board rescission. The CR is part of a package that includes \$1.1 billion in supplemental funding for Zika response efforts and a full-year appropriation for Military Construction-Veterans Affairs (VA).

[House Bill Authorizes New Counterterrorism Grants](#) The House passed [H.R. 5859](#), the Community Counterterrorism Preparedness Act, which would authorize \$39 million in FYs 2017-2022 for the Major Metropolitan Area Counterterrorism Training and Exercise Grant Program. The program would address the most likely terrorist attack scenarios, including active shooters against major metropolitan areas. Eligible jurisdictions include those that are currently receiving, or have received, funding under the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI). The bill now moves to the Senate.

[House Passes Mobile Workforce Bill](#) The House passed H.R. 2315, the Mobile Workforce State Income Tax Simplification Act, which would address complexities regarding residents who live in one state but work in another. The bill is not expected to pass the Senate.

[House Committee Approves Juvenile Justice Reauthorization](#) The House passed the Supporting Youth Opportunity and Preventing Delinquency Act (H.R. 5963), to reauthorize and reform juvenile justice programs. The Senate Judiciary Committee passed a similar [bill](#) in December 2015.

[House Scheduled to Vote on WRDA](#) The House is scheduled to vote this week on H.R. 5303, the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA). Unlike the [Senate WRDA bill](#), passed on September 15, the

House version does not include emergency assistance for Flint, Michigan. See [FFIS Issue Brief 16-47](#) for more details.

[House Reauthorizes Mental Health Training Grants](#) The House passed legislation (H.R. 1877) to reauthorize the grants at \$15 million annually from FYs 2017-2021.

[House Approves Special Needs Medicaid Trust Bill](#) The House passed the Special Needs Trust Fairness and Medicaid Improvement Act (H.R. 670), which would make several changes to Medicaid:

- permit non-elderly individuals with disabilities to establish their own special needs trust without having to file a court petition
- extend access to tobacco cessation services to mothers of newborns
- eliminate federal matching funds for prescription drugs used for cosmetic purposes
- provide funding for the Medicaid Improvement Fund in FYs 2021-2022 to improve federal management of the program

COMMERCE

[Commerce Announces Suspension of Special Census Program](#) The Commerce Department published a notice announcing that it will suspend the Special Census Program for five years, beginning September 30, 2018, to accommodate the 2020 Decennial Census.

[EDA NPRM Would Implement Regional Innovation Program](#) The Economic Development Administration (EDA) published a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) to implement the Regional Innovation Program, as authorized by the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act.

EDUCATION

[ED Awards Magnet School Assistance Grants](#) The Department of Education (ED) awarded \$91 million to school districts in five states.

[ED Publishes Final Regulations Implementing ESSA Impact Aid Amendments](#) ED published final regulations amending the Impact Aid program, to comply with provisions in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

[ED Issues Guidance on Effective Educational Language Instruction Programs](#) ED released non-regulatory guidance to help states provide effective services to improve academic outcomes of English learners. ED also [awarded](#) \$22 million in National Professional Development Program grants to institutions of higher education (IHEs) to support educators of English learners.

[ED Awards AP Grants to States](#) ED awarded \$28.4 million in Advanced Placement (AP) grants to 41 states to help defray the costs of taking advanced placement tests for low-income students.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

[ACF Posts Child Welfare Information System Presentations](#) The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) [provided](#) detailed information and examples of cost allocation for the Comprehensive Child Welfare Information System (CCWIS). It also [posted](#) a presentation on the CCWIS transition period, which provides details on deadlines and state options.

[ACF Releases CSBG State Assessments](#) ACF posted results from its monitoring visits to ensure states are meeting Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) requirements.

[ACF Provides Guidance on TANF and Work-Study](#) ACF released information on how states can support postsecondary completion for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) recipients through funding work-study programs.

[HHS Announces Awards to Expand Behavioral Health Workforce](#) The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) awarded \$44.5 million in FY 2016 Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training program grants.

HOMELAND SECURITY

[FEMA Seeks Comment on Individual Assistance Disaster Declaration Evaluation Methods](#) FEMA is seeking comment on its proposed Individual Assistance disaster declarations factors guidance, which provides information regarding how FEMA proposes to evaluate the need for individual assistance.

[FEMA Seeks Comment on Public Assistance Program and Policy Guide](#) FEMA is seeking public comment on proposed revisions to its *Public Assistance Program and Policy Guide*.

[FEMA Awards Continuing Training Grants](#) FEMA awarded \$11.5 million in Homeland Security National Training Program Continuing Training grants to three institutions of higher education (IHEs) and the Center for Rural Development.

HOUSING

[HUD Notice Clarifies Section 8 Student Eligibility Requirements](#) The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) issued guidance clarifying the information that public housing agencies, owners, and managers are required to verify when determining whether a student's income alone should be used to determine Section 8 eligibility. The FY 2016 appropriations bill required that certain students enrolled at IHEs are ineligible for Section 8 assistance.

[HUD Final Rule Expands Equal Access to CPD Facilities](#) HUD published a final rule ensuring that recipients of community planning and development (CPD) funding provide equal access to transgender and gender non-conforming individuals.

JUSTICE

[DOJ, DOL Award Grants to Improve Reentry Outcomes](#) The Department of Justice (DOJ) awarded \$53 million in Second Chance grants to state, local, and tribal governments, and community organizations, to provide services to help reduce recidivism and provide reentry services. Meanwhile, the Department of Labor (DOL) awarded \$6.4 million to establish American Job Centers inside correctional facilities. DOJ also [awarded](#) \$4 million to 13 state and local jurisdictions to reduce recidivism among military veterans.

[DOJ Memo Describes Prescription Drug Strategy](#) DOJ released a strategy memo announcing the department's three-part strategy for addressing the prescription opioid and heroin epidemic. The memo identifies best practices and steps that the department plans to take.

[BJA Awards FY 2016 Prescription Drug Monitoring Program Grants](#) The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) awarded \$8.8 million to 19 state health and pharmacy departments to track and share prescription drug information.

[OJP Awards Science-Based Crime Reduction Strategies Grants](#) The Office of Justice Program (OJP) awarded \$34.5 million through nine separate programs for science-based approaches to criminal justice operations.

[OJP Awards Sexual Assault Kit Initiative Funding](#) OJP awarded \$38 million to help nine state, tribal, and local government agencies process sexual assault kits.

[BJA Awards Body-Worn Camera Policy and Implementation Program Funds](#) BJA awarded \$20 million to state, city, tribal, and municipal law enforcement agencies to establish and enhance law enforcement body-worn camera programs.

[BJA Awards Residential Substance Abuse Treatment of State Prisoners Program Funds](#) BJA awarded \$10.8 million to help 162 state, tribal, and local government agencies improve substance abuse treatment programs for incarcerated inmates.

LABOR

[DOL Awards FY 2016 Youthbuild Grants](#) DOL awarded \$80 million to non-profits in 35 states.

[ETA Issues Guidance on Supporting UI Beneficiary Postsecondary Education and Training](#) The Employment and Training Administration (ETA) published a letter encouraging the workforce system to support unemployment insurance (UI) beneficiaries who are seeking postsecondary education and training. The letter details steps that American Job Centers, state workforce agencies, and other components of the workforce system can take to ensure that beneficiaries receive assistance for training and education resources.

[States File Lawsuit Against Overtime Rule](#) Twenty-one states filed a lawsuit in federal district court against DOL's new overtime regulations, which raise the overtime eligibility income threshold for white-collar workers.

TRANSPORTATION

[DOT Releases Autonomous Vehicle Policy Guidance](#) The Department of Transportation (DOT) issued guidance related to autonomous vehicles. The guidance describes a model state policy and delineates state and federal regulatory responsibilities.

TREASURY

[CDFI Awards Affordable Housing Grants](#) The Treasury Department's Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) fund awarded \$92 million to institutions and non-profit housing organizations in 37 states to develop affordable housing and facilities in low-income communities.