



# NCAI BROADCAST

NEWS & UPDATES FOR INDIAN COUNTRY

## ***OMNIBUS RELEASED: NEW SPENDING FOR AGENCIES AND TRIBAL PROGRAMS***

On Tuesday evening, House and Senate appropriators released the FY 2015 Omnibus Appropriations bill (HR 83), which includes appropriations legislation and funding for 11 of the 12 spending bills through the end of the fiscal year, September 30, 2015. To avoid a shutdown, Congress must pass a spending measure by Thursday, December 11th when the current continuing resolution (PL 113-164) expires. The Omnibus bill provides line-by-line guidance for nearly all government agencies, although it provides a temporary Continuing Resolution for the Department of Homeland Security through Feb. 27.

The bill follows all the terms set by the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 (the Ryan-Murray Agreement), providing a total of \$1.013 trillion for the operation of the federal government, and meeting the \$521 billion defense and \$492 billion non-defense budget caps.

### **Outlook**

Appropriators filed the bill Tuesday evening, with a vote in the House most likely to occur on Thursday. GOP leaders in the House are expected to file a two- or three-day continuing resolution in order to allow some extra time for bill processing and planning in the Senate. Floor consideration in that chamber could extend through the weekend.

### **Implications for Indian Country**

Many programs that benefit Indian Country are included in the 1,600 page package. Some highlights from the Interior-Environment bill are below.

The Indian Health Service would receive a \$207.9 million increase above the FY 2014 enacted level. This constitutes a 4.7 percent increase over the FY14 enacted amount for IHS. Included in the overall IHS budget is \$662.9 million for IHS contract support costs (CSC), an increase of \$75 million for CSC over last year which will meet the FY15 amount as well as repay the other budget lines which were reprogrammed to cover the FY14 CSC shortfall. NCAI and tribes passed a [resolution](#) calling for funding for CSC without reductions to program services. Purchased and referred care would increase by \$35.5 million to \$914 million. Attached [here is the IHS section](#) of the Interior explanatory statement.

Interior Appropriations Bill	IHS	Δ FY15-14	Δ FY15-14 %
FY14 Enacted	4,434,515		
FY15 Pres. Budget	4,634,177	199,662	4.5%
FY15 House Draft	4,642,381	207,866	4.7%
FY15 Senate Draft	4,545,749	111,234	2.5%
FY15 Omnibus	4,642,381	207,866	4.7%

The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) would receive a \$70.2 million increase, which would provide 2.8 percent more than the FY14 enacted level. Attached [here is the BIA section](#) of the Interior explanatory statement. The increases over last year include:

- \$2 million for **Roads Maintenance** (for a total of \$26 million)
- An additional \$5.1 million for **Social Services** and \$4.7 million for **Indian Child Welfare Act** funding
- \$2 million for the development and operation of **tribal departments** or divisions of education as authorized in 25 U.S.C. 2020
- Additional \$1 million above the President's Budget to provide training in Indian country to carry out the new provisions in the **Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act** of 2013.
- The agreement includes \$20.2 million for **school replacement**. The amount for school replacement completes the funding requirements for the school construction project started in fiscal year 2014 and covers design costs for the final two schools on the 2004 priority list. The Bureau is directed to publish a new list in time for the fiscal year 2016 funding cycle.

#### Other Explanatory Text in the Interior Section

Tribal Law and Order - The Indian Law and Order Commission's November 2013 report notes that Federal investment in tribal justice for Public Law 83-280 States has been more limited than elsewhere in Indian country. Within 180 days of enactment of this Act, the Bureau, in coordination with the Department of Justice, is directed to report to the House and Senate committees of jurisdiction on the budgetary needs of tribal courts in these States.

Education - The agreement includes bill language providing the Secretary with the authority to approve satellite locations of existing BIE schools if a Tribe can demonstrate that the establishment of such locations would provide comparable levels of education as are being offered at such existing BIE schools, and would not significantly increase costs to the Federal Government. The intent is for this authority to be exercised only in extraordinary circumstances to provide Tribes with additional flexibility regarding where students are educated without compromising how they are educated, and to significantly reduce the hardship and expense of transporting students over long distances, all without unduly

increasing costs that would otherwise unfairly come at the expense of other schools in the BIE system.

In order to be successful, the Administration's emphasis on education must be complemented by efforts to improve interagency coordination for the multiplicity of programs that affect the wellbeing of Native American children. In addition to education, these include healthcare, social services, child welfare and juvenile justice programs. It is recommended that the Bureau, working in concert with other affected Federal agencies, examine ways to support such a cross-cutting coordination effort, including the establishment of a commission on Native American children.

Interior Appropriations Bill	BIA, BIE	Δ FY15-14	Δ FY15-14 %
FY14 Enacted	2,531,273		
FY15 Pres. Budget	2,564,890	33,617	1.3%
FY15 House Draft	2,644,966	113,693	4.5%
FY15 Senate Draft	2,559,548	28,275	1.1%
FY15 Omnibus	2,601,498	70,225	2.8%

### Some Changes in Other Divisions of the Omnibus

#### Department of Energy

- The Office of Indian Energy would be funded at \$16 million under Departmental Administration, not in a new account as proposed in the President's Budget.

#### Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) Fund

- The agreement supports community development in underserved areas, including in Tribal nations, by providing \$231 million for the CDFI Fund, \$5 million more than the FY 2014 enacted level. The agreement provides \$15 million for CDFIs that benefit native communities and waives match requirements for both native and small CDFIs that may still be suffering from the impacts of the recent recession and in need of additional assistance.

#### Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

- HUD-VASH: The Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) shall set aside an amount for a demonstration of the HUD-Veterans Affairs Supporting Housing (HUD-VASH) Program. This program enables Indian tribes to be eligible to receive funding to address homelessness among Native American veterans.

This analysis does not cover every division included in the Omnibus, but the links to the other bills are included for review. When reading through the Omnibus, the explanatory statement

is relative to the FY 2015 budget request. If not mentioned, the request is the expectation.

**Review the Explanatory Text for Other Divisions in the Omnibus**

**Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA, and Related Agencies**

**Commerce, Justice, Science**

**Interior, Environment**

**Labor-HHS-Education**

**Transportation-HUD**

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