

ALCALDE & FAY

GOVERNMENT & PUBLIC AFFAIRS CONSULTANTS

FRESNO COUNTY FEDERAL PRIORITIES UPDATE



FY2018 FEDERAL APPROPRIATIONS UPDATE

- Congressional appropriators reached a deal on a \$1.3 trillion bipartisan spending package on March 23rd to incorporate the 12 annual appropriations bills into one “Omnibus” spending bill.
- Omnibus raises funding for domestic programs by \$128 billion and defense budgets by \$160 billion.
- Fortunately, the majority of programs of greatest interest to Fresno were raised from last year in the FY ‘18 Omnibus (see next page).
- Now that federal agencies are funded through September 30th, the Notice of Funding Opportunities are being released from agencies so we will work with the County on grant opportunities as they are rolled out.



FY2018 OMNIBUS FUNDING LEVELS FOR KEY FEDERAL PROGRAMS

Program/Agency	FY2018 Omnibus Funding Levels
Payments in Lieu of Taxes	\$530 million, up from \$396.9 in FY2017
USDA Tree Assistance Program	\$15 million, up from \$0 in FY2017
U.S. Forest Service Forest Health Management Program	\$335.525 million, up from \$228.923 in FY2017
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program	\$74,013,499,000, down from \$78.478 billion in FY2017
Community Development Block Grants	\$3.3 billion, up from \$3 billion in FY2017
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration	\$5.16 billion, up from \$3.747 billion in FY2017
Office of Violence Against Women	\$492 million, up from \$481.5 million in FY2017
HOME Investments Partnerships Program	\$1.4 billion, up from \$948 million in FY2017
Economic Development Administration	\$301.5 million, up from \$276 million in FY2017
Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS)	\$275.5 million, up from \$221.5 million FY2017
State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP)	\$240 million, up from \$210 million in FY2017
Opioid Funding	\$447.5 million for several DOJ programs aimed at combating the opioid epidemic, up from \$148 million in FY2017; The State Opioid Response Grants program is provided \$1 billion t
HUD Community Housing and Development	\$7.7 billion, up from \$6.834 billion in FY2017



FY2019 APPROPRIATIONS UPDATE

- FY2019 Appropriations process is underway. We have worked with County staff to submit top federal program funding priorities to Reps. David Valadao and Jim Costa, and Senators Dianne Feinstein and Kamala Harris. (Other members of the delegation do not accept funding requests.) Some of the programs include:
 - Payment in Lieu of Taxes
 - State Criminal Alien Assistance Program
 - Office of Violence Against Women
 - Community Development Block Grants
 - HOME Investment Partnerships
- Congressional leaders are considering rolling back the budget cap increases they approved in February due to fiscal concerns which could greatly affect the FY2019 appropriations negotiations as there could be big cuts to programs that legislators thought were okay. Leader McConnell said that would probably not be possible in the Senate.
- We continue to monitor and advocate for Fresno on the FY2019 appropriations, and engage both the members and their staffs on the County's behalf.



ADDITIONAL FEDERAL ISSUES

1. *PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES*

- Despite initial concern PILT would be cut in FY2018, it received a \$130 million increase in funding.
- Advocating in support of appropriations language to extend the authorization of mandatory funding of the PILT program.

2. *FRESNO WATER ISSUES*

- Assisting the County with meetings in DC regarding the Temperance Flat project, as needed.

3. *TREE MORTALITY FUNDING*

- U.S.D.A.'s Tree Assistance Program makes payments to tree growers for losses in excess of 15% due to natural disasters.



ADDITIONAL FEDERAL ISSUES

4. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (DHHS) PENSION ISSUE

- We are working with County, their lawyers, and Rep. Nunes and the Ways and Means Committee to try to help the County in its effort to negate the retroactive penalties being assessed due to the refinancing of the pension obligations bonds refinanced in 2002.

5. BLUE HILLS DISPOSAL ISSUE

- Reviewing the feasibility of a legislative fix to mitigate potential Blue Hills disposal site costs.

6. SANCTUARY CITIES

- In early March a federal judge denied California's request to seek an injunction to prevent DOJ from withholding grant funding if an entity doesn't comply with federal laws. DOJ is currently suing California over three sanctuary-city related laws passed last year, challenging the legality of these policies.
- Fresno was not listed in DOJ's recent letters seeking more information from localities. While technically DOJ can withhold grant funds if compliance is not confirmed, Fresno doesn't appear to be affected right now. Following issue.



ADDITIONAL FEDERAL ISSUES

7. *FARM BILL*

- In the Farm Bill we will advocate for expanded crop insurance funding with a particular focus on the Tree Assistance Program.
- Congress is supposed to introduce the 2018 farm bill on April 18th. There is speculation it will include \$20 billion in cuts and add work requirements to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).
- The introduced bill is expected to be far more conservative than the final legislation. We will consult with the County to advocate for Fresno's priorities to be included.

