



FEDERAL FUNDING/ CAEAR COALITION UPDATE

R. Lee Jewell

AGENDA

1. Definitions

2. Public Policy Updates –
NASTAD (National Alliance of
State & Territorial AIDS Directors)

3. CAEAR Coalition Hill Visits

DEFINITIONS



Appropriations: Legislative acts (laws) that provide the legal basis for government spending.



<https://youtu.be/J2PZ3ga633U?si=NdX0Ov1mpHakqNDK>



C.R. (Continuing Resolution): An act of Congress that provided budget authority to continue government operations when Congress and the President have not approved an annual appropriation bill on or before Oct. 1st

DEFINITIONS

Mandatory Spending aka Direct Spending or Entitlement Spending: is Government expenditures funded by existing laws and that don't require annual appropriations legislation. Examples include Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid.

Discretionary Spending: Government Spending that must be approved by Congress and the President. Over half of discretionary funding goes to national defense and is often considered entirely separate from other areas of discretionary funding. Non-defense discretionary funding includes social services programs (including HIV funding), transportation, and housing.

Supplemental Spending: Appropriations enacted after regular annual appropriations, when the need for funds is too urgent to wait for the next regular appropriations. An example of supplement fundings are the appropriations related to COVID-19 in 2020.

US Federal Budget Process
101 (**video**):

https://youtu.be/v67UoLRuH_c?si=l6o2HTJeGMLNRVYT

U.S. Federal Budget Process 101



DEFINITIONS

The Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program (RWHAP): is a federal program that provides funding for HIV/AIDS care and treatment services for low-income, uninsured, and underinsured individuals in the United States. Payer of last resort. Congress passed the Ryan White CARE Act in 1990.

Energy and Commerce Committee: The Congressional Committees in the House and Senate that oversees funding including Health Care (incl. mental health and substance abuse), Health Insurance (incl. Medicare, Medicaid, and Ryan White).

CAEAR Coalition (caear.org): Communities Advocating for emergency AIDS Relief. The CAEAR Coalition was formed in 1991 in response to the passage of the Ryan White CARE Act. For over 30 years, CAEAR has advocated for and collaborated with federal partners, impacted communities, administrators, and people with HIV to maximize the allocation and use of federal funding to address local jurisdictional needs. In recent years, the CAEAR Coalition has added advocating for the **Ending the HIV Epidemic (EHE) Initiative** and **supporting EHE jurisdictions** in implementing this important new funding source. The CAEAR Coalition also works to ensure the preservation of the **340B Drug Pricing Program**.

NASTAD UPDATES

FY2026 Appropriations & Budget Reconciliation

On April 10, the House of Representatives approved a Senate-backed budget resolution, unlocking the budget reconciliation process for Fiscal Year 2026 (FY2026). Congressional Republicans will now leverage reconciliation to draft a landmark spending package that advances the Trump Administration's policy priorities via a simple majority, including tax cuts for certain earners, increased defense spending, and scaling up immigration enforcement. The Republican Congressional caucus is aiming to pass the spending package quickly, but negotiations on the budget resolution sidestepped bicameral disagreements on spending and policy priorities, which could delay the approval of a final package until an agreement is reached. Democrats will have limited opportunities to block the reconciliation package if the Republican caucus is able to build consensus for a single, identical bill in both chambers.

NASTAD UPDATES

House Energy & Commerce Committee Holds Staff Briefing on HHS Changes

On April 11, health officials from the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) [briefed House Energy & Commerce \(E&C\) Committee staff](#) on the agency's sprawling [reorganization and reduction in force](#) (RIF) plans that went into effect on April 1. E&C Democrats [urged Chair Guthrie](#) (R-KY-02) to hold a committee-level hearing and invite HHS Secretary Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., but Republicans have been reluctant to publicly pressure the HHS Secretary to attend. On April 1, the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Chair and Ranking Member [invited RFK to testify](#) at a hearing before the Committee on April 10, but the Secretary did not accept the invitation and has yet to confirm whether he would participate in a future HELP Committee hearing.

NASTAD UPDATES

OMB Budget Document Reveals Deep Cuts Planned for FY2026

On April 17, a draft copy of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) FY2026 Discretionary Budget passback became public, which details the Administration's plans to further reorganize HHS and cut about one third of its discretionary budget. If passed by Congress, the budget would dramatically restructure offices and operating divisions across HHS and eliminate many programs, including the CDC Division of HIV Prevention, Ending the Epidemic funding across the government, all funding for Part F of the Ryan White/HIV AIDS Program, Minority AIDS Initiative Funding, and a significant amount of SAMHSA Substance Abuse Treatment Programs of National and Regional Significance. In addition, the budget would create a block grant structure for Viral Hepatitis, Sexually Transmitted Infections, Tuberculosis, and Opioid and Infectious Diseases funding.

Lastly, the document provides more details on programs that will be coordinated under the new HHS entity, the Administration for Health America (AHA), including an HIV/AIDS Branch. The HIV/AIDS Branch will contain the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Parts A through D at level funding and some funding for the Office of Infectious Disease and HIV/AIDS Policy, which was formerly under the Office of the Assistant Secretary. There is no funding for HIV prevention included in this branch.

CAEAR COALITION HILL VISITS SCHEDULE MARCH 2025

Monday, March 24

1. Welcome
2. Federal Policy Update – Arent Fox Schiff LLC
3. Membership Update – Bill Blum
4. Discussion: Ryan White Program and EHE – Ernest Hopkins
5. CAEAR Coalition Business – Bill Blum
 - Strategic Partnership with NACCHO
 - Strategic Plan Implementation
6. Prepare for Hill Visits

CAEAR COALITION HILL VISITS SCHEDULE MARCH 2025

Tuesday, March 24

National Visits (CAEAR Leadership) scheduled: 5 - scheduled by
Peggy Meehan

California Delegation Visits scheduled: 4 - scheduled by R. Lee Jewell
(see handout for details)

- Description of typical California Delegation Visit (Lee)
- Description of typical CAEAR Leadership Visit (Bill)

QUESTIONS?

