

Hill Watch: Funding Process Delayed Again

Series of CRs pushes deadline into January

Congress Extends Self-Imposed Deadline on Funding

On Dec. 8, 2017 the stop-gap funding measure known as a continuing resolution (“CR”), passed by Congress a few months prior, was due to run out. This CR flat funded the federal government for a few additional months past the end of the fiscal year. On Dec. 7, 2017 Congress passed another short-term CR to extend the deadline until Dec. 22, 2017. When this deadline approached, they passed another CR which will extend the funding for the government through until Jan. 19, 2018.

These CRs have all funded the government at a flat rate – meaning programs are operating on the same level as their budgets from last year allowed. For a final funding bill, those numbers may change. We already have a good picture of where the House and Senate will come down during negotiations on our core programs. Here are the proposed numbers in both houses of Congress, as compared to the numbers of the President’s budget request of several months ago:

	FY 2017	President’s Request	House Proposed	Senate Proposed
Grant and Per Diem	\$257 m	\$257 m	\$257 m	\$257 m
Supportive Services for Veteran Families	\$320 m	\$320 m	\$320 m	\$340 m
HUD-VA Supportive Housing	\$40 m (~5,500 vouchers)	\$0	\$0	\$40 m (~5,500 vouchers)
Homeless Veteran Reintegration Program	\$45 m	\$45 m	\$45 m	\$47.54 m

NCHV supports the Senate proposed numbers in every case. The need for more HUD-VASH vouchers is seen in many of the communities you work in, especially when it comes to the creation of new affordable housing through project basing of these vouchers. The SSVF program is in need of an infusion of funds to the tune of \$400 m this year in order to prevent the expiration of the 2015 surge grants, but the additional funds seen in the Senate numbers will go a long way towards preventing that expiration in many communities. Likewise, the Senate numbers for HVRP are not perfect – NCHV supports, at the minimum, funding that program at its fully authorized level of \$50 million.

This will come down to negotiations between the House and Senate. It is imperative that we all encourage Congress to accept the numbers proposed by the Senate committee. Though the current opinion in DC is that the final bill will be in January, NCHV cannot predict exactly when the final measure will be written, agreed to, or passed. It is therefore imperative that we are all calling our representatives *now* before it is too late.

NCHV will be there to update you as these events unfold. Stay tuned to these pages, and to our eNewsletters and website, to make sure you are up to date on what is happening on the Hill.