



Federal Mental Health Funding for FY 2010 August 2009

ISSUE: Congress should act to protect access to vital health and mental health services as they finalize the budget for Fiscal Year 2010 (FY 2010). The House has approved its version of the Labor-Health and Human Services-Education and related agencies appropriations bill, H.R. 3293 which will fund discretionary health programs. The Senate version is pending a vote in that chamber.

- The Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS) is part of the Department of Health and Human Services' Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). CMHS funding provides for vital programs including: suicide prevention, homelessness prevention, jail diversion for people with mental illness, state block grants, services for children with serious emotional disorders, mental health services for the elderly and Minority Fellowship Training funding. The Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT) also under SAMHSA provides millions in state block grant funds for the prevention and treatment of substance use disorders.
- NIH: In March, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act directed \$8.2 billion to the NIH—\$700 million of which is directed to capitalize on promising science and new grants at the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), the National Institute of Drug Abuse (NIDA), and the National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA). The APA applauds the inclusion of NIH is well positioned to fund the best science in pursuit of improving the length and the quality of the lives of our citizens, while at the same time stimulating the economy. NIH conducts and supports outstanding biomedical and behavioral research, through more than 3,000 institutions across the country—institutions that have a direct impact upon the local economies in their towns, cities, and states.

APA POSITION:

The APA is grateful to both the House and Senate Appropriations Committees for their respective votes on the Omnibus Appropriations bill earlier this year which provided an influx of funds for biomedical and behavioral research at the NIH.

As Congress moves closer to funding federal programs in 2010, Congress should ensure that people living with mental illnesses and substance use disorders—including seniors, children, and other vulnerable groups – have access to the care they need and vigorously fund and support research into the causes of mental illnesses and substance use disorders.

The APA supports the House passed bill, H.R. 3293 which would increase funding levels for such vital programs as CMHS' Minority Fellowship Training program, children's system of care grant programs, and programs to reduce homelessness among people with mental illnesses.