



2009 Omnibus Appropriations Bill

A Summary of Key Spending Provisions for Fiscal Year 2009

By Helen Eisner and Varina Winder ¹
March 13, 2009

SUMMARY

On March 11, President Obama signed omnibus appropriations legislation into law that provided funding for most federal programs through the end of the current fiscal year, which ends September 30. The omnibus package contains funding increases for many programs that are relevant to the membership of the Alliance and UNCA, including the 21st Century Community Learning Center (21st CCLC) program, the Adoption Incentives Program, and the Public Housing Operations Fund. However, additional programs received appropriations increases that over time do not keep pace with inflation.

BACKGROUND

In the lead up to the 2008 presidential election, progress on the fiscal year 2009 budget appropriations process was stalled by partisan dissension. With the Democratic leadership aware that they had a chance to control both Congress and the White House after the election, the leadership postponed action on the budget until 2009. As a result, only three appropriations bills – Defense, Veterans Affairs, and Homeland Security—passed as a part of the normal appropriations process. Each fiscal year begins on October 1 and ends on September 30. The outstanding nine appropriations bills were funded through a continuing resolution (CR), which maintained government funding at FY 2008 levels through March 6, 2009. These nine bills include the labor, health and human services, education, appropriations bill, which funds the majority of programs of interest to UNCA/Alliance members.

Congress again took up fiscal year 2009 appropriations early in the term of the new 111th Congress with the expectation that the continuing resolution would expire on March 6. The duration of the CR was eventually extended until March 11. On February 24, the House passed a \$410 billion omnibus spending measure for fiscal year 2009 (H.R. 1105), which encompasses all nine remaining appropriations bills.² After vocal debate about earmarks and other amendments,

¹ For more information, contact Helen Eisner, Policy Analyst, at (202) 429-0400 x21, heisner@alliance1.org or heisner@unca.org or Varina Winder, Policy Analyst, at (202) 439-0400 x16, vwinder@alliance1.org or vwinder@unca.org .

² David Clarke and Paul M. Krawzak, "High Stakes Over GOP Amendments," *Congressional Quarterly* (March 6, 2009).

the Senate approved an identical omnibus spending package on March 10. On March 11, President Obama signed the omnibus into law.³

Although many programs of concern to the membership of UNCA and the Alliance experienced funding increases, other important programs face cuts or were funded at levels that do not keep pace with inflation.⁴

SELECTED OMNIBUS APPROPRIATIONS:

Department of Agriculture

- **Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC):** Through the omnibus package, WIC will receive a \$1.2 billion increase from FY 2008, with total WIC funding reaching \$6.9 billion (a 21 percent increase from last year). WIC was first created in 1974 as a preventive program to support the nutritional well being of low-income, pregnant women, new mothers, infants, and children.⁵

Department of Education

- **21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC):** The omnibus package includes \$1.1 billion for 21st CCLC, a \$50 million increase from FY 2008 (a four percent change). The 21st CCLC program provides grants to facilitate after-school activities in low-income, high need communities.⁶
- **Title I:** Title I low-income education grants are funded at \$14.49 billion in the omnibus package, which is a four percent increase from last year. In FY 2008, the program received \$13.9 billion. Title I grants are awarded to local education agencies to support the needs of low-income students. Ninety-three percent of school districts receive Title I funds, which benefit approximately 20 million students.⁷

Department of Health and Human Services:

- **Head Start:** Head Start is funded at \$7.1 billion in the omnibus, a \$235 million increase from FY 2008 (a three percent change). Adjusted for inflation, this represents a six percent cut since FY 2005.⁸ Head Start was first established in 1965 as a federally funded child development program for low-income, pre-school aged, children.⁹
- **Social Services Block Grant (SSBG):** The omnibus package maintains fiscal year 2008 funding levels for SSBG by funding the program at \$1.7 billion. Adjusted for

³ Paul M. Krawzak and Kathleen Hunter, "Drawn-Out Omnibus Signals Big Spending Fights," *Congressional Quarterly*, (March 11, 2009).

⁴ Coalition on Human Needs, "Domestic Spending Must be Adequate to Serve Growing Needs," (March 11, 2009), <http://chn.org/pdf/2009/BudgetFY0508vOmnibus09.pdf> .

⁵ Food Research and Action Center, "Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)," <http://www.frac.org/WIC/index.htm> .

⁶ U.S. Department of Education, "21st Century Community Learning Centers," <http://www.ed.gov/programs/21stcclc/index.html> .

⁷ Michael Linden et. al, "Children's Budget 2008," *First Focus*, (2008): 21, <http://www.firstfocus.net/Download/CBook.pdf> .

⁸ Coalition on Human Needs, "Domestic Spending Must be Adequate to Serve Growing Needs," (March 11, 2009), <http://chn.org/pdf/2009/BudgetFY0508vOmnibus09.pdf> .

⁹ National Head Start Association, "Head Start Basics," (2008), <http://www.nhsa.org/download/advocacy/fact/08FactSheetHSBasics.pdf> .

inflation, FY 2009 SSBG funding is a 10 percent cut from FY 2005.¹⁰ SSBG funds are given to states to support a range of social service activities, including child care, foster care assistance, and services for the elderly.¹¹

- **Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG):** The omnibus package funds CCDBG at \$2.127 billion, a \$65 million increase from FY 2008 and a three percent change. Adjusted for inflation, FY 2009 CCDBG funding is an eight percent cut from FY 2005.¹² The Child Care and Development Block Grant provides grants to support low-income child care assistance programs.¹³
- **Community Services Block Grant (CSBG):** The CSBG is funded at \$700 million through the omnibus package, a \$46 million increase and a seven percent change from FY 2008. The program has experienced a six percent increase in funding since FY 2005 when indexed for inflation.¹⁴ The CSBG provides funds to states to address the needs of low-income communities. Funded services include programs that address housing, child care, homelessness, and education among other areas.¹⁵
- **Community Health Centers:** Federal funding for community health centers through the omnibus package reaches \$2.2 billion, which is a \$125 million increase and an eight percent change from FY 2008. Funding for Community Health Centers, when adjusted for inflation, has risen by 14 percent since FY 2005.¹⁶ Community health centers address the primary health care needs of low-income populations.¹⁷
- **Title IV-B-Subpart 1-Child Welfare Services Program:** Funding for Title IV-B Subpart 1 is flat-funded by the omnibus for FY 2009 at \$281.7 million. This program provides state grants aimed at keeping families together. Funding is relatively flexible and may be spent on a variety of child welfare services.¹⁸
- **Title IV-B-Subpart 2-Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF):** Discretionary funding for PSSF remains flat-funded for FY 2009 at \$63.3 million. States and other funding recipients (territories and tribes) are to use funding to bolster family support

¹⁰ Coalition on Human Needs, "Domestic Spending Must be Adequate to Serve Growing Needs," (March 11, 2009), <http://chn.org/pdf/2009/BudgetFY0508vOmnibus09.pdf> .

¹¹ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families, "Fact Sheet: Social Services Block Grant," <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/ssbg/about/factsheets.htm> .

¹² Coalition on Human Needs, "Domestic Spending Must be Adequate to Serve Growing Needs," (March 11, 2009), <http://chn.org/pdf/2009/BudgetFY0508vOmnibus09.pdf> .

¹³ Michael Linden et. al, "Children's Budget 2008," *First Focus*, (2008): 27, <http://www.firstfocus.net/Download/CBook.pdf> .

¹⁴ Coalition on Human Needs, "Domestic Spending Must be Adequate to Serve Growing Needs," (March 11, 2009), <http://chn.org/pdf/2009/BudgetFY0508vOmnibus09.pdf> .

¹⁵ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families, "Fact Sheet: Community Services Block Grant," <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/csbg/aboutus/factsheets.htm> .

¹⁶ Coalition on Human Needs, "Domestic Spending Must be Adequate to Serve Growing Needs," (March 11, 2009), <http://chn.org/pdf/2009/BudgetFY0508vOmnibus09.pdf> .

¹⁷ Michael Linden et. al, "Children's Budget 2008," *First Focus*, (2008): 66, <http://www.firstfocus.net/Download/CBook.pdf> .

¹⁸ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, "Stephanie Tubbs Jones Child Welfare Services: Title IV-B, Subpart 1 of the Social Security Act," http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/programs_fund/state_tribal/ss_act.htm .

programs, family preservation, time-limited family reunification and adoption promotion and support.¹⁹

- **Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA):** The omnibus package includes \$110 million in funding for CAPTA, a \$15 million increase and a four percent change from last year. CAPTA was first authorized in 1974, and since then has provided funds to support child abuse prevention and treatment services.²⁰
- **Adoption Incentives Program:** The Adoption Incentives Program is funded at \$36.5 million by the FY 2009 omnibus package. This represents a significant increase from last year when the program was funded at \$4.3 million. The Adoption Incentives Program supports state efforts to arrange adoptions from the foster care system.²¹
- **Adoption Opportunities Program:** The Adoption Opportunities Program is flat-funded in the stimulus at \$26.3 million. The program provides funds to help facilitate adoptions through activities that reduce obstacles and help children find a permanent home.²²
- **Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (SAPT) Block Grant:** The omnibus package contains \$1.778 billion for SAPT, which is a \$20 million increase and a one percent change from last year. Funding for the SAPT Block Grant has decreased by five percent since FY 2005.²³ The SAPT block grant channels money to the states to support substance abuse prevention and treatment activities.²⁴
- **Community Mental Health Services Block Grant:** The Community Mental Health Services Block grant is funded at \$420.77 million through the omnibus package. Last year the program was funded at the same level. Funding for the block grant, when indexed to inflation, has decreased by 12 percent since FY 2005.²⁵ The program, administered by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), awards grants to states to support the provision of community-based mental health services.²⁶
- **Children's Mental Health:** The omnibus package includes \$108.4 million, a \$6.1 million increase, for children's mental health programs overseen by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and the Center for Mental Health

¹⁹ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, "Promoting Safe and Stable Families: Title IV-B, Subpart 2 of the Social Security Act," http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/programs_fund/state_tribal/ss_act2.htm.

²⁰ Michael Linden et. al, "Children's Budget 2008," *First Focus*, (2008): 11, <http://www.firstfocus.net/Download/CBook.pdf>.

²¹ Varina Winder, "Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008," (February 20, 2009), http://www.alliance1.org/Public_Policy/welfare/Fostering_Connections.pdf.

²² Administration for Children and Families, "Adoption Opportunities," http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/programs_fund/discretionary/adopt_opportunity.htm.

²³ Coalition on Human Needs, "Domestic Spending Must be Adequate to Serve Growing Needs," (March 11, 2009), <http://chn.org/pdf/2009/BudgetFY0508vOmnibus09.pdf>.

²⁴ Treatment Improvement Exchange, "SAPT 2008 Block Grant Information," (July 1, 2008), <http://www.treatment.org/SAPT2008.html>.

²⁵ Coalition on Human Needs, "Domestic Spending Must be Adequate to Serve Growing Needs," (March 11, 2009), <http://chn.org/pdf/2009/BudgetFY0508vOmnibus09.pdf>.

²⁶ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, "Community Mental Health Block Grant Program," <http://mentalhealth.samhsa.gov/publications/allpubs/KEN95-0022/default.asp#what>.

Services (CMHS).²⁷ This increase is a five percent change from FY 2008. Funding for children's mental health, when adjusted for inflation, has decreased by seven percent since FY 2005.²⁸

Department of Housing and Urban Development

- **Community Development Block Grant:** The Community Development Block grant is funded at \$3.9 billion in the omnibus, a \$49 million increase and one percent change from FY 2008. CDBG funding, when adjusted for inflation, has decreased by 20 percent since FY 2005.²⁹ The Community Development Block Grant program disseminates funding to build strong neighborhoods and promote economic opportunities for predominantly low- and moderate income populations.³⁰
- **Public Housing Capital Fund:** The Public Housing Capital Fund receives an \$11 million increase in the omnibus package, bringing the total for the program up to \$2.5 billion. The Capital Fund supports efforts to refurbish and renovate housing units.³¹ Currently, the public housing system is experiencing an \$18 to \$20 billion backlog on capital needs. Capital Fund expenses often involve, for example, essential repairs to home heating systems and roofs.³² Public Housing Capital Fund appropriations, when adjusted for inflation, have decreased by 14 percent since FY 2005.³³
- **Public Housing Operating Fund:** The Public Housing Operating Fund receives a \$255 million increase in the FY 2009 omnibus package, which represents a six percent change from FY 2008. The total program would be funded at \$4.5 billion. The Operating Fund facilitates housing maintenance performed by local service providers such as carpenters and plumbers³⁴

Department of Justice

- **Juvenile Justice Programs:** The omnibus package includes \$374 million for juvenile justice programs, which is a \$9 million decrease from fiscal year 2008. This funding supports programs run out of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.
- **Juvenile Mentoring Grant Program:** The juvenile mentoring program is funded at \$82 million through the omnibus package, a \$10 million increase and a 13 percent change from FY 2008. The Juvenile Mentoring Grant Program supports the work of national and community organizations to set up mentoring relationships that help decrease

²⁷ National Alliance on Mental Illness, "Funding Levels for Mental Illness Research, Services and Housing in the FY 2009 "Omnibus" Appropriations Bill," <http://www.nami.org/Template.cfm?Section=February14&Template=/ContentManagement/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=74382> .

²⁸ Coalition on Human Needs, "Domestic Spending Must be Adequate to Serve Growing Needs," (March 11, 2009), <http://chn.org/pdf/2009/BudgetFY0508vOmnibus09.pdf> .

²⁹ Ibid.

³⁰ Helen Eisner, "The Community Development Block Grant," (November 5, 2008), http://www.alliance1.org/Public_Policy/budgets/CDBG.pdf .

³¹ National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials, "Worth Fighting For: Preserving Our Nation's Affordable Housing Infrastructure," (2008), <http://www.nahro.org/legislative/worthfighting.pdf> .

³² Ibid.

³³ Coalition on Human Needs, "Domestic Spending Must be Adequate to Serve Growing Needs," (March 11, 2009), <http://chn.org/pdf/2009/BudgetFY0508vOmnibus09.pdf> .

³⁴ The Council of Large Public Housing Authorities, "Operating Fund History," <http://www.clpha.org/page.cfm?pageID=659> .

delinquency and promote positive outcomes.³⁵ Funding for the program has nearly quadrupled since FY 2005.³⁶

Department of Labor:

- **Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Youth Funds:** Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Youth Funds are flat funded by the omnibus package at \$924 million. The Workforce Investment Act was authorized in 1998 to coordinate the nation's workforce programs. WIA youth funds support programs that help prepare youth between 14 and 21 for post-secondary education and employment opportunities.³⁷ WIA youth funds, when adjusted for inflation, have been decreased by 15 percent since FY 2005.³⁸
- **Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP):** The SCSEP would receive a \$50 million increase through the omnibus package, with total program funding reaching \$572 million. SCSEP helps low-income Americans, who are over 55, develop work skills that allow them to pursue private employment.³⁹ Overall funding for SCSEP has increased by 18 percent since FY 2005.⁴⁰

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About the Alliance for Children and Families and United Neighborhood Centers of America

The Alliance for Children and Families, a nonprofit association, was formed by the 1998 merger of Family Service America and the National Association of Homes and Services for Children. The Alliance represents over 370 nonprofit organizations across the nation that provide services and economic empowerment to children and families. Alliance agencies cover a wide spectrum of providers, including a diversity of faith-based organizations and nonsectarian agencies. Together, these organizations deliver more than \$2 billion annually in services to more than 8 million people in nearly 6,700 communities across the United States. More information about the Alliance is available at www.alliance1.org.

United Neighborhood Centers of America (UNCA) is a voluntary, nonprofit, national organization with neighborhood-based member agencies throughout the United States. Formerly known as the National Federation of Settlements and Neighborhood Centers, it was founded in 1911 by Jane Addams and other pioneers of the settlement movement. More information about UNCA is available at www.unca.org.

For more information, contact the Washington office of the Alliance and UNCA at:

³⁵ Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, "Juvenile Mentoring Grant Program," <http://ojjdp.ncjrs.org/programs/ProgSummary.asp?pi=49&ti=&si=&kw=&PreviousPage=ProgResults>.

³⁶ Coalition on Human Needs, "Domestic Spending Must be Adequate to Serve Growing Needs," (March 11, 2009), <http://chn.org/pdf/2009/BudgetFY0508vOmnibus09.pdf>.

³⁷ National Youth Employment Council, "Issue Brief: Workforce Investment Act (WIA)," (2005), <http://www.nyec.org/page.cfm?pageID=197>.

³⁸ Coalition on Human Needs, "Domestic Spending Must be Adequate to Serve Growing Needs," (March 11, 2009), <http://chn.org/pdf/2009/BudgetFY0508vOmnibus09.pdf>.

³⁹ National Council on Aging, "SCSEP - Community Service Work," <http://www.ncoa.org/content.cfm?sectionid=345>.

⁴⁰ Coalition on Human Needs, "Domestic Spending Must be Adequate to Serve Growing Needs," (March 11, 2009), <http://chn.org/pdf/2009/BudgetFY0508vOmnibus09.pdf>.

Alliance for Children and Families
United Neighborhood Centers of America
1001 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 601
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 429-0400
policy@alliance1.org