

February 15, 2018



FY 2018 Federal Budget Deal

The federal government is currently operating under the fifth Continuing Resolution (CR) which expires at midnight on Friday, March 23. Congressional leaders have reached a budget agreement for funding the remainder of the current federal year. The CR was needed to allow appropriators enough time to write the final FY 2018 budget. The budget deal also includes the following items:

- Increases the spending caps - set in place by the Budget Control Act of 2011. The agreement raises discretionary caps for fiscal 2018 and fiscal 2019 by \$296 billion in spending over those two years - \$165 billion for defense discretionary and \$131 billion for non-defense discretionary.
- Suspended the debt limit through March 1, 2019 - which would allow the federal government to borrow whatever it needs through that time to fully finance government operations.
- Provides \$89.3 billion in additional aid to continue response and recovery from the damage caused by last year's hurricanes, wildfires and other weather events, including \$3.7 billion to support Puerto Rico's Medicaid program.
- Extends and modifies dozens of programs, including by extending funding for two years for Community Health Centers and extending CHIP for an additional four years (through fiscal 2027).

FY2019 President's Budget - Department of Education

On Monday, February 12th President Trump unveiled his FY 2019 budget request to Congress. The Department of Education's FY2019 budget is proposing to consolidate most institutional development grant programs in HEA Title III and all HEA Title V grant programs, including HSI programs, into a single formula-based allocation. When HACU asked the Department of Education staff present at the budget briefing, the department indicated they still did not know how the formula-based allocation would be defined or how it would work. To implement this budgetary proposal would require amending the language in the HEA Title V statute. This proposal will not help the more than 3.5 million Hispanic and other low-income and first-generation students achieve their hope of higher education success. HACU released a statement expressing its concerns about the Dept. of Education's budget, and you can [read it here](#).

DACA/DREAMer Update

On Tuesday, a federal judge in New York [ruled](#) that the Trump administration cannot end Deferred Action for Early Childhood Arrival (DACA) program. The ruling by U.S. District Judge Nicholas Garaufis in Brooklyn is the second court ruling blocking the administration's September order rescinding the DACA program.

Under the judge's order, the government is required to continue processing DACA renewal requests for people who already are enrolled in the program and those whose enrollment lapsed before Sept. 5, 2017. The ruling has no impact on young immigrants who never enrolled in DACA or those who had been rejected.

Today, the U.S. Senate voted on 3 different immigration related bills to create a pathway for 1.8 million DREAMers, and 1 bill solely on sanctuary cities, but all 4 failed to get 60 votes - the amount required for the Senate to end debate and take a vote. The Senate now is left with no clear path forward, after a government shutdown and month of negotiations - nearly six months after the Administration announced it would end the DACA program.

HACU will continue to pressure Congress to act quickly to pass the *Dream Act of 2017*. If you have not done so already, we urge you to contact your members of Congress to act now to pass the Dream Act by [clicking here](#).

HSIs are Under Attack & 23rd Annual Capitol Forum

Between the proposed changes in the [PROSPER Act](#) (for details see [HACU's letter](#) to the House Committee on Education & the Workforce), and the proposed FY 2019 budget request from the

administration is threatening the way Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs) are defined in law, the manner in which funding is awarded and the amount of funds allocated for HSIs to use.

If you're interested in being an active participant in the efforts to defend HSIs, we urge you to register to join HACU in Washington, D.C. for its 23rd Annual National Capitol Forum on Hispanic Higher Education, April 9-10, 2018. The two-day forum includes state delegation visits to congressional offices on Capitol Hill where these timely topics will be directly discussed. Also, free funding workshops will be presented by U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Department of Labor, Department of State and the U.S. Department of Education, prior to the Forum on April 9. More information, including registration, can be [found here](#).

NSF HSI Program - Request for Peer Reviewers

The National Science Foundation (NSF) is looking for interested individuals to serve as reviewers for its Improving Undergraduate STEM Education: Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSI Program). NSF is estimating that they will schedule in-person panels April 23-24, 2018 and April 26-27, 2018 for the HSI Program. Reviewers will be expected to carefully read, write reviews and provide ratings for no more than 10-12 proposals before arriving to discuss the proposals with the panel members.

The deadline to apply is March 15, 2018. If you are interested please [click here](#) for the eligibility criteria and to apply. Please feel free to share with any interested colleagues.

Forward this Washington Update to a colleague or friend. Encourage them to [sign-up](#) and join the [Advocacy Center](#) to lend their voice of support for HSIs and Latino students.