

NC Pre-K Planning Committee/Board of Director's Meeting
Charles Morris Room/Hybrid
Thursday, January 26, 2023
President's Report

A. North Carolina Partnership for Children (NCPC) Updates / DCDEE Updates / Legislative Updates

1. NCPC

- **MAC sites** – Staff determined that we don't have the capacity to add another site at this time. Notified NCPC.
- **State Expansion of Child Care Health Consultants** – The amendment on the Expansion grant extending the contract through June 30, 2023 has been executed.
- **Federal PDG Grant for Regional Pilots for Family Connects** – The amendment for extending the contract through November 30, 2023 has been executed. This will be the final year of PDG funding. We have 2 more years of Community Foundation funding for the Community Alignment Specialist position. State level meetings are occurring around sustainability beyond the PDG funding for the Family Connects Pilot sites. Data summary attached.
- **DPIL (Dolly Parton Imagination Library) Funding Changes** – the state funding is reaching its capacity at present levels. In order to maintain children currently enrolled, there will be no program support funding for FY 23/24. There is also a target cap on enrollment. We are collaborating with United Way in order to continue to serve more children in Cumberland County. We may be able to allocate program support funds through a separate local Smart Start activity.
- **ROR (Reach Out and Read)** – This activity will no longer be an approved Smart Start activity effective with the new fiscal year. Transition of these programs to the NC ROR program is in progress. We are working with 4C, our DSP for this activity, and the physician practices during this transition.

2. DCDEE

- Guidance from DCDEE on the \$20M for NC Pre-K start-up, quality and capital expenses is still pending. We will share information as soon as it is available.
- DCDEE Stabilization Grants for Compensation will run through December 2023.
- **NC Pre-K**
 - a. We continue to wait on the Contract amendment for rate and administrative increases. The projected date for executed amendments is the end of January. We will then execute subcontract amendments with the providers as soon as we have our executed contract. The amendment is effective July 1, 2022 and payments to the providers will be retroactive to the beginning of the school year. The amendment will also include the funding for stipends for staff from private sites and Head Start who are participating in LETRs training.
 - b. State required **LETRs training** on literacy started in November. Teachers who are new in NC Pre-K programs or didn't attend the 11/8/2022 training need to enroll.
 - c. Utilizing monthly NC Pre-K Directors meetings for work on NC Pre-K processes for school year 23-24.

3. Local Level

- **Child Care Stakeholder Community Meeting** with local and state lawmakers, child care providers and other leaders and stakeholders: The second meeting was held December 7 at FTCC. The next meeting will be held January 31 from 6:30-8:00 pm at FTCC to engage families and teachers in the

group. The event will be livestreamed. You can find the registration link online at ccpfc.org/meetings.

4. **State Level** – The General Assembly is in session. This is the long session determining the biennial budgets. The State Supreme Court ruled on Leandro for full funding for Years 2 & 3. Attached is the NC Early Education Coalition's Legislative Priorities document.
5. **Federal Level** – The federal budget was finalized and effective through September 30, 2023. The summary for Labor, HHS, Education and related agencies is attached. Funding includes 30% increase in the Child Care & Development Block Grant (CCDBG), increases in Head Start funding, mental health funding, improving maternal health and public school Title 1-A grants.

B. Grant Opportunities/Updates/RFPs

1. City of Fayetteville ARPA funding – Submitted Scope and timeline modifications to city staff. Finalizing the Amendment for execution. Anticipate being able to launch application cycle in February.
2. Cumberland County Nonprofit Fiscal Recovery Assistance Program – assessing eligibility to apply for the Occupancy category for utilities. Applications are rolling.

C. PFC Updates & Highlights

1. **Position openings posted: website link** (<https://www.indeed.com/cmp/Partnership-For-Children-of-Cumberland-County>). Please go to our website for new postings and share opportunities. There are programmatic postings.
2. **Welcome** – Carolin Hardy, Information Assistant, started January 4. Laquacious Burgess, Program Specialist for NC Pre-K, will start January 30.
3. **Vaccine Update:** We continue to monitor federal, state and local health and safety guidelines for any recommendations and compliance guidelines related to COVID-19. Following trends and information from the federal and state levels, along with our vaccine policy, we will sunset the COVID vaccine requirement effective March 31, 2023. Enhanced cleaning and hand sanitizer stations will continue to be available as are masks upon request as health and safety protocols. In addition, we continue to consult with the Cumberland County Health Department for ongoing guidance on communicable diseases.
4. **Infrastructure Project:** We provided a timeline to Pinam Construction on December 20, 2022 for submittals of the final documents needed to start the project and to issue the Notice to Proceed for Phase 2 of the project. The Notice to Proceed date of February 13 was issued January 17, 2023. The extension of interest only payments and draws for the construction loan for twelve months has been signed with First Bank.
5. **Amazon Smile** – On January 18, 2023, Amazon announced the end of the Amazon Smile program. The program will end on February 20, 2023. If you have any Amazon Smile logos and links in your email signature please remove them. We thank everyone who has designated PFC through Amazon Smile.

D. Events/Community Outreach

1. **Board and Committee Meetings:** Full Board and Executive Committee meetings are moving to in person meetings. Other committee meetings may be offered in a hybrid format and in-person. Please refer to your meeting invites for the format of the particular meeting.
2. **All Staff Meetings:** Monthly meetings are offered in a hybrid format.
3. **Tenant Meetings:** An in-person tenant meeting will be held February 21 at 5:30 pm in the Charles Morris Room.
4. **Drive-Through Truckload of Hope Diaper Bank: February 11, March 11** from 8:30-10:30 am. Volunteers needed. Contact Daniele Malvesti (dmalvesti@ccpfc.org) if you can assist. We continue to be in conversations with the Diaper Bank of NC about additional options for the Diaper Bank in Cumberland County since transportation is a challenge for some families rather than a once a month distribution.
5. **Soiree Update:** While a beloved event, the Soiree has been a challenge to revive. As the economy continues to struggle, our long-time corporate sponsors, local businesses, and individuals have not been able to support us in the ways they have in the past. In addition, NCPC has changed how we can report revenue from fundraising events. As a result, we have decided to cancel Soiree and replace it with Little Land. Little Land: Big Play for Families is an expo-style event for young children and their families. Our target audience. **We will be hosting our second Little Land on Saturday, March 25 at the Crown Expo Center.** More information to come.

Family Connects, North Carolina Southeastern Region

Data verified through Nov, 2022 by Family Connects International

	Program Start Date 10/4/2021	10/4/2021 - 9/30/2022	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22	10/4/2021 - 12/31/2022
BIRTH DATA						
Total Births	0	3595	318	288	256	4457
Eligible*	0	3071	275	261	225	3832
Not Eligible	0	524	43	27	31	625

CASE STATUS BY DELIVER DATE

Scheduled	0	2207	214	191	182	2794
Scheduling Rate - 75% Goal	0%	72%	68%	78%		72%
Decline	0	339	29	10	3	381
Decline Rate	0%	11%	11%	4%	1%	10%
Completed	0	1296	126	87	85	1594
Completion Rate - 80% Goal	0%	59%	59%	46%		58%
Pending (Changes daily)	0	0	11	57	95	163
Pending Rate - Goal 0%	0%	0%	4%	22%	42%	0%
Unable to Contact - Closed	0	1144	71	2	38	1255
Unable To Contact Rate	0%	37%	26%	1%	17%	37%
Population Reach - 60% Goal	0%	42%	46%	33%		42%

COMPLETED VISITS

County of Residency						
Cumberland - 56% Goal	0%	86%	85%	85%	84%	86%
Hoke - 28% Goal	0%	9%	10%	8%	8%	9%
Robeson - 16% Goal	0%	5%	7%	8%	8%	5%

These numbers change daily. Goal is to have 0 in Pending and keep Unable to Contact as low as possible.

These numbers are provided by Family Connects International usually about 60 days after end of month.

Early Childhood Education Priorities for the 2023 North Carolina Legislative Session

Every child in North Carolina deserves an opportunity to get a strong start in life. Early childhood education prepares children to succeed in school and beyond, providing the foundation for their future.

It's crucial that families have the tools they need to be able to work and support their children with safe and nurturing learning environments in their earliest years. But parents can't afford to pay more, early educators can't afford to make less, and our state's economy can't thrive without a stable child care system. The pandemic has worsened these challenges, which affect real families, early educators, businesses, and communities every day.

Our policy priorities for the 2023 Legislative Session focus on increased, sustained investments to support children's healthy development and learning, family economic security and employment, a strong early childhood workforce, and the state's economic prosperity. Together, these policies will help ensure that each and every child in North Carolina is ready to grow, learn, and succeed.

Supporting the Early Childhood Workforce

Parents in every industry depend on child care teachers to be able to work, and young children thrive when they have stable relationships with their teachers. Improving early childhood workforce compensation, recruitment, and retention is critically needed to support young children's development and keep North Carolina working.

- **Compensation Grants:** Extend the compensation portion of the Child Care Stabilization Grants through June 2025 in order to retain and grow a qualified workforce to serve young children and families.
- **Child Care WAGE\$:** Expand the Child Care WAGE\$ program statewide in order to improve teacher recruitment and retention, stabilize the early education workforce, and support early educators who have or are working towards degrees in early education.

Increasing Access to Affordable Child Care

All children deserve access to high-quality early learning that will help them be ready for kindergarten, reading at grade level, and prepared for graduation. Improving long-standing programs that serve low-income working families will help ensure providers in every county can meet the demand for child care and provide services to young children, supporting our current workforce and building a workforce for North Carolina's future.

- **NC Pre-K:** Increase the reimbursement and administrative rates for the NC Pre-K program in order to improve access for eligible 4-year-olds in every community.
- **Child Care Subsidy Assistance:** Increase reimbursement rates and improve the rate structure to incorporate a "statewide floor" (statewide average rate) that would provide child care programs in all 100 counties with more adequate and equitable funding to serve more children.

Ensuring a Sound, Basic Education Starting in Early Childhood

Support state efforts to ensure that all children have access to a sound, basic education starting in early childhood by investing in the additional early childhood priorities established by the Leandro court case and Comprehensive Remedial Plan, including: increased funding for Smart Start; investments in Child Care Subsidy Assistance; and strengthening the NC Infant Toddler Early Intervention Program.

For more information:

Jenna Nelson, Executive Director

JennaN@NCEarlyEducationCoalition.org



COMMITTEE *on* APPROPRIATIONS

CHAIRMAN PATRICK LEAHY

For Immediate Release:
December 19, 2022

Contact:
Jay Tilton : (202) 224-2667

SUMMARY

LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES

FISCAL YEAR 2023 APPROPRIATIONS BILL

Washington, D.C. – The fiscal year 2023 Labor/HHS/Education appropriations bill includes \$209.9 billion in base discretionary funding. Including spending offset by savings in changes in mandatory programs, this represents an increase of \$14.8 billion or 7.1 percent over the comparable fiscal year 2022 level. The Omnibus also includes \$4.2 billion in emergency funding to help communities recover from disasters and to support the arrival of refugees seeking relief in the United States, including from Ukraine.

U.S. Senator Patty Murray (D-WA.), Chair of the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee said:

“Every day I come to the Senate to help working families in Washington state and across the country—that’s why I remain focused and committed to passing a robust end-of-year package, and that’s what this funding bill would do. Right now, too many families worry about putting food on the table, gas in the tank, or just making ends meet—so this bill funds key programs that will help lower costs for families across the country, including an urgently-needed increase in funding for child care. This bill would also deliver common-sense bipartisan investments to bolster our public health preparedness, support those struggling with mental health challenges and substance use disorders, and advance critical medical research. I urge my colleagues on both side of the aisle to join me in voting on this bill and delivering for families across the country.”

Key Points & Highlights

Medical Research: The bill provides \$47.5 billion for the **National Institutes of Health (NIH)**, an increase of \$2.5 billion or 5.6 percent to advance science and speed the development of new therapies, diagnostics and preventive measures. With this investment, the agreement represents a 57 percent increase in funding over the past eight years. Highlights include targeted investments of increases of \$226 million for Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias; \$150 million to help address the low rate of success of grant applications to the National Cancer Institute; \$45 million

for research related to opioids, methamphetamines and pain; \$88 million to address health disparities; \$40 million to address cybersecurity threats; \$60 million to support the second phase of the BRAIN initiative; and \$65 million for NIH's Common Fund to make goal-driven, high-risk/high-reward investments with the potential for extraordinary impact. The bill also increases funding for NIH's Office of Research on Women's Health by \$17 million to \$76.5 million, including \$10 million to launch a new Office of Autoimmune Disease Research. Finally, the Joint Explanatory Statement directs NIH to develop a plan to implement the recommendations of its Workplace and Harassment Survey and to conduct and make public similar surveys in the future.

The bill includes \$1.5 billion for the second year of Advanced Research Projects for Health (ARPA-H), the President's bold proposal to accelerate the pace of breakthroughs in medicine. ARPA-H will focus on time-limited projects with quantifiable goals, benchmarks, and accountability to revolutionize how we prevent, treat, or cure a range of diseases, including cancer, infectious diseases, Alzheimer's disease, diabetes, and others.

Public Health and Preparedness: In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, the fiscal year 2023 bill makes key investments that strengthen the nation's public health and medical preparedness and response systems to ensure we remain vigilant against the next challenge or threat. The bill includes \$9.2 billion for the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** (CDC), an increase of \$760 million over fiscal year 2022. More than half of the increase was provided for fundamental public health activities, spread across core programs like the Public Health Preparedness Cooperative Agreement Program, the Infectious Disease Rapid Response Reserve Fund, Global Public Health Protection, the Forecasting and Outbreak Analytics Center, Public Health Workforce, and Data Modernization. The bill includes \$350 million in flexible funding for **public health infrastructure and capacity**, a 75 percent increase for the program that was established in fiscal year 2022 for CDC to bolster public health infrastructure and rebuild the workforce at the state and local level to strengthen our capacity to be ready to respond to emerging public health threats.

The bill includes \$3.3 billion for the **Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response** (ASPR), an increase of \$560 million over fiscal year 2022. These investments will strengthen our nation's biosecurity by accelerating advanced research and development of medical countermeasures for pandemic threats, and fortifying our stockpiles and supply chains for drugs, masks, and other lifesaving medical supplies. These increases include \$950 million, an increase of \$200 million over fiscal year 2022, for the **Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority** (BARDA), and \$965 million, an increase of \$120 million over fiscal year 2022, for the **Strategic National Stockpile**. The bill also includes \$300 million, an increase of \$35 million over fiscal year 2022, for **Pandemic Influenza** to improve the effectiveness of the flu vaccine and better respond to changes in flu strains.

Support for Public Schools: The bill includes \$18.387 billion, an increase of \$850 million or 5 percent more than the fiscal year 2022 level, for the **Title I-A grants** to the local educational agencies program. Title I-A grants assist more than half of our Nation's public schools in their efforts to raise student achievement, particularly for students attending high-poverty schools to meet college and career-ready state academic standards, including through preschool programs

for eligible children. The bill also includes \$15.154 billion, an increase of \$904 million or 6 percent, for **Special Education State Grant programs** that support services to an estimated 9 million students and children with a disability, including those participating in early intervention and preschool programs. The bill also provides \$890 million, an increase of \$59 million or 7 percent, for **English Language Acquisition State Grants**, a critical investment needed to improve educational opportunities and outcomes for more than 5 million English learners.

The bill also includes increases for a range of other important programs, providing \$150 million, an increase of \$75 million or 100 percent, to support additional **Full Service Community Schools**, a proven approach that includes integrated student supports and family engagement that lead to improved student attendance and high school graduation rates. The bill also provides \$215 million, an increase of \$20 million or 10 percent, for **Rural Education programs**, which provide additional resources to assist rural school districts with providing high quality education to their students. The bill provides \$115 million, an increase of \$20 million, or 21 percent, for **Special Education Personnel Preparation**, which will help address the chronic shortage of special educators. The bill invests \$1.33 billion, an increase of \$40 million for the **Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers** program, which supports more than 10,000 centers around the nation serving 1.6 million students; and allocates \$129 million, an increase of \$15 million or 13 percent, for **Education for Homeless Children and Youth**, to assist the 1.1 million identified students experiencing homeless enroll and succeed in school. Finally, the bill includes \$20 million, an increase of \$5 million more than last year and a 60 percent increase since 2021, for additional **Statewide Family Engagement Centers**, to enhance parent and family engagement in schools.

Promoting College Affordability and Completion and Furthering Careers: The bill increases the maximum **Pell Grant** award by \$500 or 7.2 percent to \$7,395 for the 2023-24 school year. This is the largest increase in the maximum Pell grant award since the 2009-10 school year and further builds off the \$400 increase provided last year. Each year, Pell Grants help approximately 7 million students pursue a postsecondary education and further their careers. The bill includes \$1.2 billion, an increase of \$54 million or 5 percent for **TRIO**, which helps over 800,000 low-income first generation students get into college and succeed when they're there. The bill includes \$1 billion, an increase of \$137 million or 15 percent for programs to **strengthen Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Minority Serving Institutions, and other historically under-resourced institutions of higher education** serving a high percentage of low-income students. The bill also includes \$50 million for new program to promote transformational investments in research infrastructure at HBCUs, Tribal Colleges and Universities, and other MSIs. The bill also includes \$75 million, an increase of \$10 million or 15 percent, for the **Child Care Access Means Parents in School (CCAMPIS)** program to increase access to affordable and convenient child care options for student parents. Finally, the bill includes \$285 million, an increase of \$50 million or 21 percent, for the **Registered Apprenticeship program** to expand apprenticeship opportunities, including in traditionally underrepresented fields.

Ending the HIV Epidemic: The bill includes \$613 million for the fourth year of the domestic HIV/AIDS elimination initiative, an increase of \$100 million above fiscal year 2022. This

includes \$322 million within the Health Resources and Service Administration (HRSA) **Community Health Centers and Ryan White** programs to increase investments in high need communities and support PrEP services to protect people at highest risk for getting HIV. It also includes \$220 million within the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) **Domestic HIV/AIDS Prevention and Research** programs to develop and deploy innovative data management solutions, increase access to PrEP, and better detect and respond to HIV clusters.

Improving Maternal Health: The bill includes \$324 million, an increase of \$120 million above fiscal year 2022 or nearly 60 percent, in HRSA, CDC, and NIH for the initiative aimed at improving maternal health and reducing the nation's alarmingly high maternal mortality rate. This will fund stronger data systems to improve surveillance and help expand programs that are proven to be successful at reducing maternal mortality. This includes: \$108 million, an increase of \$25 million above fiscal year 2022, for CDC to expand support for **Safe Motherhood/Infant Health**; \$55 million for **State Maternal Health Innovation Grants**, an increase of \$26 million, to expand grants for maternal care services, workforce needs, and postpartum and inter-conception care services; \$10 million for a new **Integrating Services for Pregnant and Postpartum Women** program; and \$10 million to establish a research network that is comprised of and supports **Minority-Serving Institutions** to study health disparities in maternal health outcomes.

Opioids & Substance Misuse: Unfortunately, the United States has reached new records in the number of drug overdose fatalities during the COVID-19 pandemic. The bill includes important investments to address the nation's substance misuse crisis. The bill provides approximately \$4.9 billion to address opioid abuse, an increase of over \$345 million above fiscal year 2022 levels. This funding includes: nearly \$1.6 billion to states to address the opioid epidemic through the **State Opioid Response Grant** program, which is a \$50 million increase over fiscal year 2022; a \$100 million increase for the **Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant**; \$111 million for medication assisted treatment; \$505 million for **opioid overdose surveillance and prevention** at CDC; \$80 million to address the needs of children affected by the opioid crisis; and \$145 million to help affected rural communities.

Mental Health: The bill includes increased funding to improve mental health access, including through funding to bolster the nation's system of crisis care. These investments include \$385 million for **Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics**, a \$70 million increase over fiscal year 2022; \$1.01 billion for the **Mental Health Block Grant**, a \$150 million increase; \$20 million, a \$10 million increase, to expand a pilot program for crisis response; \$501.6 million in fiscal year 2023 funding—a nearly \$400 million increase—for the **Suicide Prevention Lifeline** to successfully transition to 988, which includes \$7 million to continue the **Behavioral Health Crisis and 988 Coordinating Office** at HHS; \$130 million for **Children's Mental Health Services**, a \$5 million increase; and \$140 million, a \$20 million increase, for **Project AWARE**, which will expand efforts to identify and help children and youth in need of mental health care, including through addressing the needs of children who have experienced trauma. The bill also invests \$111 million for Department of Education programs designed to increase the availability of **mental health services in schools**, including by expanding training programs to prepare new school counselors, social workers, and psychologists.

Child Care: The bill provides \$8 billion for the Child Care and Development Block Grant, \$1.85 billion more than fiscal year 2022, representing a 30 percent increase in funding for the program. The child care industry has 100,000 fewer workers today than it did before the pandemic, shedding nearly 10 percent of its workforce since 2020. These losses mean it is increasingly difficult for families to get back to work with the promise of affordable and high-quality child care. This additional funding will help the program serve over 130,000 additional children.

Head Start: The bill provides \$11.996 billion, \$960 million more than fiscal year 2022, for Head Start. Within this total, the bill provides a \$596 million cost-of-living adjustment for Head Start staff, and \$262 million in quality improvement funding, which programs can use to recruit and retain staff among other activities. The bill also increases funding by \$2 million for the Tribal Colleges and Universities Head Start Partnership Program, totaling \$8 million.

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP): The bill provides \$4 billion for LIHEAP, a \$200 million increase over fiscal year 2022. Including emergency, supplemental funding the total for LIHEAP is \$5 billion. Energy prices have been climbing consistently this year and remain higher than overall inflation. Home heating oil costs have increased by 65 percent, electricity is up nearly 14 percent, and natural gas costs have increased by 15 percent over last year. This funding will help offset the costs of those increases to ensure low income families can heat and cool their homes this year.

Expanding Support for Older Americans and Individuals with Disabilities: The bill includes \$2.5 billion for the Administration for Community Living, an increase of \$220 million above fiscal year 2022. This investment will expand nutrition and family caregiver programs, home and community based supportive services, and promote strategies that enable older adults and people with disabilities to live in their communities.

Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS): The bill includes \$1.3 billion for CNCS, which is an increase of \$162 million above fiscal year 2022. This includes \$557 million for AmeriCorps Grants, an increase of \$90 million more than fiscal 2022. These investments will help thousands of nonprofits, schools, faith-based groups, and local governments meet pressing local needs through service and social innovation.

Worker Protection Programs: The bill makes important investments in agencies that help workers receive the pay they earn; ensure that employers provide safe and healthful working conditions; and strengthen trading partner commitments to comply with labor rights under free trade agreements and preference programs. The **Wage and Hour division** receives \$260 million, an increase of \$9 million. Wage and Hour recovers wages for workers that do not receive the pay they are entitled to receive for their work, which on average amounted to \$1,212 for each of the 193,349 workers assisted by the agency in 2021. The **Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)** receives \$632 million, an increase of \$20 million. OSHA works to ensure that employers are following the law and providing safe and healthful workplaces for their employees. The agreement includes \$116 million, an increase of \$10 million or 9 percent more than fiscal year 2022, for the **International Labor Affairs Bureau** to work with trading partner countries on their commitments to labor requirements under free trade

agreements and trade preference programs and ensure American workers are not undermined by trading partners seeking to exploit labor to gain a competitive trading advantage. Finally, the agreement includes a \$25 million increase to the **National Labor Relations Board**, which administers and enforces the National Labor Relations Act and protects employee and employer rights under the law.

Social Security Administration (SSA): The bill includes \$14.1 billion, an increase of \$785 million or 6 percent, for SSA’s administrative expenses, the largest increase in more than a decade. This supports the administration of Social Security benefits for over 70 million Americans, including processing over 8 million retirement and disability claims annually. The pandemic combined with budget limitations has created significant challenges for SSA, which has produced backlogs in key workloads and long wait times for individuals just to talk to someone at SSA about the benefits they have earned from years of work. Addressing these basic challenges will require a multi-year sustained effort, but the funding in this bill will allow SSA to keep up with rising costs and increase staffing and make targeted IT investments to begin improving service to the public.

Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB): The bill provides \$535 million, an increase of \$10 million or 2 percent more than fiscal year 2022, for CPB, 70 percent of which will support roughly 1,500 public radio and television stations that help form the public media system. This investment is particularly important for rural grantees, half of whom rely on CPB funding for at least 25 percent of their revenue. The bill also includes \$60 million, an increase of \$40 million or 200 percent more than fiscal year 2022, to strengthen investments in public broadcasting’s interconnection system and service infrastructure.

Institute of Museum and Library Services: The bill provides \$294.8 million, an increase of \$26.8 million or 10 percent over fiscal year 2022, for the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). This investment provides a 6.6 percent increase to IMLS’s library Grants to States program, the largest source of federal assistance for library services, which will fund investments in literacy, broadband, early education, and workforce development initiatives in libraries nationwide.

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