

# Policy At A Glance:

## Consolidated Appropriations Acts for 2024

*The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024 (H.R. 4366) and the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024 (H.R. 2882) are packages of federal spending bills that allocate funding for specific government agencies until the end of fiscal year 2024 and include various housing, education, health, and labor provisions.*

### Introduction

On March 9, 2024, President Biden signed the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024 (HR 4366) into law, which allocates \$467.5 billion in government spending for six appropriations bills.<sup>1,2,3</sup> This includes spending for veterans affairs, agriculture, commerce, justice, science, energy, environment, transportation, and housing.<sup>1</sup>

Then on March 23, 2024, President Biden signed the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024 (HR 2882), which allocates \$1.2 trillion in funding through September 30, 2024, for the remaining six appropriation bills not covered by HR 4366.<sup>4,5,6</sup> It includes spending for defense, homeland security, labor, health and human services, education, and state departments.<sup>4</sup>

Both HR 4366 and HR 2882 cover a wide range of government activities and extend important programs while providing funding through fiscal year (FY) 2024, which ends on September 30, 2024.<sup>1,4</sup> This brief provides an overview of some of the housing, education, health, and labor provisions outlined in HR 4366 and HR 2882.

### *Relevant Dates for H.R. 4366 and H.R. 2882*

- 04/26/2023** H.R. 2882 is introduced in the United States House of Representatives<sup>4</sup>
- 06/27/2023** H.R. 4366 is introduced in the United States House of Representatives<sup>1</sup>
- 03/08/2024** H.R. 4366 is passed in the United States Senate<sup>1</sup>
- 03/09/2024** HR 4366 is signed by President Biden and became law<sup>1</sup>
- 03/22/2024** HR 2882 is passed in the United States Senate<sup>4</sup>
- 03/23/2024** HR 2882 is Signed by President Biden and became law<sup>4</sup>

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# Health and Housing Provisions in HR 4366

## Food and Nutrition Programs

HR 4366 contains discretionary and mandatory funding for the food and nutrition programs within the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

- **Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC):** HR 4366 provides the required funding level of \$7.03 billion in discretionary funding for WIC to ensure the program is fully funded.<sup>1,7</sup>
- **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP):** HR 4366 allocates \$119 billion in mandatory funding for SNAP, which served more than 42 million individuals in 2023.<sup>1,7</sup>
- **Child nutrition programs:** HR 4366 allocates \$33 billion in funding for child nutrition programs and includes \$10 million for school breakfast equipment grants and \$5 million for the Farm to School program.<sup>1,7</sup>
- **Commodity Assistance programs:** HR 4366 provides \$389 million for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program, \$10 million for the Farmers Market Nutrition Program, and \$80 million for The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP).<sup>1,7</sup>

## Community Health Centers (CHC)

Federally qualified CHCs serve as safety net healthcare providers, offering preventative and primary care services in outpatient settings.<sup>8</sup> HR 4366 allocates an additional \$270 million in funding for CHCs that is retroactively applicable from the start of the present fiscal year, raising the program's total annual funding to \$4.27 billion.<sup>9</sup>

## Project-Based Housing Programs

The Project-Based Housing programs are various federally funded initiatives that provide affordable housing for low-income individuals and families. These programs involve the construction or rehabilitation of housing units that were specifically designed for low-income residents.<sup>10</sup> HR 4366 allocates \$16 billion for Project-Based Rental Assistance, providing a full renewal of housing contracts for over 1.3 million households. Furthermore, it allocates \$914 million for Housing for the Elderly, which provides a full renewal of housing contracts serving 123,000 households. Lastly, \$208 million is allocated for Housing for Persons with Disabilities, serving 31,000 households.<sup>1,11</sup>

## Environmental Protection Agency

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is a federal agency that is responsible for protecting human health and the environment. The EPA conducts research, monitors environmental quality, sets national standards, and provides grants and assistance to states, tribes, and local government to support environmental protection efforts and public health.<sup>12,13</sup> HR 4366 provides \$9 billion (a 9% decrease from FY 2023) to sustain these EPA initiatives in environmental protection and public health. Furthermore, it provides \$3 billion for Environmental Programs and Management and \$4.42 billion for State and Tribal Assistance Grants.<sup>1,11</sup>



# Education, Health, and Labor Provisions in HR 2882

## Department of Education

HR 2882 allocates \$70 billion to the Department of Education, a \$500 million decrease from FY 2023.

This funding maintains support for essential programs, including the Title I grants for states, school safety initiatives, and charter schools.<sup>4,14</sup>

Additionally, HR 2882 includes a \$7 million increase for the Impact Aid Program, aiding school districts affected by federal presence, such as military bases.<sup>4,14,15</sup> Furthermore, it provides \$14.2 billion to assist school districts in meeting their commitment to educating children with disabilities in an appropriate public setting.

Lastly, the bill increases funding by \$10 million for career and technical training grants, benefiting programs catering to students who are not seeking a college degree.<sup>4,14</sup>

## Department of Health and Human Services

HR 2882 includes significant increases in funding for various health-related agencies and programs, including \$117 billion to the Department of Health and Human Services.<sup>4,14</sup> This includes an additional \$300 million allocated to the National Institutes of Health, with a specific \$10 million increase for the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities.<sup>4,16</sup> This funding aims to support biomedical research aimed at finding cures for cancer, Alzheimer's disease, and other chronic and rare diseases.<sup>14</sup> Additionally, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will receive \$4.5 million, while the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration will receive \$19 million in funding. The Health Resources and Services

Administration will receive \$54 million in funding to focus on healthcare workforce training.<sup>4,16</sup> This includes \$3 million for the National Health Services Corp, a program that aims to address the healthcare provider shortage in underserved communities across the US by offering scholarships and loan repayment programs to medical, dental, and behavioral health professionals; \$5 million for nursing programs; and \$5 million for Children's Hospitals Graduate Medical Education Payment program, which supports freestanding children's hospitals by funding their graduate medical education programs, facilitating the training of resident physicians and dentists.<sup>4,17,18</sup> Lastly, the Child Care and Development Block Grants will receive \$725 million in funding to continue providing vouchers for families to choose the childcare setting of their choice.<sup>4,14</sup>

## Department of Labor

HR 2882 allocates \$13.7 billion for the Department of Labor, which represents a decrease of \$145 million from FY 2023. Funding remains consistent with the FY 2023 enacted levels for key agencies within the Department of Labor, including the National Labor Relations Board and Enforcement agencies, such as the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Wage and Hour Division, and Employee Benefits Security Administration. Additionally, funding is maintained at the FY 2023 enacted level to support training programs aimed at assisting veterans in transitioning to civilian employment roles.<sup>4,14</sup>

## Conclusion

Both the Consolidated Appropriations Act and the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act fund the government through FY 2024 and address many health, housing, education, and labor agencies and programs. The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024 (HR 4366) includes vital healthcare and public health provisions, such as continuing funding for WIC, TEFAP, and Project-Based Housing programs. Additionally, the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024 (HR 2882) was signed hours before the deadline to prevent a partial government shutdown and funds over 70% of the federal government until September 30, 2024, including funding for the Departments of Education, Health and Human Services, and Labor.<sup>19</sup> The passing of both these bills finally marks the conclusion of the contentious 2024 appropriations process, which has been ongoing since September 2023.

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## Did you know?

The United States spends \$16,080 per student annually, which is well above the global average of \$10,759. However, the US continues to fall behind in many educational benchmarks.<sup>20,21</sup>



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