

House Labor-H Bill Would Make Cuts Across Workforce and Education

By Thomas Showalter

House appropriators propose slight cuts across most education and training programs in their [fiscal-year 2018 bill](#). Released Wednesday evening ahead of a markup this afternoon, the proposal would cut WIOA Adult and Youth formula funding streams by about 5 percent, Reintegration of Ex-Offender Grants 7 percent, and SCSEP by 25 percent. Other line items, including VR state grants, AmeriCorps, WIOA Dislocated Workers, Job Corps, YouthBuild, adult education, and career and technical education state grants would see level funding or smaller increases or decreases. A chart below highlights key line items in the bill.

Most surprisingly, the bill eliminates \$95 million to expand apprenticeships. Traditionally, this would be seen as a slap in the face by the White House, coming weeks after an Executive Order and events highlighting the value of apprenticeships (the president's budget called for \$90 million in apprenticeship funding).

Workforce Funding Items in House Labor-H Bill

<u>Proposed New Obligations</u>	<u>FY17 Omnibus</u>	<u>FY18 Prez Budget</u>	<u>FY18 House Labor-H</u>	<u>Omnibus → House Change (%)</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Department of Labor					
WIOA Adult	816	490	777	-4.78 %	
WIOA Dislocated Worker	1021	699	1016	-0.49 %	
WIOA Youth	873	608	832	-4.70 %	
Reintegration of Ex-Offenders	88	88	82	-6.82 %	
Apprenticeship Grants	95	90	0	-100.00 %	
YouthBuild	85	84	85	0.00 %	
Job Corps, total	1704	1614	1688	-0.94 %	
CSEP (Community Service Employment for Older Americans)	400	5	300	-25.00 %	House would transfer to HHS
Department of Education					
VR State Grants	3399	3453	3453	1.59 %	

CTE State Grants	1125	791	1125	0.00	%
Adult Education State Grants	582	486	582	0.00	%

Corporation for National and Community Service

AmeriCorps State and National	386	2	386	0.00	%
AmeriCorps VISTA	92	5	92	0.00	%
AmeriCorps National Civilian Conservation Corps	30	25	30	0.00	%
Social Innovation Fund	0	0	0	N/A	%

Uncertain Path Forward on Appropriations

This bill will likely pass the subcommittee this week, and the full House Appropriations Committee next week, with minimal amendments. From there its fate is uncertain. Senate appropriators are unlikely to mark up a Labor-H bill before the August recess (if it happens) due to the ongoing healthcare stalemate, then a looming fight over the debt ceiling. Rumors earlier this year were for a year-long continuing resolution, which may be where Congressional leaders end up by necessity if not by design.