

ProLiteracy Policy Update



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Congress on Break, Some Funding Items Still Unresolved

Congress adjourned for its summer recess this weekend. It will not be in session again until after Labor Day. Many members of Congress will be traveling or on vacation, but it is still possible to make contact with staff, particularly through the regional and local offices.

Among the items that remain unresolved at this time are reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) and Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (welfare). The Senate and House have passed different versions of WIA reauthorization that will need to be reconciled via conference committee negotiations following the recess. This is not expected to be a high priority item in the early fall.

Below is a summary of where funding for adult literacy and related educational programs stand for fiscal 2006. The Senate is not expected to take the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions appropriations bill (which includes funding for state grants for adult basic education and literacy as well as Even Start) to the floor for a full member vote, but rather, is expected to send the bill directly to conference committee for reconciliation with the House.

The appropriation for state grants for adult basic education and literacy is likely to survive the conference committee process intact since it is the same in both bills (\$570 million). However, advocates for other funding streams that have been reduced or eliminated will use the opportunity of the conference to try to restore their funding. Proponents of Even Start funding will be working to ensure that their funding is restored in this process.

Funding for Adult Literacy and Related Programs

(Amounts in thousands)

Program	Fiscal 2005 Budget	Fiscal 2006 Request	Fiscal 2006 House Bill	Fiscal 2006 Senate Bill
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION				
<i>Adult Education</i>				
Adult Education State Grants	569,672	200,000	569,672	569,672
National Leadership Activities	9,069	9,069	9,069	9,069
National Institute for Literacy	6,638	6,638	6,638	6,638
<i>Literacy & Education Programs</i>				
Even Start	225,000	0	200,000	0
Reading First	1,041,600	1,041,600	1,041,600	1,041,600
Early Reading First	104,160	104,160	104,160	104,160
Striving Readers	24,800	200,000	30,000	35,000
Literacy through School Libraries	19,683	19,683	19,683	19,683
High School Intervention	--	1,240,000	0	0
Reading is Fundamental/Book Distribution	25,300	25,300		
High School Equivalency	18,737	18,737	18,737	18,737
College Assistance Migrant Program	15,532	15,532	15,532	15,532
Title I Grants to Local Districts	12,739,571	13,342,309	12,839,571	12,839,571
Education Technology Grants	496,000	0	300,000	425,000
21 st Century Community Learning	991,100	991,000	991,100	991,077
National Writing Project	20,336	0	20,336	23,000
Dropout Prevention Programs	4,930	0	0	0
English Language Acquisition	675,765	675,765	675,765	675,765
<i>Vocational Education & Training</i>				
Vocational Education Basic State Grants	1,194,331	0	1,194,331	1,194,331
Tech-prep Education State Grants	105,811	0	105,812	105,812
National Programs, Voc Ed	11,757	0	11,757	9,257
Tech-Prep Ed Demonstration	4,899	0	0	0
Occupational and Employment Information Program	9,306	0	0	0
<i>Student Aid</i>				
Pell Grants	12,364,997	13,232,000	13,383,000	13,177,000
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR				
Community College Initiative	247,925	250,000	125,000	125,000
Adult Training	890,652	0	865,736	893,600
Dislocated Worker Assistance	1,343,583	0	1,405,300	1,476,000
Youth Training	985,989	0	950,000	986,288
WIA-Plus Block Grant (<i>New</i>)	3,912,856			
Job Corps	1,546,857	1,517,019	1,542,019	1,582,000
Prisoner Re-entry Initiative	19,834	35,000	19,840	19,840
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES				
Head Start	6,843,114	6,899,336	6,899,000	6,874,314