



UKRAINE AID MEASURE STALLED

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CONGRESS

Ukraine aid bill stalled in Senate. With previously enacted assistance set to run out, Senate leaders had expected to quickly follow the House and clear a \$40 billion emergency spending package for Ukraine this week. However, the final vote was delayed by Senator Rand Paul (R-KY), who is employing procedural tactics to slow consideration of the bill.

Earlier this week, the President appeared to have cleared the way for quick consideration of the Ukraine aid bill by dropping his request to have it coupled with the additional COVID-19 pandemic relief funds he has been seeking for the purchase of additional vaccines and therapeutics. The House quickly cleared the measure on Wednesday, 362-56.

However, the lack of unanimous consent due to Paul's objection means that the Senate cannot vote on the bill until the middle of next week. Unanimous consent is necessary in the Senate to proceed past the time-consuming procedural votes and steps needed to bring a bill to a final vote.

In other activity this week, the Senate, as expected, failed to overcome a filibuster of a House-approved bill (<https://bit.ly/3ykmYKb>) that would codify the 1972 *Roe v. Wade* decision that is expected to be reversed by the Supreme Court later this year. The 49-51 vote (<https://bit.ly/3FJSCCF>) fell well short of the 60 votes needed to end debate and proceed to a final vote.

In a rare show of bipartisanship on the Senate floor, the President's nomination of Jerome Powell to serve a second term as the Chair of the Federal Reserve Board was approved this week by an 80-19 vote. Two days earlier, Vice President Harris was needed in the chamber to break a 50-50 partisan deadlock on another Biden nominee, Lisa Cook, to be the first Black woman ever on the Federal Reserve Board of Governors.

Next week, the Senate may consider legislation (<https://bit.ly/316hcnu>) that would provide additional funds to the SBA Restaurant Revitalization Fund. The measure would provide \$40 billion to the Fund, which would not be reopened for new applications but for restaurants that applied but did not receive assistance because the Fund ran out of money.

Another \$8 billion in the bill would direct \$2 billion each to gymnasiums, live event venues, and motorcoach, ferry, and other transportation providers; \$1.4 billion for small businesses near land ports of entry that were closed during the pandemic, and \$500 million for minor league sports teams.

While the bill has bipartisan support, it is not clear whether it has the 60 votes necessary to avoid a filibuster in the Senate.

The House was in session this week but had a lighter schedule due to primary elections in several states. In addition to budget hearings and a slew Post Office naming, the House also approved a measure to reauthorize the Community Services Block Grant program at HHS (see story below).

Next week, the House is expected to consider legislation to reauthorize federal job training programs, and the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee is tentatively expected to take up a bill to authorize Army Corps of Engineers civil works projects, otherwise known as the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA).

Both the House and Senate are expected to be in session next week.

Washington Report

CapitalEdge
1212 New York Ave., NW
Suite 250
Washington, DC 20005

(202) 842-4930
Fax: (202) 842-5051
www.capitaledge.com

HUMAN SERVICES

House approves CSBG modernization. The House approved legislation this week (HR 5129) to reauthorize and update the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) program at HHS.

Congress created CSBG in 1964 as part of the War on Poverty, with the goal of supporting local anti-poverty initiatives through Community Action Agencies. The role of the nation's approximately 1,000 Community Action Agencies vary, but most administer programs such as Head Start, the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, and the Weatherization Program in addition to CSBG. Community Action Agencies are governed by a board that must be comprised equally of public officials, low-income community members, and private sector leaders.

HR 5129 would reauthorize CSBG at \$1 billion per year through FY 2027 and at "such sums as may be necessary" for FY 2028 through FY 2032. (In recent years Congress has appropriated around \$750 million per year for CSBG.) The bill would also make an array of changes to CSBG, including:

- Increasing income eligibility for receiving CSBG assistance from 125 percent of the poverty level to at 200 percent (which Congress did for the supplemental CSBG funds provided by the CARES Act),
- Updating CSBG planning, monitoring, and reporting, and
- Provisions designed to encourage timely distribution of funds from federal to state and state to local agencies, including a provision that would require states to allocate funds to Community Action Agencies within 30 days of receipt.

The bill would also create an Office of Community Services at the Department of Health and Human Services to administer CSBG and some small discretionary grant programs that the bill would authorize, including grants for training, technical assistance, planning, evaluation, and performance measurement and for innovative and evidence-based projects to reduce poverty.

The bill now heads to the Senate. It is unclear whether the bill has the support of at least 60 senators, the supermajority threshold needed for approval by the upper chamber.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

FEMA issues draft policy regarding COVID-19 public assistance reimbursement. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) issued a draft policy outlining programmatic and implementation deadlines for public assistance reimbursement related to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

The draft policy would sunset the 100% reimbursement for eligible COVID-19 response on July 1, 2022, and the 90% reimbursement on July 2, 2022. The deadline for submitting public assistance applications for work completed prior to July 1, 2022, would be December 31, 2022.

In addition, the draft policy outlines how applicants must separate costs incurred prior to July 2 from those incurred after July 2 since they will be reimbursed at different cost share levels, with the latter reimbursed at the regular rate of 75% federal share.

The deadline for completion of reimbursed work related to the COVID-19 emergency remains "until further notice." FEMA will provide at least 30 days' notice of the of the work completion deadline when they set it.

Comments are due May 24 and can be submitted (using the FEMA comment matrix, which is an Excel chart) via email to: fema-recovery-pa-policy@fema.dhs.gov.

The FEMA press release: <https://bit.ly/37lhj5H>

The draft policy: <https://bit.ly/3w9Eijk>

GRANTS & NOTICES

Dept. of Health & Human Services

The Office of Refugee Resettlement announced the availability of \$15 million through its Refugee Career Pathways Program. Twenty awards of up to \$750,000 each are expected to help enable recent Afghan entrants. Applications are due July 1: <https://bit.ly/3sCCSM7>

Department of Homeland Security

FEMA will host a May 19 technical assistance webinar for potential FY 2022 Homeland Security Grant Program applicants and sub-applicants: <https://bit.ly/3FXSRdn>

Dept. of Housing & Urban Dev.

HUD announced the availability of \$10 million in discretionary funding through the FY 2022 Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grants program. Twenty awards of up to \$500,000 each are expected; a five percent cash or in-kind match is required. Applications are due June 28: <https://bit.ly/3N2gZNV>

HUD awarded \$20 million in new grants through its Eviction Protection Grant Program: <https://bit.ly/3124BSS>

HUD awarded over \$1.4 million in housing assistance through the Foster Youth to Independence initiative: <https://bit.ly/3MpnqL2>

Department of Justice

The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) announced the availability of nearly \$8.5 million through the FY 2022 Field Initiated: Encouraging Innovation program, which will support efforts to respond to precipitous increases in crime. Six regional awards of up to \$1 million each are expected; no matching is required. Applications are due July 11: <https://bit.ly/3M6wIM9>

BJA also announced the availability of \$7.5 million through the FY 2022 Prosecuting Cold Cases Using DNA program, which supports the prosecution of violent crime cold cases where DNA from a suspect has been identified. Fifteen awards of up to \$500,000 each are expected; no matching is required. Applications are due June 27: <https://bit.ly/3wpySzB>

BJA is seeking applications for \$10.6 million in available funding through the FY 2022 Postconviction Testing of DNA Evidence program. A total of 22 awards of up to \$500,000 each are expected; no matching is required. Applications are due June 27: <https://bit.ly/39lwe63>

BJA announced the availability of nearly \$4.4 million in competitive grant funding through its Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grants Program. Fifteen awards of up to \$500,000 each are expected; no matching is required. Applications are due June 27: <https://bit.ly/3FLXR9f>

Department of Labor

DOL is seeking applications for \$3.4 million in available funding through the 2022 Women in Apprenticeship and Nontraditional Occupations program.

Six awards ranging from \$350,000 to \$750,000 are expected; no matching is required. Applications are due June 20: <https://bit.ly/3yvisbM>

The Employment and Training Administration published FY 2022 formula allotments for Workforce Investment and Opportunity Act and other job training programs under its jurisdiction: <https://bit.ly/3FKTfvr>

Department of Transportation

The Federal Aviation Administration awarded more than \$608 million to 441 airports through the first round of 2022 Airport Improvement Program grants: <https://bit.ly/3L69ZOZ>

National Endowment for the Humanities

NEH is accepting applications for the Public Humanities Projects program. Planning awards of up to \$75,000 each and implementation awards of up to \$400,000 each. No matching is required. Applications are due August 10: <https://bit.ly/3L4COLL>

National Park Service

NPS announced the 27 projects chosen to submit final applications for over \$61 million in Outdoor Legacy Partnership Program funding: <https://bit.ly/3sAxuJn>

NPS awarded over \$16.2 million through its FY 2021 African American Civil Rights Grant Awards program. The application notice for \$21.7 million in FY2022 funding will be available in late summer 2022: <https://bit.ly/3M8UMxM>

Community Care Corps

CCC issued a Request for Proposals for innovative local models in which volunteers assist family caregivers or directly assist older adults or adults with disabilities with non-medical. Awards will range from \$30,000 to \$200,000; a minimum 20 percent cash or in-kind match is required. Proposals will be accepted through July 8: <https://bit.ly/3wRgPBH>

Road Runners Club of America

The Road Runners Club of America is seeking applications for its Kids Run the Nation initiative, which will provide grants ranging from \$500 to \$1,000 to new or existing structured running programs. Applications are due August 1: <https://bit.ly/2U3bTL7>

Saucony Run for Good Foundation

Saucony is seeking applications from community nonprofit organizations for grants of up to \$10,000 to initiate and support running programs for kids. Applications are due June 15: <https://bit.ly/2ToMEA7>

IJA/BIL IMPLEMENTATION

Department of Commerce

Commerce launched a \$45 billion Internet for All initiative, including \$42.5 billion Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program (LOIs from states due July 18); \$1 billion Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure Program (June 21-September 30 application window, local governments are eligible applicants); and \$1.5 billion State Digital Equity Act programs (LOIs from states due July 12): <https://bit.ly/38p53Hq>

Dept. of Housing and Urban Dev.

HUD informed more than 4 million HUD-assisted families that receiving benefits from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law's (BIL) Affordable Connectivity Program does not count as income for determining family rent or impact their eligibility for HUD assistance: <https://bit.ly/3L6x8kn>

Department of the Interior

DOI announced \$240.4 million for extraordinary maintenance infrastructure repairs in FY 2022 funding from the BIL: <https://on.doi.gov/3syojZW>

DOI also announced \$68.4 million in FY 2022 funding from the BIL to support 125 ecosystem restoration projects in over 20 states: <https://on.doi.gov/3FXMXJf>

Department of Transportation

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) issued a notice establishing the Corridor Identification and Development program. FRA anticipates publishing a notice requesting proposals to participate in the program later this year and encourages eligible entities interested in submitting a proposal to submit an expression of interest now: <https://bit.ly/3sywpBI>

DOT is hosting a May 19 webinar for potential applicants of the Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program, a discretionary grant program funded with \$1 billion over the next 5 years: <https://bit.ly/39Y5V6B>

Environmental Protection Agency
EPA awarded \$254.5 million in Brownfields Cleanup, Assessment and Revolving Loan Fund grants to 265 communities supported by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law: <https://bit.ly/3MkmUhK>

Upcoming Deadlines

May 13

Nominations of New Alternative Fuel Corridors: <https://bit.ly/3KTWhid>

May 16

Applications to FAA Contract Tower Grant Program: <https://bit.ly/3MmL0aV>

May 18

Comments on Grants for Energy Efficiency Improvements and Renewable Energy Improvements at Public School Facilities: <https://bit.ly/3v6BEsP>

May 23

Applications for FY 2022 Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (Mega Projects, INFRA, and Rural): <https://bit.ly/36uOZD3>

May 31

Applications for FY 2022 Bus & Bus Facilities and Low or No Emissions grants: <https://bit.ly/3u6jJcO>

June 2

Comments on formula grants to states for electricity grid resilience projects: <https://bit.ly/3yk7upp>

June 13

Comments on FCC IJA Broadband Implementation: <https://bit.ly/3ImOckq>

June 15

Applications for FY 2023 WaterSMART Drought Response Program: Drought Resiliency Projects: <https://bit.ly/3LenQ67>

August 1

State plans for the National Electric Vehicle Formula Grant Program: <https://bit.ly/3igW4JM>

November 15:

States, in consultation with MPOs, must develop a Carbon Reduction Strategy: <https://bit.ly/3vWwMr1>