

COALITION *for* HEALTH FUNDING

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 22, 2024

Contact: Erin Will Morton, emorton@dc-crd.com

Washington, D.C.— The Coalition for Health Funding issues the following statement regarding the Labor-Health and Human Services appropriations bill for fiscal year 2024.

The [Coalition for Health Funding](#), an alliance of 86 nonprofit organizations working to promote strong investments in the public health continuum, is pleased that Congress finished its work on the L-HHS bill for Fiscal Year (FY) 2024. Funding our essential government programs annually is Congress's most basic function, and this year's process took far longer than necessary. However, we appreciate that Congress kept the government open while also avoiding catastrophic sequestration. We thank Congress and its hardworking staff for the time invested to reach this agreement.

Congress cannot repeat this same process for Fiscal Year 2025. The Administration and Congress must negotiate an FY2025 deal that allows more significant increases for non-defense discretionary spending, including L-HHS, to account for population increases and inflation. Flat funding is a cut. Programs that do not receive a basic cost of living adjustment cannot provide the same level of services from one fiscal year to the next. This is simply common sense. The cuts to HHS accounts contained in this agreement, including to the National Institutes of Health, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, the Health Resources and Services Administration, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and others means fewer Americans will have access to critical health services, there will be fewer research grants, and already stretched health programs will continue to try and do more with less. HHS agencies and programs must receive increases, not cuts in the next appropriations cycle.

We expect more from Congress in FY 2025 and look forward to working together with Congressional leaders and partners to secure the necessary commitments from policymakers to strengthen our nation's public health continuum to care for the needs of all Americans. The American people expect nothing less.

###

The Coalition for Health Funding includes [86 organizations](#). It is the oldest and largest nonprofit alliance dedicated to sustained public health funding to strengthen overall public health infrastructure.