



Wednesday, November 3, 2021

I. Advocacy

- **Today at 3pm ET - Join the @edfunding #5Cents4edfunding Twitter chat**– CEF (we are @edfunding on Twitter) is hosting a Twitter chat today from 3-4pm ET to highlight the need to quickly enact the proposed large and vital increases in education funding for fiscal year (FY) 2022, along with the education investments in the pending reconciliation bill. The President’s budget for 2022 and the House-passed appropriations bill both provide a \$29.8 billion (41%) increase for Department of Education programs – an unprecedented increase for education that is badly needed. The [11.01.21 CEF Update](#) has questions that will be asked every 10 minutes, sample promotional tweets, charts, and background information.

II. Policy Intelligence and Education News

- **Negotiations on FY 2022 appropriations not going well** – Yesterday the four chairs and ranking members of the Senate and House Appropriations Committees met to start negotiating a path forward to approving FY 2022 appropriations, more than one month after FY 2022 began. The government is operating until December 3 on a continuing resolution (CR) that extends funding at last fiscal year’s levels, giving Congress two extra months to finish all 12 government spending bills. However, Republicans and Democrats do not agree on the size of the total increase for defense and non-defense discretionary (NDD) spending or on policy provisions (known as policy “riders”) in the Democratic bills, to which Republicans object. Republicans want the same percentage increase for both defense and NDD; Senate Democrats proposed a 13% increase for NDD and a 5% increase for defense, matching the defense increase in the bipartisan National Defense Authorization Act that is pending final approval). House Democrats mirrored the President’s request for a 2% increase for defense and a 16% increase for NDD spending in their bills. Yesterday’s meeting was not fruitful, with Republicans wanting an agreement not to include the riders before they will negotiate on spending levels, and Democrats wanting to settle on funding totals before negotiating on the riders. Senate Appropriations Committee chair Patrick Leahy (D-VT) issued a [pessimistic statement](#) and ranking member Richard Shelby (R-AL) noted that while the fallback of a year-long CR at FY 2021 funding levels would forego the defense increase he is seeking, it at least would exclude the Democrats’ proposed policy riders. I think both Democrats and Republicans want to increase funding for programs so will not default to a year-long CR, but do seem on track to need at least one more CR beyond December 3 to provide more time to reach agreement. Appropriations bills require 60 votes to pass in the Senate, which means there must be some bipartisan support. CEF is pushing hard for the education funding increases in the House-passed and Senate Appropriations Committee-proposed FY 2022 Labor-HHS-Education bills.

- **Reconciliation bill not final yet** – Democrats are still negotiating the final contents of their reconciliation bill, although I do not anticipate much if any change to the education provisions that were described in the CEF Update of [10.28.02 #2](#). It's looking less likely that the House will vote on the reconciliation bill or the bipartisan infrastructure bill this week, but that is the goal since the House is not scheduled to be in session next week.
- **Reminder: nominations for CEF's 2022 Board of Directors are due Friday** – The CEF Update of [10.5.21](#) included the full details about nominations to serve on CEF's Board of Directors next year and the election in December, when CEF members will elect 8 people to CEF's Board. I encourage those interested in playing an active role in CEF to consider submitting a nomination for a position on next year's Board. Nominations are due by November 5 (the Candidate Profile form is attached).

III. Events

- **First-Generation College Celebration Day on November 8** – CEF member the Council for Opportunity in Education, together with others, is sponsoring a national panel discussion to highlight first-generation college students on the anniversary of President Johnson signing the Higher Education Act. The webinar is on November 8 from 3-4pm ET. Registration and information are [here](#).
- **CEF's schedule for the rest of the year -**
 - **Friday, Nov. 5** – 9:30-10:45 a.m. ET, [Zoom Friday meeting](#). Guest speaker at 9:30am ET: Rich Williams, Office of the Under Secretary at US Department of Education.
 - **Friday, Nov. 12** – no CEF Friday meeting while Congress is in recess.
 - **Friday, Nov. 19** – 9:30-10:45 a.m. ET, [Zoom Friday meeting](#). Guest speaker: Ashling Kelly Preston, Senator Tim Scott (R-SC).
 - **Friday, Nov. 26** – no CEF Friday meeting – enjoy the Thanksgiving break.
 - **Friday, Dec. 3** – 9:30-10:45 a.m. ET, [Zoom Friday meeting](#). Guest speaker: Brennan Barber, Senator Tina Smith (D-MN)
 - **Friday, Dec. 10** – 9:30-11:30 a.m. ET, Zoom annual meeting. Registration link and meeting details to come. This is the last CEF Friday meeting of the year.