



COMMITTEE FOR EDUCATION FUNDING

Thursday, November 12, 2020

I. CEF briefing today!

TODAY at 2pm! CEF Briefing for congressional staff and CEF members on “State Education Budgets and the Impact of COVID-19” – Thursday, November 12, 2-3:30 p.m. ET, via Zoom. Panelists will discuss how state education budgets work and why some states are already cutting budgets. Panelists will also address the impact of looming state revenue shortages on pre-K-12 education as well as the possible impacts on post-secondary education, both for students and institutions of higher education. **Still time to [RSVP here](#) to get the Zoom webinar link.**

Panelists:

- [Elizabeth McNichol](#), Senior Fellow, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities
- [Michael Griffith](#), Senior Researcher and Policy Analyst, Learning Policy Institute
- [Dr. Jennifer Ma](#), Senior Policy Research Scientist, The College Board

II. Policy Intelligence and Education News

- **Quick takes on congressional status** – There’s not a lot of time to negotiate agreements and pass at least a few important pieces of legislation in the lame duck session. The House is in session for votes just three of those weeks, but negotiations can be ongoing. Two items that are relevant to education: the fiscal year (FY) 2021 Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill and COVID-relief for education programs and states and localities.
 - **FY 2021 Labor-HHS-Education funding** - Senate Democrats criticized the FY 2021 Labor-HHS-Education funding bill released on Tuesday as inadequate, although the education funding total is not that much less than in the House-passed bill; recall that overall discretionary appropriations are capped essentially at a freeze at 2020 levels, making it tough to increase funding significantly without making offsetting cuts elsewhere, or providing funding under the emergency designation, which isn’t capped.
 - **So what is the difference in total funding between the House and Senate Labor-HHS funding bill?** Comparing the House and Senate allocations is complicated because they each use discretionary budget authority (shown in the official 302(b) allocation for the Subcommittee) and “CHIMPS,” which stand for changes in mandatory programs – money that is cut from mandatory spending that is then spent on discretionary programs. The Senate posted its level of CHIMPS but the House did not. Looking at the House bill score from the Congressional Budget Office, the effective totals for the House and Senate bills are almost identical at about \$195 billion, which is an increase of slightly more than \$2 billion over the comparable level for FY 2020.

- **Will Congress pass full-year funding?** It's possible that Congress will pass a package that combines full-year funding for some of the 12 government funding bills and a continuing resolution for a few months for bills with intractable differences, putting off the negotiations until the new Congress and Administration are sworn in in January.
- **A COVID-relief bill** – There's been little progress in resolving differences. Republican Congressional leaders oppose a large, "multi-trillion" bill while Democrats are making the case for comprehensive and large relief.
- **CEF in the news** – CEF answers questions, shares data and charts, and regularly directs reporters to our members. Two articles from this week:
 - **Education Week Politics K-12 blog** – a November 11 [article](#) titled " How Biden Could Steer Education Spending Without Waiting on Congress"
 - **Education Week** – a November 7 [article](#) titled " Joe Biden's Election as President Tees Up Massive Shifts for K-12 Policy"

III. Advocacy

- **Next week is #HearOurEdStories week on social media** - We have updated CEF's [#HearOurEdStories social media toolkit](#) and urge you to share it NOW with your Communications Director and membership networks to make next week "#HearOurEdStories" week on social media. (CEF is @edfunding on Twitter and Instagram and @Cmte4edfunding on Facebook; please follow us if you haven't already.) Congress will be considering both the government funding bills for fiscal year 2021 and another COVID-relief measure at a time families, schools and colleges, teachers and other education providers, and states and localities are faced with depleted education budgets to pay for new and ongoing needs. CEF's #HearOurEdStories campaign asks the public to share their education experience responding to the coronavirus pandemic and to urge Congress to provide more education funding for both the response and for the regular education funding bill. The #HearOurEdStories toolkit makes it easy for the public to tell their Members of Congress about their education priorities. (See full details in the [CEF Update 11.10.20 #3.](#))
- **Twitter chat on Tuesday from 4-5pm ET** – CEF will be holding a Twitter chat on Tuesday to hold a conversation about education funding priorities for the incoming Biden Administration. We'll shortly send you promotional tweets for the days leading up to the chat, and the six questions we'll be asking people to answer, one every ten minutes of the chat. We encourage you and your organization to participate, even just retweeting the questions, as this is a good way to get more people to know about CEF's advocacy.

IV. Other events

- **ACCT briefing series on "Enhancing the Federal Pell Grant Program to Maximize Student Success" today** – CEF member the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) is hosting a three-part webinar series on strengthening the Pell Grant program, with the second briefing this afternoon at 2:00 p.m. ET. Information and registration for the briefing, "Improving Access and Affordability of Workforce Training with Short-Term," is online [here](#). You can access the first webinar in the series on demand [here](#).

- **CEF's schedule for November and December -**
 - **Today - Nov. 12** – 2:00 -3:30 p.m. ET, Briefing for CEF members and congressional education staffers on state education budgets and the impact of COVID-19. See registration and details above.
 - **Tomorrow, Nov. 13** – 9:30-11:00 a.m. ET, [Zoom Friday meeting](#). Guest speaker: Lindsay Linhares, Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith (R-MS).
 - **Nov. 16-20** – #HearOurEdStories week on social media. The [updated toolkit](#) and full information is in [CEF Update 11.10.20 #3](#).
 - **Tuesday, Nov. 17** – Twitterchat on priorities for education funding next year. Materials coming soon.
 - **Friday, Nov. 20** – 9:30-11:00 a.m. ET, [Zoom Friday meeting](#). Guest speaker: Gabriele Elul, House Budget Committee.
 - **Tuesday, Nov 24** - 2021 CEF Board nominations and recommended slate shared in advance of annual meeting on Dec. 11.
 - **Friday, Nov. 27** – No Friday meeting the day after Thanksgiving.
 - **Friday, Dec. 4** - 9:30-11:00 a.m. ET, [Zoom Friday meeting](#). Guest speaker: Leslie Zelenko, Rep. Mark Pocan (D-WI).
 - **Friday, Dec. 11** - 9:30-11:30 a.m. ET, Zoom Annual Meeting (link to come). Attendance is important for elections and preview of CEF's 2021 plans.