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COMMITTEE FOR  
EDUCATION FUNDING

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Thursday, April 8, 2021

## I. Policy Intelligence and Education News

- **President's FY 2022 discretionary budget request being released tomorrow at 11am ET** – On Friday at 11am ET, the Administration is going to release a skinnier than usual “skinny” budget request for fiscal year (FY) 2022. This “discretionary request” will have just the topline appropriations levels, likely for each agency, but not any mandatory spending and revenue policies, which are usually included in the material first released by a new administration. The mandatory request (for education, that means any proposals dealing with student loans) and revenue proposals, along with the program-level budget numbers for FY 2022 discretionary funding, will be released later this spring when the Administration submits its full budget request. We’ll share CEF’s analysis and funding charts (ah, [education funding charts!](#)) as soon as we can.

- **OMB Zoom briefing tomorrow at 10:15 a.m. ET** – Right before the discretionary request is released, the White House Office of Public Engagement is holding a briefing by the Acting Director and staff from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). The briefing is tomorrow, April 9, at 10:15 a.m. ET. It is a general briefing, not education specific, and will include discussion about some of the discretionary request’s key priorities and how it will impact the Congressional appropriations process.

OMB Briefing on the President’s FY 2022 Discretionary Request

Tomorrow, Friday, 4/9/21, at 10:15 a.m. ET

Register for the Zoom briefing

at: [https://pitc.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN\\_LH6ThMWIRuyhyMwMvcQE6Q](https://pitc.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_LH6ThMWIRuyhyMwMvcQE6Q)

- **What comprises the President’s education agenda for this year** – In a normal year, the President’s budget comes to Congress in early February and it includes all the education investments the Administration wants for that year. But of course, this is not a normal year. This year, I’m thinking about the Administration’s education agenda as expressed in several distinct parts, but I think the Administration may discuss them all together once they are all released. They are:
  - **COVID-relief in the American Rescue Plan** – Congress has already enacted the President’s first COVID-relief plan, which included about \$220 billion for the Department of Education and other education-related programs plus \$362 billion for state and local job relief, much of which could support education (see the CEF Update on 3.18.21 for CEF’s report on education funding in the American Rescue Plan).
  - **Education funding in the FY 2022 discretionary request** – This is the appropriations outline the Administration is releasing tomorrow, and will likely factor heavily into the government funding bills for FY 2022 that the House and Senate Appropriations Committees will start

crafting this spring. Congress never enacts exactly what the President requests, although usually a Congress of the same party as the President will try to include at least key priorities from the President's request. These FY 2022 appropriations bills are supposed to be completed before the end of this fiscal year on September 30, although are often finalized much later. We're hearing that the President's budget is going to have a big increase for education!

- **Education infrastructure in the American Jobs Plan** – Last week the Administration announced the first part of its Build Back Better infrastructure plan. Called the [American Jobs Plan](#), it would invest more than \$200 billion in education and education-related infrastructure, including \$100 billion for school construction and modernization, \$12 billion for community college, \$25 billion for child care facilities, and \$100 billion for workforce development, among other education-related infrastructure investments (see the CEF Update on 3.31.21 for specifics). The President hopes this plan will receive bipartisan support, but if it does not, Congress might consider passing part or all of it via another reconciliation bill created by a revised FY 2021 budget resolution. There's no guarantee that any of all of this will be enacted this year.
- **Education investments in the American Families Plan** – Later this spring, the Administration plans to release a second part of its Build Back Better plan that will include investments in "social infrastructure." Referred to as [the American Families Plan](#), it is expected to have big, long-term investments in education such as universal pre-k education, free community college, and other spending and policies designed to increase access to high quality education. Congress might consider passing this in a reconciliation bill created by a FY 2022 budget resolution, under the assumption that another big spending proposal won't get sufficient Republican support to pass otherwise. I think it's likely that some of the big education investments laid out in the Biden-Harris campaign will be in this proposal, and not the FY 2022 discretionary education budget being released tomorrow.

## II. Advocacy

- **Reminder: CEF is collecting examples of how COVID education funding is being used** – CEF is collecting examples of how schools, districts, colleges, and other entities are using COVID-relief funding – the \$282 billion for Department of Education programs and additional funding for other education-related programs. We'll share the collected information about how the federal relief funding is being used as part of CEF's advocacy to increase federal investments for long-term, ongoing education programs. Please share examples that show how the federal COVID-relief dollars have been or will be used. We have a [short questionnaire where you can provide specifics](#), or you can email information directly to me.

## III. Events

- **CEF's upcoming schedule -**
  - **Tomorrow - Friday, April 9** – No CEF meeting during congressional recess.
  - **Wednesday, April 14** – Time TBD. CEF Twitter livestream conversation explaining appropriations earmarks. Stay tuned for details.
  - **Thursday, April 15** – 5-6 p.m. ET – CEF [Zoom happy hour](#) (it's not tax day so come share an hour for fun)!

- **Friday, April 16** - 9:30-10:45 a.m. ET, [Zoom Friday meeting](#). Guest speakers: Amanda Beaumont and Bryce McKibben, Senate HELP Committee.
- **Thursday, April 22** – 3-4 p.m. ET – Twitter chat on the President’s education budget. Details to come.
- **Friday, April 23** - 9:30-10:45 a.m. ET, [Zoom Friday meeting](#). Guest speaker TBD.
- **Friday, April 30** - 9:30-10:45 a.m. ET, [Zoom Friday meeting](#). Guest speaker: Owen Reilly, Rep. Joe Morelle (D-NY).
- **Friday, May 7** – no CEF meeting.
- **Friday, May 14** – 9:30-10:45 a.m. ET, [Zoom Friday meeting](#). Guest speaker TBD.
- **(tentative) Tuesday, May 18** – 2-3:30 p.m. ET – Zoom briefing for congressional staff and CEF members on historic underfunding of education and long-term needs. Details to come.