



American Psychological Association Services, Inc.

Public Witness Written Testimony

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Submitted April 8, 2026

United States House of Representatives

Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education

Fiscal Year 2027 Appropriations

Chair Aderholt, Ranking Member DeLauro, and distinguished members of the Subcommittee, the American Psychological Association Services (APA Services), Inc.¹ appreciates and welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 appropriations.

We are grateful for the Subcommittee's continued bipartisan leadership and Congress's commitment to funding programs critical to the nation's health care, education, and research enterprise. Continued federal investment in psychological research, education, and access to mental and behavioral health services is essential to meeting the needs of individuals and communities nationwide.

Funding Requests for Fiscal Year 2027

The programs under the Subcommittee's jurisdiction are fundamental to the nation's health, education, and well-being. Strong investments will help advance scientific breakthroughs, address shortages of qualified mental and behavioral health providers, and support equitable public education. Accordingly, APA Services requests the following funding levels for FY 2027:

Department of Education

Education funding is a vital investment in our nation's future. Federal investments in programs across the continuum, such as IDEA, the Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grant, TRIO, and the Institute of Education Sciences, are essential for promoting academic excellence, mental and behavioral health, and safe learning environments.

PROGRAM	REQUEST (IN MILLIONS)
Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part B, Grants to States	\$16,661.0
Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grant (Title IV-A)	\$1,600.0
School Safety National Activities (Mental Health Service Professional Development Grant Program and School-Based Mental Health Services Grant Program)	\$250.0
TRIO Programs	\$1,300.0
Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need (GAANN)	\$28.6
Institute of Education Sciences	at least \$900.0

¹ APA Services is the companion organization of the American Psychological Association (APA), the nation's largest scientific and professional nonprofit organization representing the discipline and profession of psychology, as well as more than 173,000 members and affiliates who are clinicians, researchers, educators, consultants, and students in the field of psychological science.

Department of Health and Human Services

Investing in HHS is critical for promoting public health and advancing psychological science. Sustained, robust investment in the NIH, including psychological science and mental and behavioral health, will allow the nation to maintain its competitive advantage in the global marketplace and enable people to lead longer, healthier lives. Additionally, initiatives such as the Graduate Psychology Education (GPE) Program are essential for building a strong mental and behavioral health care workforce. Further, as Congress supports NIH's AI and data modernization efforts, it is essential that NIH's behavioral and social science expertise be fully integrated into those initiatives (see the appendix for report language).

AGENCY	PROGRAM	REQUEST (IN MILLIONS)
NIH	National Institutes of Health (NIH)	at least \$51.3
NIH	Firearm Injury and Mortality Research	\$25.0
NIH	Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research (OBSSR)	Commensurate with the NIH increase
NIH	National Institutes of Mental Health*	Commensurate with the NIH increase
AHRQ	Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)	\$500.0
HRSA	Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training (BHWET) Program	\$115.0
HRSA	Graduate Psychology Education (GPE)*	\$30.0
SAMHSA	Mental Health Services Block Grant (MHBG)	\$1,053.5
SAMHSA	Substance Use Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Services Block Grant (SUPTRS-BG)	\$2,210.0
SAMHSA	State Opioid Response (SOR) Grant	\$1,750.0
SAMHSA	Garrett Lee Smith State/Tribal Grant Program	\$45.81
SAMHSA	Garrett Lee Smith Campus Suicide Prevention Grant Program*	\$12.5
SAMHSA	988 and Behavioral Health Crisis Services	\$561.6
SAMHSA	Minority AIDS Initiative	\$5.0
SAMHSA	Minority Fellowship Program (MFP)	\$25.0
SAMHSA	Primary and Behavioral Health Care Integration (PBHCI)	\$55.9 plus \$3.9 for technical assistance
CDC	Office of Rural Health	\$10.0
ACF	Child Care and Development Block Grant	\$9,000.0
ACF	Head Start	\$13,100.0
ACL	University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities	\$45.0

**See Appendix for FY 2027 report language requests*

Department of Labor

Funding for the Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Division strengthens efforts to prevent child labor violations and ensure that all children can learn, grow, and thrive in a safe environment. Additionally, continued funding is needed to support the Employee Benefits

Security Administration’s reviews of parity compliance analyses, which are essential to ensuring that health plans cover mental health and substance use disorder services on equal terms with medical care, preventing cost, coverage, or access barriers that undermine patient care.

PROGRAM	REQUEST (IN MILLIONS)
Wage and Hour Division	\$341.0
Employee Benefits Security Administration	\$206.1

Protecting Congressional Authority and Agency Integrity

APA Services appreciates Congress’s bipartisan efforts to reject proposed cuts and program eliminations that would have significantly undermined mental and behavioral health, education, and research. However, we remain deeply concerned about the administration’s ongoing efforts to withhold funds as well as continued instability within federal agencies, all of which have led to uncertainty regarding agencies’ ability to effectively carry out Congressionally authorized and funded programs.

For example, earlier this year, thousands of active SAMHSA grants were abruptly terminated by the administration and then reinstated within 48 hours following bipartisan Congressional and stakeholder intervention. Although the cancellations were rescinded, the episode created immediate confusion, disrupted planning, and sent a deeply destabilizing message to grantees, undermining their ability to operate with continuity and confidence.

Furthermore, for decades NIH used Notices of Funding Opportunities (NOFOs) to actively direct research toward urgent health needs, underserved populations, and scientific gaps. Historically, NIH issued 650–850 NOFOs annually, including more than 750 in 2024. In contrast, only 84 opportunities were issued over the subsequent 13 months in FY 2025 and FY 2026, even as internal forecasts show hundreds of planned initiatives. Data show that most planned NOFOs remain stalled at the forecast stage, contributing to delays in grant making and reduced predictability for the research community. Restoring robust NIH funding and congressional direction is essential to reestablishing scientific stewardship, protecting institute expertise, and ensuring timely responses to emerging and chronic health challenges.

As the Subcommittee considers Fiscal Year 2027 appropriations, APA Services urges you to continue exercising your constitutional authority over federal spending and to provide strong oversight to ensure that agencies implement funding faithfully and as intended by law. Further disruptions threaten progress in psychological science, exacerbate mental and behavioral health workforce shortages, and impair service delivery in communities nationwide.

Appendix: Proposed Fiscal Year 2027 Report Language

Title: *Graduate Psychology Education (GPE) Program*

Program: Graduate Psychology Education (GPE) Program

Agency: U.S. Department of Health & Human Services Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)

Interdisciplinary Community-Based Linkages

Mental and Behavioral Health

Language: *Graduate Psychology Education (GPE)* — Within the total for Mental and Behavioral Health programs, the Committee includes \$30,000,000 for the inter-professional GPE program to increase the number of health service psychologists trained to provide integrated services in underserved communities, especially in rural areas which are more than twice as likely to lack mental and behavioral health providers. Recognizing the growing need for highly trained mental and behavioral health professionals to deliver evidence-based behavioral interventions for pain management in addressing the opioid epidemic and CDC data showing a mental health crisis among youth and adolescents, the Committee directs HRSA to strengthen investments in the training of health service psychologists.

Title: *Garrett Lee Smith Campus Suicide Prevention Grant Program.*

Program: **Garrett Lee Smith Campus Suicide Prevention Grant Program**

Agency: SAMHSA

Language: *Garrett Lee Smith Campus Suicide Prevention Grant Program.* — The Committee supports SAMHSA’s waiver of matching funds for minority-serving institutions and community colleges in the 2024 funding notice, a recognition of the importance of addressing mental health and preventing suicide at traditionally under-resourced institutions of higher education. The Committee directs the Secretary to continue to waive this requirement in future funding opportunities.

Title: *Youth Mental Health Research.*

Program: **National Institute of Mental Health**

Agency: National Institutes of Health

Language: *Youth Mental Health Research*— The Committee is concerned by CDC data indicating elevated levels of depression among adolescents. The Committee acknowledges the NIMH strategic framework for addressing mental health among underserved and underrepresented youth, including those residing in rural communities, by 2031. The Committee further recognizes ongoing collaborative work with NICHD and NIMHD to execute this framework through research, workforce development, and stakeholder engagement. The Committee directs NIMH to utilize the additional funds provided to develop evidence-based tools and interventions to support recovery. The Committee directs NIH to report to the Committees on Appropriations within 180 days of enactment of this Act detailing progress made in implementing the NIMH strategic framework, including updates on interagency collaboration, research advancements, workforce development activities, and stakeholder engagement.

Title: *Research on the Behavioral Impacts of AI*

Program: Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research

Agency: National Institutes of Health

Language: *Research on the Behavioral Impacts of AI* — The Committee directs the National Institutes of Health to include the Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research in ongoing and future artificial intelligence initiatives to ensure the psychological and behavioral impacts of AI are considered. Research should focus on the efficacy of AI-driven mental health tools, the impact of algorithmic decision-making on therapeutic alliances, and the role of AI in addressing or exacerbating health disparities.