

Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Appropriations Highlights for Southern and Eastern Kentucky

Minibus Including 6 Bills: Defense; Financial Services and General Government; Homeland Security; Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education; Legislative Branch; and State-Foreign Operations

Opioid Treatment, Prevention, Recovery, and Research

- **Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)** – Provides \$7.4 billion for substance abuse prevention – \$2 billion of which will be deployed to states for on-the-ground treatment and recovery services.
- **Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Recovery (STAR) Loan Repayment Program** – Provides \$40 million for the STAR LRP to incentivize medical professionals to serve as substance use disorder treatment professionals in areas of high need in exchange for up to \$250,000 in student loan repayment.
- **High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA)** – Provides \$298.6 million for the HIDTA program to assist federal, state, and local authorities clean up trafficking hot spots, which will enable the Appalachian HIDTA to continue its work in southern and eastern Kentucky.
- **Rural Communities Opioids Response Program** – \$145 million for rural opioid prevention initiatives, with \$10 million included to continue the three Rural Centers for Excellence to support treatment and prevention of substance use disorder, including opioid use disorder, in rural counties.
- **Methamphetamines and Other Stimulants** – Includes language that emphasizes the problem of increased use and of overdose from methamphetamine and other stimulants and supports the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) efforts to combat the problem.
- **Opioid Overdose Prevention and Surveillance** – Provides \$506 million to assist the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in using its agencies and full authority to adequately attack the opioid epidemic head-on.
- **National Institutes of Health (NIH)** – Provides \$48.6 billion to conduct life-saving research.
- **Drug Free Communities Program** – Provides \$109 million for grants to community-based groups seeking to prevent youth substance abuse.
- **Drug Court Programs** – Provides \$77 million for drug court programs designed to help nonviolent offenders struggling with addiction.

- **Fighting Fentanyl Internationally** – In addition to the \$1.4 billion provided for the State Department’s International Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement account, \$125 million is provided for the first time to support broader international counternarcotics law enforcement, justice, and programming that advances a comprehensive approach to combat synthetic drugs before they reach the United States.

Programs to Support Rural Educational Achievement and Job Training

- **Head Start** – Promotes school readiness, an important part of preparing children for a successful future in the region, with \$12.27 billion for Head Start programs, which is an additional \$275 million over FY23.
- **Career and Technical Education** - Provides \$2.1 billion for Career, Technical, and Adult Education Grants. This program is an essential component of the high school curriculum. This funding will assist Kentucky schools in providing students with skills necessary for a successful transition to the workforce.
- **Job Corps** – Provides \$1.76 billion for the Job Corps program. This funding will assist the several Kentucky Job Corps locations to continue providing career technical training to our nation’s youth, while allowing them to work towards a high school diploma or college credits. It also promotes a sense of community and family.
- **Community Development Financial Institutions** – provides \$324 million within the CFDI program to promote economic revitalization in low-income communities. Kentucky-based organizations like Kentucky Highlands Investment Corporation and Community Ventures use these funds to help individuals buy homes, start and grow small businesses, as well as fund projects that improve our local communities.
- **Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Community Matching Grant Program** – Provides \$41 million for an IRS initiative designed to support free tax preparation service for underserved communities.

Provisions to Promote Rural Health and Medical Research

- **Viral Hepatitis** – Provides \$43 million for the Viral Hepatitis program at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- **National Diabetes Prevention Program** – Provides \$37.3 million for initiatives to prevent or delay type-2 diabetes.
- **Rural Health Programming** – Provides extensive funding for rural health, including \$364 million in funding for rural health programs, which is a \$12.2 million increase from FY23.

Protecting our Miners

- **Black Lung Disability Trust Fund** – Directs the Secretary of Labor to process miners' claims for Black Lung Disability Benefits faster and report to Congress on efforts to improve the speed and quality of black lung claims processing. Some miners have waited years for the Department of Labor to process their claims and this is unacceptable.
- **Black Lung Clinics** – Provides \$12 million for detection and treatment services for those suffering from black lung disease.

Securing our Border

- Funds 22,000 **Border Patrol Agents**, and a detention bed level of 41,500, ensuring we have the capacity for the influx of illegal immigration.
- Provides funding for next generation **border security technology**, including:
 - \$283.5 million for modern, autonomous surveillance towers.
 - \$305 million for scanning technology at ports of entry
 - \$283.5 million for improvements to Customs and Border Patrol's Mobile Video Surveillance System.
- Maintains the prohibitions on hiring illegal aliens and the transfer of firearms to individuals suspected of being involved in a drug cartel.

Protecting our Communities

- **FEMA Continuing Training Grants** - \$14.4 million is provided to develop and deliver training to prepare communities to prevent, protect against, mitigation, respond to, and recovery from natural and other hazards. Of this amount, \$2.7 million is specifically carved out for **rural training**. The Center for Rural Development and Rural Domestic Preparedness Consortium in Somerset, Kentucky utilizes this funding regularly.
- **Assistance for Firefighter Grants** – Provides \$324 million for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Assistance to Firefighter Grants to enhance the safety of the American people and the firefighters who protect them. Both AFG and SAFER grants are utilized by Lion Apparel to produce fire-retardant gear.
- **Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grants** – Provides \$324M for SAFER Grants to directly fund fire departments and volunteer firefighter interest organizations to help them increase or maintain the number of trained firefighters.

- **FEMA Disaster Relief Fund** – \$20.26 billion to assist FEMA in directing, coordinating, and funding response and recovery efforts associated with domestic major disasters and emergencies that overwhelm State resources.
- **Small Town America Resilience (STAR) Program (Science and Technology Directorate, Research and Development)** – Supports the Small-Town America Resilience (STAR) Program to enhance the physical security and resilience focus of critical infrastructure needs of underserved communities. This request comes from the National Institute for Hometown Security in Somerset, KY.
- **Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction** – Includes language on behalf of OSI Systems/Rapiscan in Corbin, KY that expresses concern with the Office of CWMD’s acquisition schedule of the Radiation Portal Technology Enhancement & Replacement (RAPTER) program to deploy 1,400 new radiation portal monitor systems to recapitalize the aging fleet, and requires a quarterly briefing to Congress on the progress of the program.

Defense of our Nation

The Fiscal Year 2024 Defense appropriations bill continues to build and modernize our military, in close alignment with the National Defense Strategy. It prioritizes readiness, taking care of our service members and their families, and ensuring that the military has the capabilities it needs to fight and win our nation’s wars.

- **Overall Defense Spending** – Provides \$824.3 billion for the Department of Defense, \$27 billion more than Fiscal Year 2023.
- **Taking Care of Soldiers** – Includes a 5.2% pay raise for our troops – the highest in 20 years.
- **Defending our Nation from Drug Trafficking** – Includes \$1.18 billion for drug interdiction and counterdrug activities, with \$302 million for the National Guard Counter Drug Program, increases in funding for programs to counter illicit fentanyl and synthetic opioids, and targeted funds to train and equip Mexico to counter drug cartels.
- **Defense Infrastructure** – Includes \$16.4 billion for key facility sustainment, restoration, and modernization.
 - Includes targeted funding increases for improvements to barracks, depots, and child development centers.
- **Readiness and Training** – Supports key readiness programs that will prepare our troops for combat and peacetime missions, including flight time and battle training, equipment and facility maintenance, and base operations.

- **Health Care & Research** – Provides over \$39.9 billion for the Defense Health Program, which provides comprehensive care for our active-duty troops, their families, and retirees. It also funds critical research for many health issues which affect our service members, including several forms of cancer, traumatic brain injuries, and psychological health.
- **Electronic Health Record** – Includes strong oversight measures to ensure that DOD finally provides our troops with an electronic health record that can also be used by the VA.
- **Support for Ukraine** – Includes \$300 million for the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative, which provides for training and joint exercises with Ukrainian troops.
- **Countering the People's Republic of China** – Doubles security cooperation funding for Taiwan, increases investments in next generation platforms, and maximizes the production of critical munitions.