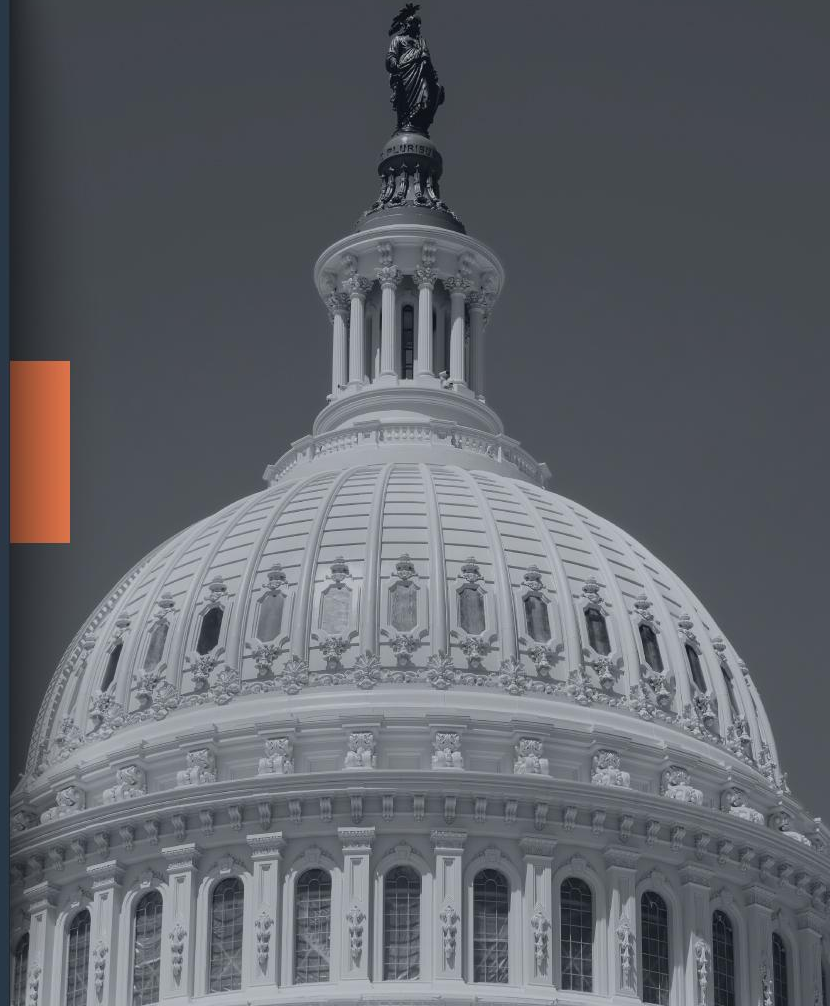




Intro to Appropriations

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Why is the Appropriations Cycle Important?

Government Operations: It funds the day-to-day operations of the federal government, ensuring that agencies and programs have the resources they need to function and serve the public. Appropriations must pass legislation.

Policy Implementation: By deciding where and how to allocate funds, Congress can influence the implementation of laws and policy initiatives, shaping the nation's priorities and strategic direction. Appropriations touch every facet of the federal government.

Fiscal Responsibility: The process allows Congress to review government spending, make adjustments to reflect current needs and priorities, and address fiscal challenges, including managing the deficit and national debt. Appropriations is an iterative process.

Checks and Balances: It serves as a check on the Executive branch, ensuring that taxpayer funds are spent in accordance with legislative intent and public interest. Appropriations is an open process but requires expertise.

Key Terms

Discretionary Spending: Spending that is not mandated by existing law and is subject to the annual appropriations process. Discretionary spending makes up about one-third of the federal budget and is provided through annual appropriations bills.

Mandatory Spending: Expenditures required by law, not subject to the annual appropriations process. It includes entitlement programs such as Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid.

302(a): The 302(a) allocation is determined after the passage of the annual budget resolution by Congress. It essentially sets the cap on spending for all discretionary programs for the year.

302(b): Once the Appropriations Committee receives its 302(a) allocation, it divides this total amount among its subcommittees, each responsible for drafting the appropriations bills that fund different parts of the government. These subdivisions are known as 302(b) allocations.

Key Terms cont.

Continuing Resolution (CR): A type of appropriations legislation used by Congress to fund government agencies if a formal appropriations bill has not been signed into law by the end of the fiscal year. A CR allows government operations to continue temporarily under the previous year's funding levels.

Supplemental Appropriations Acts: Additional funds to an agency or department, usually after the annual budget has already been established. Often passed in response to natural disasters, military conflicts, economic downturns, or other situations.

Omnibus Bill: A single document that is accepted in a single vote by a legislature but packages together several measures into one or combines diverse subjects. In budgetary contexts, omnibus bills can be used to package several appropriations bills into one.

What Can be Done with Approps?

Federal Funding Allocation: Congressional appropriations can increase or decrease funding for specific programs, directly impacting their scale and effectiveness. Adjusting the funding levels allows Congress to prioritize certain areas over others, reflecting the changing needs and values of the country.

Budget Shaping: Through appropriations, Congress has the power to restrict or direct the activities of federal agencies, ensuring they align with legislative intent. This mechanism serves as a check on executive agencies, guiding their operations towards specific goals.

Policy Influence: Appropriations can mandate agencies to generate reports, including the public disclosure of information, fostering transparency and accountability. This process often brings attention to critical issues, informing both policy decisions and public understanding.

Investigations: The appropriations process can prompt investigations into government operations or societal issues, requiring agencies to examine and report on specific concerns. Such investigations can lead to reforms, improved efficiency, and enhanced public trust in government.

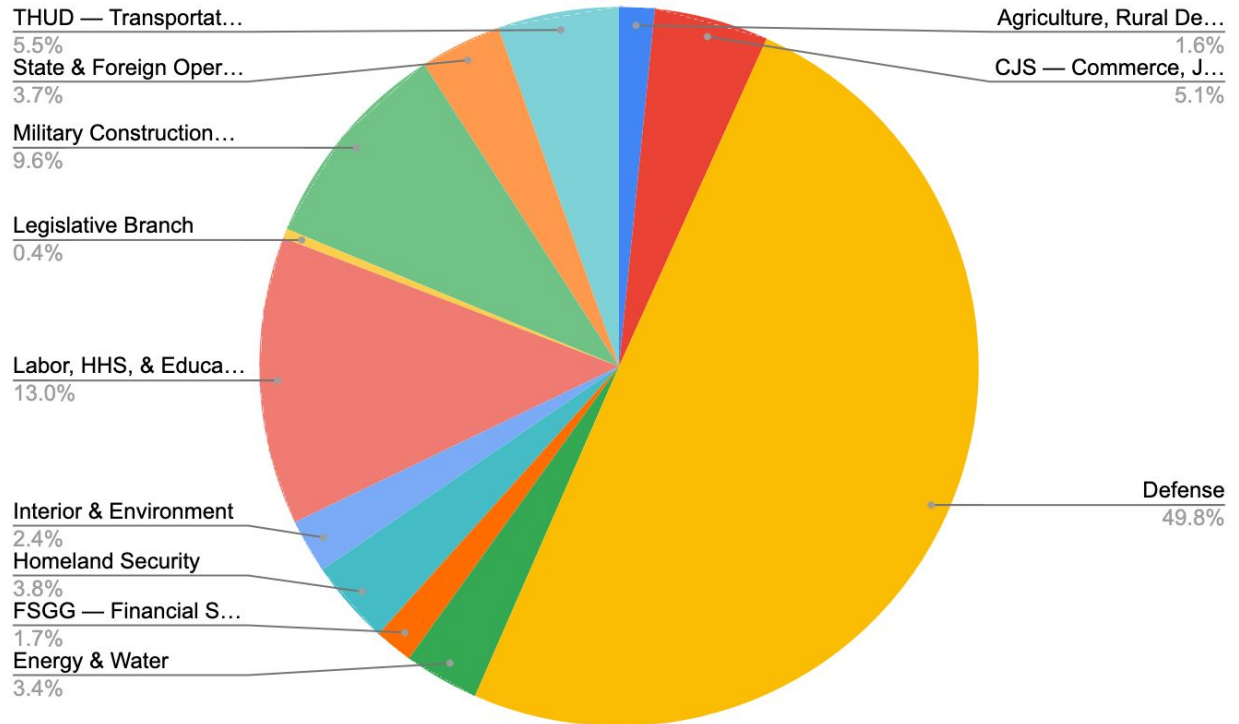
Community Impact: By controlling the pace at which money is available (e.g., no year, one year, multi-year funding), Congress can influence the longevity and stability of programs. This control allows for strategic planning and ensures that initiatives can be sustained over time to achieve their intended impacts.

Subcommittees of Jurisdiction

- Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA
- CJS — Commerce, Justice, Science
- Defense
- Energy & Water
- FSGG — Financial Services & General Government
- Homeland Security
- Interior & Environment
- Labor, HHS, & Education
- Legislative Branch
- Military Construction & Veterans Affairs
- State & Foreign Operations
- THUD — Transportation & Housing and Urban Development

FY 2023 Subcommittee Allocations

-Ag - \$25.5
-CJS - \$82.4
-Defense - \$797.7
-Energy & Water - \$54
-FSGG - \$27.6
-Homeland - \$60.7
-Interior - \$38.9
-Labor HHSE - \$207.4
-Leg. - \$6.9
-MilCon - \$154.2
-SFOPs - \$59.7
-THUD - \$87.3
*(in billions)



High Level Timeline

First Monday in February	President submits budget
February	Congressional Budget Office submits report (on economic and budget outlook) to Budget Committees.
Not later than six weeks after the President submits budget	Committees submit views and estimates to Budget Committees.
April 1	Budget Committees report concurrent resolution on the budget (budget resolution).
April 15	Congress completes action on concurrent resolution on the budget.
May 15	Annual appropriations bills may be considered in the House and Senate
June 10	House and Senate Appropriations Committees reports last appropriation bill.
June 15	Congress completes action on reconciliation legislation.
June 30	Congress completes action on annual appropriation bills.
September 30	End of the fiscal year.
October 1	New fiscal year begins.

Additional Resources

- Congress.gov appropriations chart: Congress.gov > appropriations
- President's budget: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget/>
- Congressional Budget Justifications: <https://www.usaspending.gov/agency>
- CRS Reports: <https://www.everycrsreport.com/>: search subcommittee name or agency + “appropriation”
- House and Senate approps committee pages
- Agency annual reports and agency financial reports

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Questions?



THANK YOU



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