

## FEDERAL APPROPRIATIONS TIMELINE

*Thanks to David Munar, AIDS Foundation of Chicago, and Lei Chou, The Access Project*

- January:** President delivers the State of the Union Address
- February:** President's Proposed Budget Announced (first Monday in February)
- March:** House and Senate Budget Committees draft and vote on **budget resolutions** (broad budget framework)
- House votes first on House Budget Resolution. Senate follows with Committee vote and then floor vote.
- Subcommittees hold public hearings
- April:** A House-Senate conference committee resolves differences between two budget resolutions. Both chambers vote on budget report. Congressional deadline to complete budget is April 15.
- Based on the budget resolution, congressional leaders develop funding parameters for each of 13 appropriations subcommittees
- Subcommittees hold public hearings
- June:** **Subcommittees "mark-up,"** which means that they recommend and vote on funding amounts for their categories. House subcommittees mark-up before the Senate.
- July:** Full House Appropriations Committee votes on each subcommittee mark-up.
- Full Senate Appropriations Committee votes on each subcommittee mark-up.
- August:** Congressional recess. Members are typically accessible at their district offices.
- September:** Full House votes on each of the 13 appropriations bills. Full Senate does as well.
- A House-Senate conference committee (one per bill) resolves differences between the House and Senate bills. Each chamber then votes on the conference report.
- President signs each bill into law.
- October:** Start of the federal fiscal year.
- If work remains finalizing appropriations, Congress passes "**continuing resolutions**," providing federal department and agencies authority to spend money on a short-term basis (usually tied to the previous fiscal year appropriations). CRs (continuing resolutions) must be passed by both chambers and signed by the President to be in force.
- Dec/Jan:** If work finalizing appropriations remains uncompleted, Congress may roll all remaining appropriations bills into one massive bill called an "**omnibus appropriations**," which typically is negotiated by the White House and congressional leaders and then passed quickly through each chamber of Congress.

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