



FEDERAL UPDATE: House Approves Spending Bill; Includes Money for Ebola Readiness/Response

The House late yesterday passed a \$1.1 trillion spending package that mostly funds the government through September 30, 2015, including \$5.4 billion in funding for Ebola efforts domestically and internationally. The Senate is expected to pass the measure this weekend, after Congress also passed a Continuing Resolution to keep the federal government operating for a few days beyond the December 11, 2014 deadline. The House's Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act will provide funding for 11 of the 12 individual annual spending bills. Funding for the Department of Homeland Security would only extend through February 2015. Homeland's shortened extension is in response to legislators who are unhappy with President Obama's executive order about immigration and who want to keep pressure on the president.

Emergency Ebola Funding: Of the \$5.4 billion in emergency funding, \$733 million goes to the Department of Health and Human Services to prevent, prepare, and respond to Ebola. This money is available until September 2019. It is from this pot of money that hospitals will seek funding for costs related to renovation and/or construction of Ebola treatment spaces, as well as expenses for staff training, equipment and supply needs, and the monthly competency attestations and emergency drills that the New York State Department of Health mandated in October. New York's hospital industry estimates that hospitals have already spent between \$50 million and \$75 million. The Suburban Hospital Alliance will continue to work with the Healthcare Association of New York State (HANYs) to ensure New York hospitals receive their fair share of this Ebola money.

STATE UPDATE: DOH Awards Funds for Population Health Activities; Contractors Named in 10 Regions

The New York State Department of Health awarded a total of \$26.5 million to support population health efforts. The Population Health Improvement Program (PHIP) award for Long Island was granted to the Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council (NSHC) and to Taconic Health Information Network and Community, Inc. (THINC) in the Hudson Valley. These two regions are served by the Suburban Hospital Alliance of New York State, of which NSHC is a member. Both organizations will receive awards of \$2.4 million each, payable over two years.

The PHIP contractors are charged with advancing the state's Triple Aim (better health care, better access, and lower health care costs) in support of the state's two health improvement programs, the Prevention Agenda and the State Health Innovation Plan (SHIP). The Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council coordinates the Long Island Health Collaborative (LIHC), which formed in February 2013. LIHC is a diverse group of healthcare providers, community-based social and human services organizations, academic institutions, the two county health departments on Long Island, behavioral health providers, health plans and unions, and patient advocacy organizations, among others. LIHC's work focuses on chronic disease prevention and treatment, with an emphasis on reducing obesity in adults and children. It will also address the need for better coordinated mental health/substance abuse treatment and prevention services. This award provides the collaborative with the resources it needs to bring the group's work to the next level.

**Permission to reprint articles granted. Attribution to this publication required.*