

Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021

MISSISSIPPI HIGHLIGHTS

Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies, 2021

- **Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)** – \$11 million for cervid health activities conducted by USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). Not less than \$7 million of those funds are for APHIS to allocate funds directly to state departments of wildlife and state departments of agriculture to further develop and implement CWD surveillance, testing, management, and response activities. Not less than \$2 million of those funds are for APHIS to expand and collaborate on new CWD research activities. Senator Hyde-Smith in February 2019 introduced the DEER Act (S.613) to combat the growing threat of CWD in Mississippi. These funds will be used for the purposes outlined in S.613.
- **Center for Pollinator Health** – \$5 million to continue and expand new pollinator research activities carried out at the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) facility in Stoneville.
- **Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations** – \$175 million to assist states in preventing erosion, flooding, and sediment damages in small watersheds.
- **Sedimentation/Erosion Control** – \$3 million for planning and implementation assistance associated with land treatment measures that address flood damage reduction, bank stabilization and erosion control in 16 Mississippi watersheds.
- **ARS Extramural Research** – Continues funding for ARS research projects involving cotton ginning, agricultural genomics, forest products, sustainable water use, and precision agriculture applications at Mississippi research facilities and universities.
- **Catfish Disaster Assistance** – Language directing USDA to amend its regulations for the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) to ensure that catfish producers are eligible for losses due to cormorants and other fish-eating birds.
- **Farm Service Agency (FSA) Offices** – Language preventing the closure of any FSA county offices or the permanent relocation of county-based employees that would result in an office with two or fewer employees.
- **Child Nutrition Programs Technical Assistance** – \$1 million increase to support activities carried out by the Institute of Child Nutrition at the University of Mississippi.
- **Cogongrass Management and Control** – \$3 million to establish a pilot program to assist state departments of agriculture and forestry commissions with the control and treatment of cogongrass, an invasive grass that reduces forest productivity and harms wildlife habitat on public and private lands in the southeastern United States.
- **Disaster Assistance for 2018 and 2019 Losses** – Repurposes \$1.5 billion in previously appropriated funds to ensure that producers impacted by natural disasters in 2018 and 2019 can receive assistance under the Wildfire and Hurricane Indemnity Program Plus (WHIP+).

Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies, 2021

- **Space Launch System (SLS)** – \$2.58 billion for the NASA SLS program. The Stennis Space Center conducts engine testing for SLS.
- **NASA STEM Education** – \$51 million for the Space Grant and \$26 million for NASA EPSCoR.
- **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) High Performance Computing** – \$17.8 million for NOAA high performance computing initiatives. Mississippi State University is home to Orion, a NOAA high-performance computer, which will support environmental, weather, and climate modeling research, as well as university researchers and students working with NOAA, MSU, the Northern Gulf Institute, and other institutions.

- **Northern Gulf Institute (NGI)** – \$36.5 million for NOAA Laboratories and Cooperative Institutes, which includes the Mississippi State University-led NGI housed at Stennis Space Center. NGI also includes the University of Southern Mississippi (USM), Louisiana State University, Florida State University, Dauphin Island Sea Lab and NOAA.
- **Regional Geospatial Modeling** – \$8 million for NOAA Geospatial Modeling Grants program within Navigation, Observations, and Positioning. USM partners with special expertise in geospatial modeling to allow for researchers and resource managers to develop models or geographic information systems using existing geodetic, coastal remote sensing data, and other physical data sets.
- **Coastal Mapping Center** – \$162.5 million to support Joint Ocean and Coastal Mapping Centers. The USM Coastal Mapping Center seeks to build on core expertise in mapping research and education such as data communication for unmanned underwater and unmanned airborne vehicles.
- **Coastal Zone Management Grants** – \$78.5 million for Coastal Zone Management Grants for state and territory programs to perform permitting and planning, as well as create policy that addresses national coastal and ocean priorities.
- **National Oceanographic Partnership Program** – \$3 million to advance ocean science research through the National Oceanographic Partnership Program, allowing universities, such as USM, to research and develop projects like testing new autonomous systems and training NOAA, Navy, and Department of Homeland Security on autonomous systems protocol.
- **National Sea Grant College Program** – \$75 million for NOAA to continue STEM-related education activities and fellowship programs.
- **Aquaculture Research** – \$17.5 million to support aquaculture research and development in partnership with universities, including with Historically Black Colleges and Universities; and \$5.0 million to support oyster aquaculture research.
- **U.S. Department of Justice/Law Enforcement** – Makes investments in federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies, including \$484 million for the Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grants program, \$83 million for Drug Courts, and \$40 million for Regional Information Sharing Activities.
- **High Altitude Hurricane Hunter Aircraft Backup** – Provisional language included to support efforts by NOAA and NASA to establish a memorandum of agreement for the NASA Gulfstream-V to serve as a backup to the NOAA Gulfstream IV-SP Hurricane Hunter Aircraft.

Department of Defense, 2021

- **Shipbuilding** – \$23.27 billion for 10 battle force ships including: two DDG-51 Arleigh Burke Class Flight III destroyers; an additional \$130 million for long lead time material for a third DDG-51 destroyer in FY2022; one LPD-17 amphibious warship and addresses economic order quantity opportunities for LPD 32 and LPD 33; and \$500 million to fund the advanced procurement of the LHA-9 amphibious assault ship.
- **Special Operations Forces (SOF) Combatant Craft Systems** – \$16 million for additional boats to support current & future SOF mission requirements.
- **Research Activities** – Robust funding of \$107 billion for research, development, test, and evaluation accounts to support Army, Air Force, Navy, Space Force, and Defense Department research initiatives, including multiple projects involving the U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC) in Vicksburg, Mississippi State University, University of Mississippi, University of Southern Mississippi, and other Mississippi academic and industry partners. These projects include:
 - High Performance Computing Modernization Program
 - Next generation rocket engine testing
 - Advanced components for shipbuilding programs including out-of-autoclave submarine applications; and naval hovercraft propulsion applications.
 - Maritime surveillance system sensor and signal processing improvements
 - UAS mounted hostile threat detection system technology
 - Graphene research for military applications

- **National Guard Counter-Drug Schools** – \$25 million for the National Guard Counterdrug Schools. This is an important initiative for the Regional Counterdrug Training Academy (RCTA) at Naval Air Station Meridian. RCTA provides tuition-free counter-narcotics training to federal, state, and local law enforcement officers to combat the flow of narcotics into and within the United States.
- **Military Personnel and Pay** – Increased funding for military personnel accounts, including additional resources to support a 3.1 percent military pay raise, additional support for ROTC and JROTC programs, including JROTC STEM activities.
- **Defense Community Infrastructure Program** – \$60 million for a DoD grant program to assist state and local governments in addressing deficiencies in community infrastructure projects located outside of military installations but in support of military installations.

Energy and Water Development, 2021

- **Authorized U.S. Corps of Engineers Projects** – \$74.1 million for 27 authorized flood control, navigation, and related projects and activities in Mississippi.
 - \$22 million for operation, maintenance, and recreation at Mississippi’s flood control reservoirs – Arkabutla, Enid, Grenada, and Sardis Lakes.
 - \$30.6 million for operation, maintenance, and wildlife mitigation activities on the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway.
 - \$14.7 million for dredging operations at Mississippi’s ports in Gulfport, Pascagoula, Biloxi, Vicksburg, Greenville and Rosedale.
- **Mississippi River Levee** – \$32 million for construction, operation and maintenance on the mainline Mississippi River levee.
- **Mississippi River Channel Improvement** – \$96.6 million for construction, operation and maintenance of improvements to enhance navigation conditions and channel alignment.
- **Mississippi River and Tributaries (MR&T) Projects** – \$380 million for authorized flood control, navigation, and dredging MR&T projects.
 - Language allowing the Corps to use these funds to conduct work on remaining unconstructed features of authorized projects affected by recent natural disasters, such as the Yazoo Backwater Area Pump Project.
- **Environmental Infrastructure** – \$100 million to assist states and local municipalities upgrade water and wastewater systems.
- **Research and Development** – \$30.7 million for research and development, most of which takes place at ERDC in Vicksburg.
- **Delta Regional Authority (DRA)** – \$30 million for DRA, including \$15 million for flood control, basic public infrastructure development, and transportation improvements.
- **Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC)** – \$180 million for ARC, including not less than \$16 million for a program of industrial site and workforce development in Southern and South Central Appalachia and up to \$13.5 million for Southern Appalachia.

Financial Services and General Government, 2020

- **Bank Enterprise Awards (BEA)** – \$26 million for the Bank Enterprise Award program, which supports FDIC-insured financial institutions dedicated to financing and supporting community and economic development activities. The BEA program provides financial incentives to expand investments in Community Development Financial Institutions and to increase lending, investment, and service activities within economically distressed communities.
- **Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) Fund** – \$270 million for the CDFI Fund, which provides grants, loans, equity investments, deposits, and technical assistance to new and existing CDFIs. This includes community development banks, credit unions, venture capital funds, revolving loan funds and microloan funds.

- **Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs)** – \$136 million for SBDCs to promote a unique mix of federal, state and private sector financial resources to foster small business growth that, in turn, advance local and regional economic development through job creation and retention.

Homeland Security, 2021

- **Border Security** – \$1.375 billion for the border wall system.
- **U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) Polar Security Cutter** – \$555 million for the 2nd Polar Security Cutter (PSC). This funding supports the recapitalization of the Coast Guard polar icebreaker fleet. The new PSCs will ensure continued access to the Arctic and Antarctic regions and support U.S. economic, maritime, and national security needs.
- **USCG Maritime Security Response Teams (MSRT)** – \$5.5 million for rigid inflatable boats for the USCG MSRT, which are tactical units with a highly technical mission set including maritime interdiction, hostage rescue, and counter terrorism.
- **Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Light Enforcement Helicopters** – \$28.4 million to recapitalize the CBP Light Enforcement Helicopter (LEH) fleet. CBP deploys LEH aircraft for border surveillance and law enforcement missions.
- **Enabling Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS)** – \$4 million for UAS research and testing in support of Department of Homeland Security (DHS) missions, including border security, maritime security, and counter-UAS operations. The demonstration and testing of UAS involves several Mississippi sites including Camp Shelby, which is the Army National Guard’s national UAS training center; and maritime environment accessible from U.S. Coast Guard facilities on Singing River Island.
- **Unmanned Maritime Systems Evaluation** – \$11.5 million for research, development, and testing of existing unmanned, self-powered maritime sensor platforms to detect surface and subsurface threats.
- **Soft Targets and Crowded Places** – \$1.5 million for research and development to identify novel ways to develop and transition to operational use affordable and scalable technologies that are capable of detecting, screening, and providing counter measures to terrorist threats in key public accessible areas.
- **Partnership to Improve the Nation’s Levee Systems** – \$5 million for an Education Partnership Agreement to develop capabilities for maintaining and improving levee and dams systems integrity.

Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, 2021

- **Gulf of Mexico Water and Aquatic Habitat Quality** – \$20 million, \$2.5 million above FY2020 enacted, for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Gulf of Mexico Program to address water quality and hypoxia problems in the Gulf.
- **Forest Products Laboratory** – \$1.0 million in U.S. Forest Service funding to support the Forest Products Laboratory to advance ongoing research work and collaborative partnerships for innovative research on commercialization of wood and fiber biomass.
- **Coastal Conservation** – \$12.5 million for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Landscape Conservation Cooperatives, which will support conservation on the Gulf Coast.
- **U.S. Geological Survey Aquifer Study** – \$6 million for the U.S. Geological Service Mississippi Alluvial Plain Aquifer Assessment.

Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, 2021

Health and Human Services

- **Pandemic Preparedness** – \$4.1 billion for HHS preparedness programs.
- **Overall Medical Research** – \$1.25 billion increase for National Institutes of Health medical research, bringing total annual funding to \$42.9 billion. This includes \$3.1 billion specifically for Alzheimer’s research, a \$300 million increase.

- **Child Advocacy Studies Training** – New funding to promote training of professionals who advocate for child victims of abuse or crime.
- **Cancer Clinical Trials Report** – Requires a report on improving representation of underrepresented communities in cancer clinical trials research. A former American Cancer Society volunteer, Senator Hyde-Smith worked with the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network to advance this important priority.
- **Telehealth Centers of Excellence** – \$500,000 increase for the telehealth program that supports a Center of Excellence at the University of Mississippi Medical Center.
- **Delta Region Community Health Systems Development Program** – \$2 million increase for this program that collaborates with the Delta Regional Authority to help improve healthcare in the Delta region.
- **Community Health Centers (CHCs)** – \$1.68 billion for CHCs and reauthorization of CHCs funding through 2023.
- **Surprise Medical Billing fix** – Includes the No Surprises Act to end surprise billings in which patients receive unexpected medical bills from insurers due to out-of-network care. Ensures patients are only responsible for in-network cost-sharing amounts, including deductibles, in both emergencies and certain other situations when a patient is not able to choose an in-network provider. Senator Hyde-Smith cosponsored early versions of this legislation and called on Leadership to include it in the final package.
- **Rural Hospital Sustainability** – Establishes a new, voluntary Rural Emergency Hospital designation offering financial support to struggling rural hospitals that can no longer support inpatient services and want to “right-size” their health care infrastructure to better align with community needs.
- **Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) Modernization** – Improves Medicare payments to RHCs. Senator Hyde-Smith cosponsored the Rural Health Modernization Act of 2019, a bill supported by the Mississippi Rural Health Association.
- **Telehealth Expansion** – Eliminates Medicare restrictions to allow all beneficiaries to receive mental health services through telehealth on a permanent basis. This is from Section 4 of the CONNECT for Health Act, introduced by Senator Hyde-Smith and other Senate Telehealth Working Group members.
- **Teaching Health Centers Graduate Medical Education (THCGME) program** – Extends through 2023 the THCGME program, which supports medical residents in East Central Mississippi.
- **Preventing Online Sales of E-Cigarettes to Children Act** – Applies safeguards to e-cigarette online purchases identical to those already in place to prevent underage online purchases of regular cigarette and smokeless tobacco. Senator Hyde-Smith cosponsored this bill.
- **Colon Cancer Screenings** – Phases-out Medicare coinsurance for certain colorectal cancer screening services. Senator Hyde-Smith cosponsored the Removing Barriers to Colorectal Cancer Screening Act.
- **Physician Payment Cuts** – Lessens the impact of significant payment reductions, which are the result of a regulatory change and slated to take effect Jan. 1, 2021. Senator Hyde-Smith helped introduce the Holding Providers Harmless from Medicare Cuts During COVID-19 Act.
- **Older Foster Youth** – Provides additional funding for the Chafee Extended Foster Care Program, as well as program flexibilities to allow states to continue meeting the needs of youth during the pandemic. Senator Hyde-Smith support this program to provide specific resources for older foster youth.

Labor

- **Workforce Opportunity for Rural Communities** – \$35 million to provide rural workforce training assistance for individuals who have lost jobs in the Appalachian and Delta regions.

Education

- **Strengthening Historically Black Colleges and Universities Master’s Program** – \$10.9 million to support for HBCU contributions to graduate education opportunities in STEM related disciplines. Alcorn State University and Mississippi Valley University benefit from this program.
- **Pell Grants** – For the fourth year in a row, the bill increases the maximum Pell Grant award, an increase of \$150, or 2.4 percent, for the 2021-22 school year, from \$6,345 to \$6,495.

- **Career and Technical Education** – \$1.3 billion, \$52 million increase, to support specialized skills and technical training for students who wish to enter the workforce.
- **Promise Neighborhoods** – \$81 million, a \$1 million increase, for Promise Neighborhood programs, which have benefitted educational programs in Sunflower and Washington Counties.
- **Rural Education Achievement Program** – \$187.8 million, a \$2 million increase.

Legislative Branch, 2021 (*Hyde-Smith Senate subcommittee chairman*)

- **Member Pay Freeze** – The bill continues a provision to freeze the pay of Members of Congress, preventing any pay increases in FY2021 as strongly advocated by some in the House of Representatives. A freeze on Members’ salaries has been in place since 2009.
- **Rejects DACA Provisions** – The bill rejects House language that would allow congressional offices to hire individuals in the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Program.
- **Government Accountability Office (GAO)** – \$661.1 million, a \$31.1 million increase, to support GAO oversight of federal spending to track the expenditure of taxpayer dollars to meet congressional requests to assess technology and science advancements.
- **Stennis Center for Public Service** – Maintains funding for the John C. Stennis Center for Public Service, based in Starkville

Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies, 2021

- **VA Medical Care** – \$90 billion to support and improve delivery of medical treatment and healthcare services to veterans and their dependents. These resources provide healthcare, benefits, and memorial services earned by U.S. servicemembers and veterans.
- **Military Installations** – \$8.1 billion for 106 projects to construct and renovate facilities to support the warfighter and military families, including \$10.4 million for an Army National Guard Vehicle Maintenance Shop in Brandon.
- **Military Family Housing** – \$1.3 billion for construction, operation and maintenance of military family housing and additional oversight and management of privatized housing contractors to address the recent reports of mismanagement and neglect.
- **Armed Forces Retirement Home** – \$75.3 million for the Armed Forces Retirement Home, which operates facilities in Gulfport and Washington, D.C.

State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs, 2021

- **Foreign Military Financing Program, Israel** – \$3.3 billion for military aid for Israel; and \$5 million for refugee resettlement in Israel.
- **Countering Chinese Influence Fund** – \$300 million to combat malign Chinese influence activities and increase transparency and accountability associated with the Belt and Road Initiative.
- **Countering Russian Influence Fund** – \$290 million to deter destructive Russian influence and its attempts to sow distrust in democratic institutions worldwide.
- **Safeguarding the Right to Life** – The bill supports important policy provisions to ensure the respect for life around the globe. It maintains the Mexico City Policy, prohibiting U.S. assistance to foreign nongovernmental organizations that promote or perform abortions, and maintains the “Helms Amendment,” banning the use of foreign aid funding for abortions.

Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies, 2021

- **Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS)** – \$12 million for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) UAS Center of Excellence led by Mississippi State University, in addition to \$2 million for Composite Materials Research.
- **Aviation Workforce Development Program** – \$10 million in new funding to address the shortage of trained pilots and aviation technicians.
- **Small Community Air Service Development Program** – \$10 million, equal to current levels. Mississippi rural airports have been recipients of these awards.
- **FAA Contract Towers** – \$173 million to fully fund FAA Contract Towers program, which affects facilities at the Golden Triangle Regional, Greenville Municipal, Hawkins Field (Jackson), Olive Branch, Stennis International Airport, and Tupelo Regional airports.
- **Essential Air Service (EAS)** – \$165 million for the EAS program, including a waiver of certain eligibility requirements for fiscal years 2020 and 2021. Airports in Greenville, Hattiesburg/Laurel, Meridian, and Tupelo utilize the EAS program.
- **Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grants** – \$1 billion to repair, rebuild, and revitalize significant infrastructure projects across the country. This year, Mississippi received \$33.1 million for road improvements.
- **Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) program** – \$375 million to remain available until expended for competitive CRISI grants to improve the safety, efficiency, and reliability of intercity passenger and freight rail systems. The rail projects in Hattiesburg and Grenada received FY2020 CRISI grants this year.