

## **FY 2017 KEY FUNDING LEVELS**

Congress passed an omnibus FY 2017 appropriations bill last April. This appropriations bill contains the current funding levels since Congress has not completed the FY 2018 Appropriations. Below are details on key funding levels of interest to the City:

**Environment & Cultural Resources** - the Omnibus continued funding for priority environmental and natural resource protection programs, including the following:

- \$2.3 billion for the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds, equal to the FY 2016 levels, to help improve the safety of drinking water and create jobs.
- An additional \$10 million for the new Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation (WIFIA) program, leveraging more than \$3 billion in new infrastructure projects.
- \$2.9 billion for the National Park Service – \$81 million above the FY 2016 level – targeting funds to help reduce the maintenance backlog and NPS centennial projects.

**Homeland Security** - the Omnibus provided \$42.4 billion for Homeland Security, an increase of \$1.45 billion above the FY 2016 level. The following were funded in FY 2017:

- \$2.1 billion – an increase of \$92 million above the FY 2016 level – for domestic and international investigations programs, including combating human trafficking, child exploitation, cybercrime and drug smuggling.
- \$1.8 billion for the National Protection and Programs Directorate – \$183 million above the FY 2016 level – to enhance critical infrastructure and stop cyber-attacks.
- \$580 million for the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI), to assist the City of San Antonio and other high-threat, high-density urban areas in building capacity to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to, and recover from acts of terrorism.

**Housing** - the Omnibus bill provided continued funding for key housing programs, including the following:

- \$6.8 billion for Community Planning and Development – \$152 million above FY 2016.
- \$3 billion for Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) – the same as FY 2016.
- \$2.4 billion for Homeless Assistance grants – an increase of \$133 million over FY 2016.
- \$950 million for HOME Investment Partnerships Program, the same as FY 2016.

**Public Safety** -the Omnibus bill included a total of \$2.4 billion in grant funding to support law enforcement and victims of crime. These funds support high-priority grant programs, including the following:

- \$481.5 million for Violence Against Women programs.
- \$403 million for Byrne Justice Assistance Grants.
- \$22.5 million in grants for armor vests.

**Transportation** - the Omnibus Appropriations Bill appropriated critical transportation and infrastructure funding authorized under the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act) and other statutes, including the following funding streams:

- \$44 billion from the Highway Trust Fund – \$905 million above the FY 2016 level – to be spent on the Federal-aid Highways Program.
- \$1.5 billion for the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant program, formerly known as FASTLANE.
- \$500 million for National Infrastructure Investment grants, formerly known as TIGER.
- \$1 billion for the FAA's Next Generation Air Transportation Systems (NextGen).
- \$258 million for railroad safety and research programs – \$20 million above the FY 2016 level – including \$98 million in grants for rail safety improvements.

**Workforce & Economic Development** - the Omnibus bill continued or increased funding for workforce and economic development programs, including the following:

- \$1.7 billion for Job Corps, an increase of \$15 million over the FY 2016 level. Job Corps helps unemployed youth receive education, job training, and employment assistance.
- \$276 million for the Economic Development Administration (EDA), an increase of \$15 million above the FY 2016 level. EDA funds help spur increased international and domestic commerce, and help to boost economically recovering communities.
- \$279 million for the Veterans Employment and Training Service (VETS), including an \$11.9 million increase to expand the Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program.

### **FY 2017 FEDERAL ADVOCACY HIGHLIGHTS**

The City's Government Affairs team led and supported advocacy efforts for a number of grants, designations and legislative initiatives, including:

**Community Oriented Policing Hiring Grant (\$3.125M)** – In November 2017, the U.S. Department of Justice announced a \$3,125,000 grant award to the San Antonio Police Department under the COPS Hiring Program (CHP) to enable the hiring of 25 officers. This was the highest CHP funding amount approved for any municipality nationwide in 2017.

**VIA Metropolitan Transit Grant (\$1.75M)** – In September 2017, the Federal Transit Administration awarded a grant to VIA Metropolitan Transit in the amount of \$1,750,000 to replace VIA diesel buses with battery electric buses. The new buses will support urban renewal efforts in the downtown area as well as VIA's workforce development program. In September 2017, members of the Intergovernmental Relations Committee and the City's government

affairs team met with the Federal Transit Administrator and other U.S. Department of Transportation leaders in Washington and discussed this grant award.

**America's Promise Job Driven Grant (\$2M)** – The U.S. Department of Labor selected San Antonio as one of 23 areas of the United States for regional workforce partnerships to share in \$111 million in grants in support of the America's Promise Job Driven Grant program. A coalition led by Alamo Colleges and the San Antonio Chamber of Commerce was awarded \$2 million to support a focus on local technology and manufacturing industry training. San Antonio was the only Texas community to be funded under this grant program.

**Promise Zone Workforce Training Project Grant (\$1.5M)** – The Economic Development Administration awarded \$1.5 million to Alamo Colleges to fund the renovation of an existing building to create the Eastside Education and Training Center in East San Antonio, a federally designated Promise Zone. Alamo Colleges and partners are coordinating the Center's programs to include targeted workforce job training and placement services, adult education, and food maker space. The project serves as a catalyst for attracting private investment and jobs to the Promise Zone community.

**Enhanced Collaborative Model to Combat Human Trafficking (\$1.8 M)** – On October 2016, the U.S. Department of Justice awarded the San Antonio Police Department and the Rape Crisis Center a \$1.8 million grant to assist in combating Human Trafficking, which includes Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking, Sex Trafficking of adults, and Labor Trafficking in the San Antonio area.

**Prioritizing World Heritage Sites for Funding** – The House version of the FY 2018 Interior and Environment Appropriations Bill prioritizes World Heritage Site projects, such as those pending at the San Antonio World Heritage Missions, for federal funding. The following language prepared by the City of San Antonio's advocacy team is included in the House bill: "World Heritage Sites.--The Committee urges the Service to prioritize funding for the backlog of maintenance and preservation projects including National Park System units designated as World Heritage Sites." The government affairs team has contacted members of the Senate Appropriations Committee whose states include World Heritage Sites to urge their support for this provision in conference.

**Promise Zones Coalition** – The City of San Antonio took the lead in organizing a Promise Zones Coalition, a collaboration of the 22 federally designated Promise Zones. The purpose of the coalition is to advocate for continuation of this initiative. The Promise Zones Coalition held a Washington, D.C. "fly-in" during October 2017. On December 5, 2017, the Kentucky, Oklahoma and South Carolina Promise Zone coordinators presented at a national workforce conference organized by Downs Government Affairs.

**Opportunity Zones legislation** – The City of San Antonio and its partners in the Promise Zones Coalition successfully advocated for legislation sponsored by Senator Tim Scott (R-SC) known as

the Investing in Opportunity Act. This legislation amends the Internal Revenue Code to authorize the designation of opportunity zones in low-income communities, expressly including federally-designated Promise Zones, and to provide tax incentives for investments in the zones, including deferring the recognition of capital gains that are reinvested in the zones. Senator Scott's Investing in Opportunity Act is included as Section 13823 of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (H.R. 1).

**Americas Competitiveness Exchange on Innovation and Entrepreneurship (ACE)** – In April 2017, San Antonio hosted the Americas Competitiveness Exchange on Innovation and Entrepreneurship (ACE). The ACE program was identified by the City of San Antonio's federal relations team, through consultation with the Economic Development Administration (EDA), as an opportunity for the City to play a leading role in international economic development. The ACE program brought decision-makers from the Western Hemisphere and other nations to San Antonio to explore global and regional partnerships and economic development opportunities to strengthen innovation and entrepreneurship.

**Global Cities Initiative** – In June 2017, the Brookings Institution approved a continuation of San Antonio's participation in its Global Cities Initiative (GCI), a network of metropolitan areas that collaborate to develop and implement regional strategies to boost global trade and investment, and forge partnerships between U.S. and international metropolitan areas. The GCI program was identified as a promising opportunity for trade promotion. The City's government affairs team was successful in designating San Antonio as part of the CGI in an earlier competition, and the City has been renewed by the Brookings Institution for this program.