

Overview

NAMI supports high priority federal programs that provide mental health research, services, criminal justice collaboration and supportive housing. With one of five Americansⁱ affected by mental illness, making investments in mental health research and services is vital to improve the lives of millions of Americans who live with mental health conditions and their families.

NAMI remains extremely concerned that funding for important discretionary programs is at risk in the absence of a comprehensive budget agreement. This agreement should:

1. Eliminate the threat of an across-the-board “sequester” in FY 2018;
2. Raise the current Budget Control Act (BCA) caps; and
3. Maintain the principle of “parity” between defense programs and “Non-Defense Discretionary” (NDD) programs.

NAMI is troubled by many of the deep reductions proposed in the Trump administration’s FY 2018 budget request. Among the most damaging proposed cuts are:

- \$5.8 billion to the National Institutes of Health (NIH)
- \$400 million to mental health and substance abuse programs (including a \$116 million cut to the Mental Health Block Grant program)
- \$6.2 billion in cuts to housing programs

These cuts would only add to the social and economic costs associated with mental health conditions. Untreated mental illness costs the nation as much as \$300 billion each year.ⁱⁱ Investment in mental health research, services, criminal justice collaborations and supportive housing is essential to helping people with mental illness lead healthy, productive lives.

NAMI’s asks

NAMI supports the following priorities and funding levels for FY 2018:

National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH)

- **NAMI supports \$36.2 billion for NIH in FY 2018**, including funds provided through the *21st Century Cures Act*, which was signed into law with strong bipartisan support in 2016. This \$2 billion increase to the NIH base would enable real growth over biomedical inflation in the nation’s research capacity.
- **NAMI supports an increase above the FY 2017 funding level of \$1.602 billion for the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH)**, with continuation of the \$6 million Early Psychosis Intervention Network (EPINET) program. NAMI also seeks continued funding for the Brain Research through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies (BRAIN) Initiative above the current \$260 million level.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)

NAMI supports a range of critical priorities at SAMHSA for FY 2018, including:

- \$562.6 million for the Mental Health Block Grant and continuation of the 10% set aside for First Episode Psychosis (FEP) programs
- \$56 million for the Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) program
- \$119 million for the Children's Mental Health program
- \$50 million for the Primary-Behavioral Health Care Integration program

Housing & Urban Development (HUD)

- NAMI supports additional funding for FY 2018 to ensure that there is sufficient budget for the renewal of existing units across the array of rental assistance programs at HUD, including the Section 8 Tenant-Based Rental Assistance program (\$21.8 billion) and Project-Based Rental Assistance program (\$19.9 billion).
- NAMI opposes the \$25 million cut proposed for the HUD Section 811 program, which provides funding to develop and subsidize rental housing with supportive services for very low- and extremely low-income adults with disabilities, as well as the proposal to impose higher minimum rent and tenant contributions.
- NAMI opposes the proposed \$298 million cut to the McKinney-Vento homeless assistance programs, projected to result in as many as 25,000 individuals falling back into homelessness.
- NAMI opposes elimination of funding for the new Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing vouchers for homeless veterans and for the US interagency Council on the Homeless.

Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA)

- NAMI supports \$15 million in funding for FY 2018 for the Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Act of 2004 (MIOTCRA), which provides grants to support collaborative efforts to reduce incarceration of non-violent offenders with mental illness and establish community-based treatment alternatives.
- NAMI supports \$403 million in funding for the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne JAG) program, which provides grants to state and local jurisdictions to support a wide range of initiatives in many states, including Crisis Intervention Teams and veterans' treatment courts. Funding in FY 2017 was \$375.3 million, but the President's budget proposes a cut of \$42.8 million.

ⁱ National Institute of Mental Health. (2017) *Any Mental Illness (AMI) Among U.S. Adults*. Retrieved from: <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/statistics/prevalence/any-mental-illness-ami-among-adults.shtml>.

ⁱⁱ National Institute of Mental Health (2017). *Annual Total Direct and Indirect Costs of Serious Mental Illness (2002)*. Retrieved from: <https://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/statistics/cost/index.shtml>.