

West Virginia Wins in the FY2023 Omnibus

Senator's Manchin's Top Priorities for West Virginia

- **Electoral Count Act Reform:** Reforms and modernizes the outdated Electoral Count Act of 1887, as a result of Senator Manchin's work to find a bipartisan solution to secure our elections.
- **Energy Security:** Thanks to the Senator's leadership as Chair of the Energy & Natural Resources Committee, the bill provides \$46b to the Dept. of Energy to help us innovate our way to a clean energy future while reducing our vulnerability to foreign sources of energy. It also secures our Strategic Petroleum Reserve by canceling 140m barrels of mandated sales, ensuring that our reserves remain available for true emergencies.
- **STREAM Act:** Includes Senator Manchin's bipartisan bill that allows states to set aside up to 30% of their Abandoned Mine Land (AML) funding from the bipartisan infrastructure law toward acid mine drainage (AMD), allowing new technology developed by WVU and supported by Senator Manchin to clean up of over 100 miles of polluted streams across the state.
- **FIGHT Fentanyl & FREED of Opioids Acts:** Extends the schedule I status of fentanyl related substances through the end of 2024, which Senator Manchin supported through his FIGHT Fentanyl Act. It also requires the Food and Drug Administration to review how they approve new opioid drugs, as proposed through Senator Manchin's FREED Of Opioids Act.
- **Increased Funding to Fight the Drug Epidemic (\$4.9b):** Provides dedicated funding across the government to fight the drug epidemic, a \$345m increase. This includes \$1.6b for the State Opioid Response Grant program with a 15% set aside for the hardest hit states like WV – a \$50m increase.
- **Protecting Rural Telehealth Access:** Extends current telehealth flexibilities currently allowed under the Public Health Emergency that Senator Manchin supported through his Protecting Rural Telehealth Access Act to allow doctors to continue offering audio-only telehealth services through the end of 2024.
- **CHIPS and Science Act (\$1.8b):** New funding to implement the bipartisan CHIPS and Science Act of 2022 to drive American innovation and economic competitiveness, including \$8.1 billion in new directed funding (+\$625 million) for the Dept. of Energy's Office of Science – the largest federal sponsor of basic research in physical sciences – to advance materials research, high performance computing and biology in order to maintain global competitiveness.
- **Securing Critical Earmarks for WV (\$228m):** Provides \$228,022,000 in funding for 175 projects Senator Manchin secured through Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) Requests, also known as "earmarks", across the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Omnibus. This is an increase of 87 projects for a total of \$61,060,160 funding from FY22.
- **WV Defense Industry (\$155m):** Thanks to Senator Manchin's leadership on the powerful Senate Armed Services Committee (SASC), the bill provides funding for WV's growing defense industry, including \$55m for the Allegany Ballistics Laboratory in Rocket Center and \$23.5m for the WV National Guard.
- **Supporting WV's Federal Workforce (\$49.62m):** Additional funding for key federal facilities in West Virginia, such as the Bureau of Fiscal Service in Parkersburg (+\$16.5m), FBI CJIS Division in Clarksburg (+\$27.16m), the CBP Advanced Training Center in Harpers Ferry (+\$5.4m), and the National Conservation Training Center (+\$500,000), among others.
- **Economic Development (\$256.4m):** \$29.3m for West Virginia for Abandoned Mine Land Economic Revitalization (AMLER) Grants (+\$3m), \$65m for ARC POWER Grants & \$48 million for EDA's Assistance to Coal Communities (+\$6.5m). WV has received over \$88.1m in POWER grants since the program began and \$227.7m from the EDA since FY18 – making WV the largest per capita recipient of EDA funds in the U.S.
- **Clean Water (\$2.76b):** Supports billions in funding toward drinking water and wastewater infrastructure.

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Senator Manchin Fights for WV as Chair of the Energy & Natural Resources Committee

Senator Manchin is proud to serve as Chairman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources (ENR) Committee, where he fights for a commonsense, balanced energy approach that recognizes WV's critical role in our nation's energy future. Senator Manchin believes in energy policies that focus on security by reducing our dependence on foreign oil. He will always stand up for policies that are good for WV jobs, America's security, & our way of life.

Securing Our Energy Future: Senator Manchin worked to include key provisions in the spending bill, which funds the Dept. of Energy (DOE) at \$46.5b (+\$1.6b), allows our domestic resources to be used in an environmentally friendly way, and helps reduce our vulnerability to foreign sources of energy.

- **Interagency Working Group on Coal and Power Plant Communities:** \$3 million to assist coal communities through the interagency working group, building on Senator Manchin's efforts to secure funding in FY22.
- **National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL):** \$142m for NETL, prioritizing the construction of the NETL Computational Science and Engineering Center in Morgantown, which will house one of the most advanced supercomputers in the world.
- **DOE EPSCoR:** \$35 million (+\$10m) for DOE's Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR). WVU is a major participant in this program.
- **Fossil Energy & Carbon Capture:** \$890m (+\$65m) for Fossil Energy Research & Development, as well as \$435m (+\$106m) for Carbon Capture, Utilization, Sequestration, and Removal on coal and natural gas electricity systems.
- **Hydrogen:** \$316m for crosscutting hydrogen research, development, demonstration, and deployment opportunities for the production, storage, and delivery of hydrogen to promote energy security and economic development.
- **ARPA-E:** \$470m (+\$20m) for ARPA-E.
- **Secures Strategic Petroleum Reserve Inventories:** Cancels 140 million barrels of petroleum reserve sales which had been planned to raise federal revenue, ensuring that our reserves remain available for true emergencies. Uses revenues from recent sales to offset the cost of the cancelations.

Conserving Wild & Wonderful West Virginia: Our little state is as wild as it is wonderful, and we all take great pride in our access to the great outdoors, whether it is for hunting, camping, fishing, hiking, or visiting one of our national forests and state parks. As Chairman of the ENR Committee, Senator Manchin oversees conservation activities across the National Park Service, Forest Service, and other Dept. of Interior agencies, and fought to include billions for conservation efforts, including \$9.56b in funding for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), \$3.9b for the U.S. Forest Service, and \$3.4b for the National Park Service, \$1.65b for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, including West Virginia priorities:

- **Great American Outdoors Act funding allocations** include the following funds directed to WV:
 - o *Monongahela National Forest:* \$7.4 million for deferred maintenance (up from \$6.1 million).
 - o *New River Gorge National Park and Preserve:* \$1.2 million to remove abandoned buildings and carry out phase 1 of upgrading utilities
 - o *Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge:* \$150,000 for rehabilitation of the Schaeffer Building
 - o *Ohio River Islands National Wildlife Refuge:* \$100,000 for rehabilitation of the Headquarters building
- **National Conservation & Training Center (NCTC):** \$27m (+\$560,000) to maintain the USFWS Center, located in Shepherdstown.
- **Chesapeake Bay Watershed:** \$92m for watershed conservation and other efforts in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, which includes much of the eastern portion of West Virginia.
- **Chesapeake WILD Act Grants:** \$8m for the Chesapeake WILD Grant Program which supports habitat restoration efforts, West Virginia saw an inaugural grant award in 2022.
- **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Staffing Review:** Requires the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to report to Congress on ways to improve the Services' Endangered Species Act reviews and process.
- **Reclaiming Abandoned Mine Lands and Wells:** \$168.9m (+\$19.9m) for the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund, including \$29.3m (+\$3m) for AMLER in WV. The bill also includes \$30m for Department of Energy assistance in the identification and characterization of undocumented orphan oil and gas wells.
- **Remediating Brownfields:** \$100m for EPA Brownfields projects, with 10% of these grants dedicated to areas in which at least 20% of the population have lived under the poverty level for the past 30 years.

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Keeping America Safe & Protecting Our National Security

Senator Manchin is proud to serve on the Senate Armed Services Committee (SASC), which is charged with providing oversight and assistance to our nation's military. He also serves as ranking member of the Cybersecurity Subcommittee, which oversees policies and programs related to cyber forces and capabilities.

West Virginia National Guard: The bill includes funding for multiple military construction projects and programs ran by the West Virginia National Guard (WVNG), including:

- **Military Construction for WVNG facilities:** \$18.5m for engineering, design, and construction of WVNG facilities, including: the 130th Airlift Wing's squadron operations facility, the Kenova readiness center, Wheeling and Williamstown's Blackhawk hangars, and a small arms firing range.
- **Army Interagency Training and Education Center (AITEC):** \$2m for AITEC, which is the National Guard lead for mission assurance in critical infrastructure, to begin assembling tactics, techniques, and procedures for other critical infrastructure protection battalions around the United States.
- **Ridge Runner Irregular Warfare Training Activity:** \$3m for the WVNG to conduct the Ridge Runner event to teach our personnel and our allies the tactics necessary to fight in irregular conflicts.
- **Youth Challenge:** \$85m for troubled high school students to pursue their diploma or GED through. Over 4360 WV youth have participated in the Mountaineer Challenge Academy since 1993.
- **STARBASE:** \$50m will go to the STARBASE program to promote STEM experiences for rural elementary school students in West Virginia.

West Virginia's Defense Industrial Base: The bill includes significant direct and indirect spending for weapons procurement and research and development (R&D) in WV, including:

- **Allegany Ballistics Lab:** \$50m for advanced procurement of the Navy's extended range Advanced Anti-Radiation Guided Missile (AARGM-ER), which is produced at ABL, and \$5m for facility upgrades.
- **Adaptive Threat Force:** \$7m for the Navy's program which works with Guard Unit, a company headquartered in Morgantown.
- **Air Force Technology Transfer Program:** \$10m to support the Air Force's partnership efforts in West Virginia.
- **Army Portable Power Systems:** \$3m to support WVU's work to develop efficient portable generators for Soldiers' use in the field.
- **Augmented, Context-Based Identity Awareness:** \$5m for biometric tracking of enemy combatants.
- **Aurora Flight Sciences:** \$1.876b for 15 CH-53K King Stallions & \$584m for 2 MQ-4C Triton UAVs, which supports the Aurora's work in Bridgeport. Without these programs, jobs at the facility would be at risk.
- **Bonded Metal Matrix Composite Repair:** \$5m to investigate the feasibility of a bonded matrix application on aluminum superstructures.
- **Conformal Wearable Battery:** \$5m to support WVU's development of conformal batteries to meet energy demands of our warfighters.
- **Counter Weapons of Mass Destruction:** \$6m for an Advanced Technology Demonstrator that is being worked on cooperatively between Applied Research Associates and the BSR facility in Summit Point, WV.
- **DEPSCoR:** \$20m to promote WVU's research into this program.
- **Hydrogen Based Combat System Technology:** \$15m to develop hydrogen-based energy generation systems for our troops in austere environments, WVU has significant expertise in these systems.
- **Metals Affordability Initiative:** \$10m to develop next generation solutions for composite and advanced materials for equipment.
- **Pathfinder/TRACA:** \$5m through Army Futures Command to partner with universities and small businesses. The Civil-Military Innovation Institute in Morgantown is a key partner to the Army on this effort.
- **Rapid Track Repair:** \$3m to develop carbon material technologies and material systems for asphalt sustainment and repair. Marshall is a lead partner on this program.
- **University Partnership for Artificial Intelligence Development:** \$9m for a new program created by Senator Manchin that will enable the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) to partner with three universities for artificial intelligence development. WVU's Lane Department of Computer Science and Electrical Engineering houses a variety of researchers with expertise in artificial intelligence.
- **Urban Subterranean Mapping:** \$4m for Army research & development into this program. Marshall University is a research partner on this program.

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Protecting Our Borders: Manchin has been a strong supporter of securing our nation's borders to protect the state of West Virginia and the country as a whole. This bill includes significant funding for border security:

- **Immigration:** The bill provides \$8.39 billion for Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE), including \$4.18b for Enforcement and Removal Operations, and \$267.98 million for U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services. It also includes language requiring bi-monthly reporting on the estimates of the number of noncitizens anticipated to arrive at the southwest border.
- **Non-Intrusive Inspections:** \$69.9m in additional funding to integrate technology to expedite CBP's inspections at critical ports of entry.
- **Transportation Security Administration (TSA):** The bill provides \$9.54 billion for the TSA.
- **Customs and Border Protection (CBP):** \$15.59 billion for U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

Combatting the Drug Epidemic

No state has been hit harder by the drug epidemic than West Virginia. Every community and every family in every corner of the state has been affected in some way by this terrible crisis. That's why Senator Manchin has worked to include significant funding across the FY23 spending bill to address the drug crisis and improve access to healthcare. Total funding to combat the drug epidemic is more than \$4.9 billion. This includes:

- **Department of Health and Human Services (HHS):**
 - o \$1.95b for the Substance Use Prevention and Treatment Block Grant program, including an important 15% set aside for states with the highest rates of drug overdose deaths.
 - o \$1.6b for the State Opioid Response Grant program, including a similar 15% set aside.
 - o \$1.01b for the Mental Health Block Grant, including a 5% set aside for crisis care programs, as outline in Senator Manchin's Crisis Care Improvement and Suicide Prevention Act.
 - o \$145m to continue the Rural Communities Opioids Response program.
 - o \$23m for infectious diseases related to the drug epidemic. WV has experienced a rise in opioid-related infectious diseases, including an increase in viral hepatitis and HIV cases. The bill also prioritizes funding to states with the highest drug overdose mortality rate, and prioritize states, like West Virginia, not included in the Ending the HIV Epidemic funding grants.
- **Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP):** \$471m for ONDCP, including \$302m for the High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) program and \$109 million for the Drug-Free Communities (DFC) program.
- **Department of Veterans Affairs (VA):** \$662m for opioid abuse prevention.
- **Food and Drug Administration (FDA):** \$3.0b to continue medical product and food safety activities.

Preserving West Virginia's Federal Workforce

There are more than 21,000 federal employees in WV. Through his role on the Appropriations Committee, Senator Manchin is committed to ensuring these agencies have the support they need & our workforce continues to grow and thrive in the state. Some of these facilities include:

- **Bureau of Fiscal Service:** \$372.485m (+\$16.5m) for the Dept. of Treasury's Bureau of Fiscal Service in Parkersburg, which supports other federal government activities through accounting, financing, collections, payments and shared services. Also includes language to maintain continuity of operations and minimize uncertainty among employees.
- **Department of Treasury's Cybersecurity Enhancement:** \$100m for Treasury's Cybersecurity Enhancement Account, including language indicating that it is the expectation of Treasury to prioritize the cyber needs of the Bureau of Fiscal Service, which is located in Parkersburg.
- **FBI Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Division:** The bill includes \$10.6b in funding for the FBI, including \$647m for CJIS – the largest FBI division – located in Clarksburg. The bill also includes \$125m for the operation of the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS). When combined with the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, NICS will receive \$225m. The bill also includes language encouraging the FBI to make the pay and benefits of FBI police equivalent to other federal police divisions.
- **Bureau of Prisons (BOP):** \$8.3b for the federal prison system, including language directing DOJ to reduce the overreliance on staff augmentation and improve staffing beyond mission-critical level, which impacts prisons in WV like USP Hazelton in Preston County.
- **Customs & Border Protection (CBP):** \$60m is included to hire 125 CBP officers and mission support staff. New CBP officers are trained at the Advanced Training Center in Harpers Ferry.

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WV Contributions in Science & Space:

- **Green Bank Observatory (GBO):** \$10.83m for GBO to ensure continued support and encourages the development of multi-agency use of the facility. After years of work, Senator Manchin helped save GBO in 2020 after it was proposed for divestment by the National Science Foundation.
- **NASA IV&V:** \$39.1m in funding for the Katherine Johnson Independent Verification & Validation (IV&V) Program in Fairmont, which provides mission-critical software to NASA, including language directing NASA to fund additional IV&V activities from within mission directorates that make use of IV&V services.
- **WV Robotics:** \$227m for the RESTORE-L/SPIDER satellite servicing program, now known as OSAM-1. The West Virginia Robotics Technology Center (WVRTC) is the lead academic institution supporting this program.
- **NOAA Hera Supercomputer:** \$21.5m increased funding for high performance computing within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, which benefits the Hera Supercomputer in Fairmont.
- **Research:** WV benefits from key science and space-related educational research programs, including \$805 million for the NASA Heliophysics Program, \$26 million for NASA EPSCoR, & \$58 million for NASA Space Grants, which support research at WV universities.

Agricultural & Forestry Research in West Virginia

- **Appalachian Honeybees:** \$1.5m for the continued operations of the Pollinator Recovery, Education & Research Center established in Hinton, WV, which focuses on the decline of pollinator populations while creating jobs and economic revitalization in former coal mining towns.
- **Precision Aquaculture:** \$2m for the National Center for Cool & Cold Water Aquaculture in Leetown, WV to study sustainable domestic aquaculture production.
- **Small Farm Orchard Production:** \$1m for low-cost technology and innovative production strategies for small farm fruit growers through the Appalachian Fruit Research Station in Kearneysville, WV.
- **Natural Products Research at Marshall University -** \$1m for Marshall University to advance natural products research and applications focusing on natural products native to Appalachia.
- **Community Facilities Eligibility Review -** Language requiring USDA to review the eligibility criteria for the Community Facilities Grant program and identify ways to improve eligibility.
- **Domestic Hardwoods:** Continued direction to USDA to include domestic hardwoods on the list of agricultural commodities covered for tariff relief because of China's escalation of tariffs on U.S. produced hardwoods, including those from West Virginia.

Taking Care of our Friends and Families

Youth Homelessness: West Virginia has experienced a large increase in the number of children and families experiencing homelessness as a result of the drug epidemic and other factors. This bill includes:

- **HUD:** \$3.63b to stop homelessness, including \$107m to stop youth homelessness, \$7m for National Homeless Data Analysis, & language ensuring equal consideration for homeless youth in rural areas.
- **McKinney-Vento:** \$129m for the Education for Homeless Children & Youth Program, a \$15m increase over FY22, including language to require greater transparency on how schools use funding to assist homeless youth.
- **HHS:** \$146m for the Administration for Children & Families' Runaway & Homeless Youth Program and \$9m to address Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES).
- **Interagency Council on Homelessness:** \$4m (+\$200,000), including language to reduce barriers and expand access to housing for individuals and families.

Housing Assistance

- **Performance Based Contract Administration (PBCA):** Language prohibiting the Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) from advancing a solicitation for new PBCA contracts. This counters an existing HUD proposal that would direct administration contracts away from West Virginia and make it more challenging for West Virginians that rely on affordable housing programs to receive necessary and timely support services.

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- \$30.25b for Tenant-Based Rental Assistance, which helps reduce rents paid by low-income families.
- \$3.3b for Community Development Block Grants .
- \$1.5b for the HUD HOME Investment Partnership Program.
- \$5b for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) that provides assistance to West Virginians struggling to pay their utility bills.
- \$3.633b for Homeless Assistance Grants (+\$420m), including language directing HUD to ensure that sufficient resources and equal consideration for youth homelessness system improvement grants are provided to rural areas.
- \$175m for self-sufficiency programs, including \$125m for the family self-sufficiency program.

Miners' Health & Safety

- \$394.5m for the Black Lung Disability Trust Fund, \$47m for Special Benefits for Disabled Coal Miners, and \$12.1m for Black Lung Clinics.
- \$387.8m for Mine Safety & Health Administration (MSHA), incl. \$265.7m for Mine Safety & Health Enforcement, \$36m for technical support, & \$39.8m for Educational Policy & Development.
- \$18m for the Federal Mine Safety & Health Review Commission.
- Full funding for the Lake Lynn Experimental Mine and Laboratory site (approx. \$50m), which will allow NIOSH to conduct critical research to prevent future mine disasters.

Disaster Assistance: Severe weather can take a toll on communities in ways beyond health & safety, deteriorating homes and impacting economic activity. Senator Manchin has helped direct federal funding for recovery efforts to flooding & severe weather in the state, and ensured these efforts will continue by providing:

- Robust funding for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) at \$25.4b, with \$19.9b dedicated to the Disaster Relief Fund, as well as language directing FEMA to submit a plan to Congress on how they will increase agency coordination with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in regards to dam removal and flood map updates.
- Strong support for first responders, including \$355m for Emergency Management Performance Grants, \$360m for Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG) and \$360m Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grants.

Food Security and Child Nutrition

- \$154b for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).
- \$6b for Special Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program for Women, Infants & Children (WIC).
- \$457.7m for the Commodity Assistance Program which includes the Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) & the Farmers Market Nutrition Program.
- \$40m for the Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT), which provides additional resources to purchase food during the summer months for families whose children are certified to receive free or reduced-price school meals during the school year.
- Makes permanent the Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) program beginning in Summer 2024 which will provide food and meals for children and families in need during the summer months while school is closed. Senator Manchin co-sponsored the Hunger Free Summer for Kids Act of 2021 which advocated for this program to become permanent.
- Makes permanent a non-congregate summer feeding option in rural areas which will allow schools to provide summer meals in a non-congregate setting and provides school systems flexibility to best serve their students.

Healthcare & Elderly Assistance

- \$1.85b for Community Health Centers, including \$55m to support school-based health centers, \$352.4m for rural health programs, and \$5m to establish an Office of Rural Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
- \$125.6m for the National Health Service Corps.
- \$23m for Infectious Diseases and the drug epidemic, including language to prioritize funding to states, like West Virginia, that are not included in the Ending the HIV Epidemic program.
- \$1.06m for senior nutrition programs through the Administration for Community Living, a \$100m increase over FY22.

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Public Safety: Funding to help state and local law enforcement ensure public safety includes:

- \$770.8m for the Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG)
- \$662.8m for the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS)
- \$35m for the Paul Coverdell Forensic Sciences Improvement
- \$700m for Violence Against Women Act Programs, \$82m for STOP School Violence Grants, and \$107m for Youth Mentoring Programs
- \$560m for the Legal Services Corporation and \$15m for Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) to provide guardianship services for child victims of crime.

Government Services

- Taxpayer Advocate Service (TAS): \$236m for the Taxpayer Advocate Service (+\$15m), which has faced a backlog over the pandemic in helping resolve issues constituents have with the IRS.

Keeping Our Promise to Veterans

Senator Manchin recognizes the sacrifices and patriotism of our veterans, and he is committed to ensuring veterans receive the best available care and benefits. As a member of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs since he first joined the Senate in 2010, Senator Manchin is proud to continue that mission and be a strong voice for improving veterans' services and programs.

- **Toxic Exposure:** \$5b for the Cost of War Toxic Exposures Fund, which provides additional funding to the PACT Act. The Senator Manchin backed PACT Act was signed into law on August 10, 2022. It expands health care for Post-9/11 combat Veterans, creates a framework for the establishment of future presumptions of service connection related to toxic exposure, expands VA's list of service presumptions, and improves resources to support VA's claims processing.
- **Medical Care:** \$118.7b for the VA to provide essential health services to Veterans.
- **Rural Health and Telehealth:** \$337m capacity & transportation access in rural and highly rural areas like West Virginia.
- **Suicide Prevention:** \$13.9b for mental health programs including \$498m for suicide prevention.
- **Caregivers:** \$1.9b to expand the Caregivers Program and support family caregivers in Veterans' families.
- **VA Benefits:** \$3.9b to administer benefits, including disability compensation benefits to Veterans and their survivors. This funding will support the VA's efforts to increase the number and scope of claims and decrease the claims backlog.
- **Homelessness:** \$2.7b to prevent Veteran homelessness.
- **Information Technology:** \$5.8b to improve IT systems to help transfer health records across the country.
- **Accountability at Clarksburg VAMC:** Senator Manchin's bill, Sec. 112, the Department of Veterans Affairs Provider Accountability Act, requires the VA to conduct oversight of the credentialing of Veterans Health Administration (VHA) providers and continuous monitoring of provider certification, licensure, and registration related to provided care. This bill was drafted in response to the murders that took place at the Clarksburg VAMC and will ensure no health care provider at the VA will operate without accountability. This is Senator Manchin's fourth Clarksburg related bill to be signed into law. Others include: The Improving Safety and Security for Veterans Act of 2019, The Strengthening Oversight for Veterans Act of 2021, and a bill to direct the VA to report on the use of video camera for patient safety and law enforcement at VA medical centers.

Moving West Virginia Forward

Economic & Community Development:

- **Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC):** \$200 million for ARC (+\$5m). West Virginia is the only state fully within the ARC. The bill includes key initiatives for the state including:
 - o \$65m for the ARC POWER initiative. West Virginia has also been awarded more than \$88 million in POWER Grants since the start of 2016, when the program began.
 - o \$13m to continue ARC's pilot program to address the opioid crisis.
 - o \$15m for broadband funding for distressed counties in North and North Central Appalachia.

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- **Economic Development Administration (EDA):** \$498m for EDA, including \$48m (+\$6.5m) in assistance to coal communities and \$50m for the Regional Innovation Program. WV is the largest per capita recipient of EDA funds, which provides critical funding to foster innovation in small, rural communities.
- **Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs):** \$324m (+\$29m) for CDFIs like the Natural Capital Investment Fund in Shepherdstown and Woodlands Community Lenders in Elkins which help provide low-interest loans to small businesses around the state that would otherwise have difficulty obtaining a loan.
- **Volunteer Service:** \$1.3b for the Corporation for National and Community Service, which oversees the Senior Corps and AmeriCorps VISTA programs. West Virginia produces more AmeriCorps volunteers per capita than any other state in the U.S.
- **Area Median Income Calculations:** Secured language directing the Department of Housing and Urban Development to conduct an analysis and report on the way it calculates its federal formulas. Currently, the state median income is used for their formula calculations of local grant eligibility rather than the national income, disadvantaging poorer states like West Virginia. This language seeks to correct the issue by moving the low-income threshold from the state to the national median income, which will be studied first.

Increasing Broadband Connectivity in WV: As a result of our state's beautiful mountains and deep valleys and hollers, broadband deployment costs in West Virginia are much more expensive. Senator Manchin has fought to ensure that funding for broadband deployment prioritizes rural areas like West Virginia that need it the most:

- **USDA:** \$348m for the ReConnect rural broadband program and \$35 million Community Connect, as well as language encouraging USDA to factor in higher costs incurred by challenging, mountainous terrain.
- **Commerce:** \$62m for NTIA, which will be responsible for distributing much of the broadband funding included in last year's bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. WV is estimated to receive around \$600m through the \$42.45b Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program from NTIA.

Protecting American Manufacturing & Creating Jobs:

- **Manufacturing Extension Partnerships (MEP):** \$175m (+\$17m) for MEPs across the country, incl. Morgantown, to work with small- and mid-sized manufacturers to create jobs and increase profits.
- **Small Business Administration (SBA):** \$326m (+\$47.6m) for assistance to small businesses & job growth for unemployed and underemployed Americans, including \$140m for Small Business Development Centers.

Educating the Next Generation of West Virginians: Senator Manchin believes in investing in the next generation of West Virginians to give children a head start and a leg up at school and home.

- **Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT):** \$515m for rural schools impacted by the decrease in tax revenue due to nearby public lands, such as the Monongahela National Forest in WV.
- **Disadvantaged Students:** \$11.9b for Head Start, \$1.2b for TRIO programs, \$410m for GEAR UP, & a maximum award increase of \$500 to \$7,395 per student for Pell Grants.
- **Child Care and Development Block Grant:** \$8b, an increase of \$1.5b over FY22, to help serve an additional 130,000 children.
- **21st Century Community Learning Centers:** \$1.33b, an increase of \$40m over FY22.
- **National Youth Science Camp (NYSC):** \$777.5m for Dept. of State Educational & Cultural Exchange Programs, which supports NYSC, an annual STEM-focused camp for foreign and U.S. students in Thomas.

Rebuilding our Infrastructure

As a member of the Transportation, Housing & Urban Development Appropriations Subcommittee, Senator Manchin has prioritized funding to help rural areas like WV. That's why he authored the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act, which included \$500b for our nation's infrastructure needs.

Roads and Highways: 29% of WV's 38,770 miles of public roads are considered to be in poor condition, while 21% of our 1,531 bridges are considered structurally deficient, the highest percentage in the U.S.

- \$100m for the Appalachian Development Highway System (ADHS). When combined with IIJA, WV will receive a total of \$52.125m for Corridor H in FY23.

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- \$1.145b for bridge replacement and rehabilitation. When combined with IJA, WV will receive \$163m to repair and replace bridges across the state.
- \$800m for discretionary grant programs at the Dept. of Transportation, including RAISE grants. Thanks to Senator Manchin, WV has received \$102.2m in RAISE grants in the past several years.

Clean Drinking Water: WV has an estimated \$1.4 billion in drinking water needs and \$3.3 billion in wastewater needs. That's why Senator Manchin strongly supports programs rural water infrastructure:

- \$1.64b for EPA's Clean Water & \$1.12b for the Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (SRF) program.
- \$596.4m for the Rural Water & Wastewater Disposal Program, \$430m for Water & Waste Grants, & \$21.2m for the Circuit Rider Program, as well as language encouraging USDA to dedicate funds for small-scale Water and Wastewater projects in distressed counties in Central Appalachia.

Waterways, Navigation, and Flood Control: The spending package includes key WV priorities such as:

- \$54.69m for operation of the Ohio River Locks and Dams in WV and language encouraging the Corps to establish remote lock operations to allow boaters to use the dams more often.
- \$23m for aquatic nuisance control research, including additional funds to study harmful algae blooms. Marshall University works with the Corps to study harmful algae blooms on the Ohio River.
- Continues Senator Manchin's Language highlighting the importance of polymer composite durability for future use on inland waterway infrastructure that led to a partnership with West Virginia University.

Airports: Senator Manchin believes that we must do everything we can to open up West Virginia, and our airports provide a window to our wild and wonderful state. Senator Manchin's priorities include:

- \$558.5m to support level funding for the Airport Improvement Program for small and rural airports, which greatly benefits airports like those in WV.
- \$354m in annual funding for the Essential Air Service (EAS) program to connect over 170 small communities in the U.S. to the National Air Transportation System. This program ensures small, rural airports like Beckley, Clarksburg, Lewisburg, Morgantown, & Parkersburg maintain scheduled air service. Language also ensures service continues in all communities.
- Also includes \$10m for the Small Community Air Service Development Program (SCASDP).

Railroads & Transit: Senator Manchin has long fought to preserve & protect WV's rail infrastructure, vital for transportation purposes and for shipping. The bill includes \$2.453b for Amtrak and includes language protecting long-distance routes like the Capitol Limited (DC to Chicago) and the Cardinal (NY to Chicago) which travel through WV. The bill also includes Senator Manchin's language directing Amtrak to continue to provide a station agent in each Amtrak station that lost one in 2018.