

President Biden released his administration's federal fiscal year [2023 budget request](#) to Congress on March 28. While this budget will not become law, it provides guidance to Congress on the president's funding priorities and insight into policies the administration will advance during its tenure.

HANYS is pleased that the Biden administration does not outline cuts to hospitals, unlike previous administrations' budgets. Rather, the budget request includes a substantial investment in HHS to bolster pandemic preparedness and biodefense, and \$28 billion for the CDC to strengthen public health surveillance and infrastructure.

The budget also notes that the president supports extending Medicare telehealth flexibilities beyond the public health emergency and intends to study their impact on utilization and access to care. HANYS has been advocating for a further extension of these flexibilities and appreciates Congress' recent action to extend these flexibilities for 151 days beyond the PHE.

The president's budget request prioritizes access to behavioral health by investing in workforce development, increasing parity law enforcement, eliminating the 190-day lifetime limit on psychiatric services under Medicare and requiring insurance coverage for some behavioral health and primary care visits. President Biden spoke about the need to address behavioral health in his State of the Union address.

Additional provisions of interest to HANYS members:

- \$17 million in FFY 2023, a \$6 million increase, for oversight of the 340B Drug Discount Program through audits of covered entities and drug companies. The budget also discusses proposing rules to clarify the Health Resources and Services Administration's authority and enforcement ability within 340B;
- \$133 million for health services research, data and dissemination to support the most pressing healthcare challenges, such as COVID-19, including \$5 million to develop and support an all-payer claims database;
- Behavioral health:
 - \$7.5 billion in FFY 2023 to support the creation of a Mental Health System Transformation fund;
 - \$275 million over ten years to the Department of Labor to enhance enforcement of the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act; would extend mental health parity protections to Medicare beneficiaries and would require insurers to cover a minimum of three behavioral health visits and three primary care visits per year with no cost sharing;
 - \$7.5 billion in federal Medicaid funding over ten years to help states build their behavioral health provider capacity for Medicaid beneficiaries;
 - extends Medicare reimbursement to community health workers and licensed professional counselors; and
- \$10 million to support providers' capacity to screen for and treat maternal mental health conditions and \$7 million to support the creation of a maternal mental health hotline.