

FY 2019

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET JUSTIFICATION

SPECIAL BENEFITS FOR DISABLED COAL MINERS

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SPECIAL BENEFITS FOR DISABLED COAL MINERS

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SPECIAL BENEFITS FOR DISABLED COAL MINERS

APPROPRIATION LANGUAGE

For carrying out title IV of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977, as amended by Public Law 107–275, \$10,319,000, to remain available until expended.

For making after July 31 of the current fiscal year, benefit payments to individuals under title IV of such Act, for costs incurred in the current fiscal year, such amounts as may be necessary.

For making benefit payments under title IV for the first quarter of fiscal year 2020, \$14,000,000, to remain available until expended.

Note.— A full-year 2018 appropriation for this account was not enacted at the time the budget was prepared; therefore, the budget assumes this account is operating under the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2018 (Division D of P.L. 115–56, as amended). The amounts included for 2018 reflect the annualized level provided by the continuing resolution.

SPECIAL BENEFITS FOR DISABLED COAL MINERS

AMOUNTS AVAILABLE FOR OBLIGATION						
(Dollars in Thousands)						
	FY 2017 Enacted		FY 2018 Full Year C.R.		FY 2019 Request	
	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount
A. Appropriation	16	\$61,319	16	\$54,319	16	\$10,319
Sequestration Reduction Pursuant to the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985	0	-\$367	0	-\$351	0	\$0
Unobligated Balance Carried Forward from Prior Year	0	\$103,262	0	\$93,688	0	\$83,613
First Quarter Advance Appropriation, prior year	0	\$19,000	0	\$16,000	0	\$15,000
B. Gross Budget Authority	16	\$183,214	16	\$163,656	16	\$108,932
Unobligated Balance Carried Forward from Prior Year	0	-\$103,262	0	-\$93,688	0	-\$83,613
First Quarter Advance Appropriation, prior year	0	-\$19,000	0	-\$16,000	0	-\$15,000
C. Budget Authority	16	\$60,952	16	\$53,968	16	\$10,319
Unobligated Balance Carried Forward from Prior Year	0	\$103,262	0	\$93,688	0	\$83,613
First Quarter Advance Appropriation, prior year	0	\$19,000	0	\$16,000	0	\$15,000
D. Total Budgetary Resources	16	\$183,214	16	\$163,656	16	\$108,932
Unobligated Balances	0	-\$93,688	0	-\$83,613	0	-\$36,496
E. Total, Estimated Obligations	16	\$89,526	16	\$80,043	16	\$72,436

SPECIAL BENEFITS FOR DISABLED COAL MINERS

SUMMARY OF CHANGES

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2018 Full Year C.R.	FY 2019 Request	Net Change
Obligational Authority			
Benefit Payments	\$65,000	\$20,000	-\$45,000
Administrative	\$4,968	\$5,319	+\$351
Total Obligational Authority	\$69,968	\$25,319	-\$44,649
 Full Time Equivalents			
Operating Activities	16	16	0
Total	16	16	0

Explanation of Change	FY 2019 Change							
	FY 2018 Base		Trust Funds		General Funds		Total	
	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount
Increases:								
A. Built-Ins:								
To Provide For:								
Costs of pay adjustments	16	\$1,441	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Personnel benefits	0	\$398	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Employee health benefits	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Moving allowance	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
One day more of pay	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$6	0	\$6
Federal Employees' Compensation Act (FECA)	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Benefits for former personnel	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Travel and transportation of persons	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Transportation of things	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Rental payments to GSA	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Communications, utilities, and miscellaneous charges	0	\$11	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Printing and reproduction	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Advisory and assistance services	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Other services from non-Federal sources	0	\$4	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Working Capital Fund	0	\$1,288	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Other Federal sources (DHS Charges)	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Other goods and services from Federal sources	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Research & Development Contracts	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Operation and maintenance of facilities	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Operation and maintenance of equipment	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Supplies and materials	0	\$4	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0

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FY 2019 Change

Explanation of Change	FY 2018 Base		Trust Funds		General Funds		Total	
	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount
Equipment	0	\$10	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Grants, subsidies, and contributions	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Insurance claims and indemnities	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Built-Ins Subtotal	16	+\$3,156	0	\$0	0	+\$6	0	+\$6
B. Programs:								
Processing of Mandatory Workload - SBDCM	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$351	0	\$351
Programs Subtotal			0	\$0	0	+\$351	0	+\$351
Total Increase	16	+\$3,156	0	\$0	0	+\$357	0	+\$357
Decreases:								
A. Built-Ins:								
To Provide For:								
Operation and maintenance of equipment	0	\$1,812	0	\$0	0	-\$6	0	-\$6
Built-Ins Subtotal	0	+\$1,812	0	\$0	0	-\$6	0	-\$6
B. Programs:								
SBDCM Benefits	0	\$65,000	0	\$0	0	-\$45,000	0	-\$45,000
Programs Subtotal			0	\$0	0	-\$45,000	0	-\$45,000
Total Decrease	0	+\$66,812	0	\$0	0	-\$45,006	0	-\$45,006
Total Change	16	+\$69,968	0	\$0	0	-\$44,649	0	-\$44,649

SPECIAL BENEFITS FOR DISABLED COAL MINERS

BUDGET AUTHORITY BY OBJECT CLASS¹					
(Dollars in Thousands)					
		FY 2017 Enacted	FY 2018 Full Year C.R.	FY 2019 Request	Diff. FY19 Request / FY18 Full Year C.R.
	Full-Time Equivalent				
	Full-time Permanent	16	16	16	0
	Total	16	16	16	0
	Average ES Salary	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	Average GM/GS Grade	12	12	12	0
	Average GM/GS Salary	\$74,919	\$76,342	\$76,342	\$0
11.1	Full-time permanent	1,398	1,420	1,424	4
11.3	Other than full-time permanent	0	0	0	0
11.5	Other personnel compensation	17	21	21	0
11.9	Total personnel compensation	1,415	1,441	1,445	4
12.1	Civilian personnel benefits	373	398	400	2
13.0	Benefits for former personnel	0	0	0	0
21.0	Travel and transportation of persons	0	0	0	0
22.0	Transportation of things	0	0	0	0
23.1	Rental payments to GSA	0	0	0	0
23.3	Communications, utilities, and miscellaneous charges	11	11	11	0
24.0	Printing and reproduction	0	0	0	0
25.1	Advisory and assistance services	0	0	0	0
25.2	Other services from non-Federal sources	20	4	4	0
25.3	Other goods and services from Federal sources 1/	1,410	1,288	1,288	0
25.4	Operation and maintenance of facilities	3	0	0	0
25.5	Research and development contracts	0	0	0	0
25.7	Operation and maintenance of equipment	1,707	1,812	2,157	345
26.0	Supplies and materials	13	4	4	0
31.0	Equipment	0	10	10	0
41.0	Grants, subsidies, and contributions	0	0	0	0
42.0	Insurance claims and indemnities	75,000	65,000	20,000	-45,000
	Total	79,952	69,968	25,319	-44,649
	1/Other goods and services from Federal sources				
	Working Capital Fund	1,410	1,288	1,288	0

¹ FY 2017 and FY 2018 levels reflect post-sequestration amounts. FY 2019 level reflects pre-sequestration amounts.

SPECIAL BENEFITS FOR DISABLED COAL MINERS

AUTHORIZING STATUTES

Public Law / Act	Legislation	Statute No. / US Code	Expiration Date
PUB. L. 91-173	Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act of 1969, (now called Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977), as amended.	30 U.S.C. 901, et seq.	N/A
PUB. L. 107-275	Black Lung Consolidation of Administrative Responsibility Act, as amended.	30 U.S.C. 801 note	N/A

SPECIAL BENEFITS FOR DISABLED COAL MINERS

APPROPRIATION HISTORY					
(Dollars in Thousands)					
	Budget Estimates to Congress	House Allowance	Senate Allowance	Appropriations	FTE
2009					
Base Appropriation...1/	\$250,130		\$250,130	\$244,130	17
2010					
Base Appropriation...2/	\$214,180	\$225,180	\$225,180	\$225,180	17
2011					
Base Appropriation...3/	\$203,000	\$203,220	\$203,220	\$203,220	17
2012					
Base Appropriation...4/	\$182,227	\$182,227	\$182,227	\$182,227	16
2013					
Base Appropriation...5/	\$163,220			\$162,970	15
2014					
Base Appropriation...6/				\$121,716	15
2015					
Base Appropriation...7/				\$102,756	16
2016					
Base Appropriation...8/	\$88,302	\$88,302	\$88,302	\$92,882	16
2017					
Base Appropriation...9/	\$77,319			\$76,952	16
2018					
Base Appropriation...10/	\$69,319	\$69,319			
2019					
Base Appropriation	\$24,319				16

^{1/} Includes first quarter Advance appropriation of \$62,000 requested in Fiscal Year 2008.

^{2/} Includes first quarter Advance appropriation of \$56,000 requested in Fiscal Year 2009.

^{3/} Includes first quarter Advance appropriation of \$45,000 requested in Fiscal Year 2010.

^{4/} Includes first quarter Advance appropriation of \$41,000 requested in Fiscal Year 2011.

^{5/} Includes first quarter Advance appropriation of \$40,000 requested in Fiscal Year 2012 and the appropriation includes sequestration amount of -\$267.

^{6/} Includes first quarter Advance appropriation of \$40,000 requested in Fiscal Year 2013 and the appropriation includes sequestration amount of -\$377.

^{7/} Includes first quarter Advance appropriation of \$24,000 requested in Fiscal Year 2014 and the appropriation includes sequestration amount of -\$384.

^{8/} Includes first quarter Advance appropriation of \$21,000 requested in Fiscal Year 2015 and the appropriation includes sequestration amount of -\$361.

^{9/} Includes first quarter Advance appropriation of \$19,000 requested in Fiscal Year 2016 and the appropriation includes sequestration amount of -\$367.

^{10/} A full-year 2018 appropriation for this account was not enacted at the time the budget was prepared.

SPECIAL BENEFITS FOR DISABLED COAL MINERS

OVERVIEW

The Black Lung Benefits Act authorizes monetary benefits to former coal mine workers (and their dependent survivors) who are totally disabled by occupational pneumoconiosis. This account, Special Benefits for Disabled Coal Miners (SBDCM), referred to as Part B of the Act, pertains to Black Lung claims filed on or before December 31, 1973. Historically, the Black Lung Benefits Act was administered by the Social Security Administration (Part B) and the Department of Labor (Part C). In FY 2002, Congress passed legislation permanently transferring responsibility for Part B to DOL effective October 1, 2003, thus combining all components of program administration under the Black Lung Benefits Act and resulting in fiscal and operational efficiencies and improved service delivery. DOL now carries responsibilities for both Parts B and C of the Act.

The primary activities of the program are to ensure accurate and timely benefit payments. Service to these beneficiaries focuses on monitoring dependent eligibility and processing changes to the miner's or survivors' entitlement promptly. The program must also validate representative payee requests and accounting reports and seeks to implement new Federal financial management requirements, minimize erroneous payments, and increase administrative efficiencies.

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BUDGET AUTHORITY BEFORE THE COMMITTEE				
(Dollars in Thousands)				
	FY 2017 Enacted	FY 2018 Full Year C.R.	FY 2019 Request	Diff. FY19 Request / FY18 Full Year C.R.
Benefit Payments	75,000	65,000	20,000	-45,000
Administration	4,952	4,968	5,319	351
Total Budget Authority for the Fiscal Year	79,952	69,968	25,319	-44,649
Less Funds Advanced in Prior Year	-19,000	-16,000	-15,000	1,000
Current Request for the Fiscal Year	60,952	53,968	10,319	-43,649
New Advances 1st Quarter Next FY	16,000	15,000	14,000	-1,000
Activity Appropriation	76,952	68,968	24,319	-44,649
FTE	16	16	16	0

NOTE: FY 2017 and FY 2018 levels reflect post-sequestration amounts. FY 2019 level reflects pre-sequestration amounts. FY 2017 reflects actual FTE. Authorized FTE for FY 2017 was 16.

Introduction

The Special Benefits for Disabled Coal Miners (SBDCM) program implements Part B of the Black Lung Benefits Act. Part B provides benefits for coal miners totally disabled by pneumoconiosis who filed claims on or before December 31, 1973. Part B benefits are paid from General Funds.

Five-Year Budget Activity History

SPECIAL BENEFITS FOR DISABLED COAL MINERS PART B				
(Dollars in Thousands)				
Fiscal Year	Total Appropriation^{1/}	Benefits^{1/}	Salaries and Expenses	FTE
2014	\$132,858	\$128,000	\$4,858	15
2015	\$100,878	\$96,000	\$4,878	16
2016	\$89,941	\$85,000	\$4,941	16
2017	\$79,952	\$75,000	\$4,952	16
2018	\$0	\$0	\$0	0

^{1/}Includes the Advance Appropriation requested in the prior fiscal year and excludes Advance Appropriation for the next Fiscal Year.

NOTE: A full-year 2018 appropriation for this account was not enacted at the time the budget was prepared.

FY 2019

The FY 2019 Budget level for SBDCM is \$25,319,000, including \$5,319,000 and 16 FTE for program administration. Of the \$20,000,000 for benefits, \$15,000,000 is an advance appropriation that was requested in the FY 2018 President's Budget. In addition, an advance appropriation of \$14,000,000 is requested for the first quarter of FY 2020 to ensure continuity of benefit payments during the transition between fiscal year appropriations. The amount requested to cover benefits payments in FY 2019 is less than in prior years due to carryover funding that will offset a portion of the benefit payments. The \$20 million requested, together with the

SPECIAL BENEFITS FOR DISABLED COAL MINERS

carryover from FY 2018, will be sufficient to cover the expected benefits expenditures in FY 2019.

Program staff will continue to ensure accurate and timely benefit payments to an estimated 9,600 beneficiaries in FY 2019. Services to beneficiaries focus on monitoring dependent eligibility and processing changes in the miner's or survivors' entitlement promptly. The program will continue to focus resources on providing benefits and support to this beneficiary population.

FY 2018

A full-year 2018 appropriation for this account was not enacted at the time the budget was prepared; therefore, the budget assumes this account is operating under the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2018 (Division D of P.L. 115-56, as amended). The amounts included for 2018 reflect the annualized level provided by the continuing resolution. The Department will provide an Operating Plan after a full-year appropriation bill is enacted.

FY 2017

In FY 2017, program staff ensured that accurate and timely benefit payments for 10,166 beneficiaries. Services to beneficiaries included monitoring dependent eligibility and processing changes in the miner's or survivors' entitlement promptly. The program focused resources on providing benefits and support to this beneficiary population.

Workload Summary

In FY 2019, OWCP will service a projected 9,600 Part B beneficiaries. OWCP's activities of maintaining benefits for these Part B recipients support the program's core mission of processing benefits for claimants. Program activities include: payment of benefits, monitoring of beneficiary status for the suspension/termination of benefits, reinstatement of benefits, addition/deletion of dependents, conversion of benefits to widows upon death of miners, resolution of over/under payments, and representative payee determinations. OWCP will continue to meet new and evolving financial management requirements.

SPECIAL BENEFITS FOR DISABLED COAL MINERS

CHANGES IN FY 2019

(Dollars in Thousands)

Activity Changes

Built-In

To Provide For:

Costs of pay adjustments	\$0
Personnel benefits	0
Employee health benefits	0
Moving allowance	0
One day more of pay	6
Federal Employees' Compensation Act (FECA)	0
Benefits for former personnel	0
Travel and transportation of persons	0
Transportation of things	0
Rental payments to GSA	0
Communications, utilities, and miscellaneous charges	0
Printing and reproduction	0
Advisory and assistance services	0
Other services from non-Federal sources	0
Working Capital Fund	0
Other Federal sources (DHS Charges)	0
Other goods and services from Federal sources	0
Research & Development Contracts	0
Operation and maintenance of facilities	0
Operation and maintenance of equipment	-6
Supplies and materials	0
Equipment	0
Grants, subsidies, and contributions	0
Insurance claims and indemnities	0

Built-Ins Subtotal **\$0**

Net Program **\$351**

Direct FTE **0**

	Estimate	FTE
Base	\$4,968	16
Program Increase	\$351	0
Program Decrease	\$0	0