

FY 2018

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, \$54,319,000, 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 2019, \$15,000,000, to remain available until expended.

Note.—A full-year 2017 appropriation for this account was not enacted at the time the budget was prepared; therefore, the budget assumes this account is operating under the Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2017 (P.L. 114-254). The amounts included for 2017 reflect the annualized level provided by the continuing resolution.

SPECIAL BENEFITS FOR DISABLED COAL MINERS

AMOUNTS AVAILABLE FOR OBLIGATION						
(Dollars in Thousands)						
	FY 2016 Enacted		FY 2017 Full Year C.R.		FY 2018 Request	
	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount
A. Appropriation	16	\$69,302	16	\$61,319	16	\$54,319
Sequestration Reduction Pursuant to P.L. 114-113 for FY 2016	0	-\$361	0	\$0	0	\$0
Sequestration Reduction Pursuant to P.L. 114-254 for FY 2017	0	\$0	0	-\$367	0	\$0
First Quarter Advance Appropriation, prior year	0	\$21,000	0	\$19,000	0	\$16,000
B. Gross Budget Authority	16	\$89,941	16	\$79,952	16	\$70,319
C. Obligational Authority before Committee	16	\$89,941	16	\$79,952	16	\$70,319
Unexpired unobligated balance end-of-year	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
D. Total, Estimated Obligations	16	\$89,941	16	\$79,952	16	\$70,319

SPECIAL BENEFITS FOR DISABLED COAL MINERS

SUMMARY OF CHANGES

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2017 Full Year C.R.	FY 2018 Request	Net Change
Obligational Authority			
Benefit Payments	\$75,000	\$65,000	-\$10,000
Administrative	\$4,952	\$5,319	+\$367
Total Obligational Authority	\$79,952	\$70,319	-\$9,633
Full Time Equivalents			
Operating Activities	16	16	0
Total	16	16	0

Explanation of Change	FY 2018 Change							
	FY 2017 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	\$1,418	0	\$0	0	\$26	0	\$26
Personnel benefits	0	\$374	0	\$0	0	\$8	0	\$8
Employee health benefits	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Moving allowance	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Two days less of Pay	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
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	\$20	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Working Capital Fund	0	\$1,450	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	\$3	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Operation and maintenance of equipment	0	\$1,663	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Supplies and materials	0	\$13	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0

SPECIAL BENEFITS FOR DISABLED COAL MINERS

FY 2018 Change

Explanation of Change	FY 2017 Base		Trust Funds		General Funds		Total	
	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount
Equipment	0	\$0	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	+\$4,952	0	\$0	0	+\$34	0	+\$34
B. Programs:								
Sequestration Restoration-SBDCM	0	\$4,952	0	\$0	0	\$367	0	\$367
Programs Subtotal			0	\$0	0	+\$367	0	+\$367
Total Increase	16	+\$9,904	0	\$0	0	+\$401	0	+\$401
Decreases:								
A. Built-Ins:								
To Provide For:								
Built-Ins Subtotal	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
B. Programs:								
Benefit Payments	0	\$75,000	0	\$0	0	-\$10,000	0	-\$10,000
Reduction to Absorb Inflationary Costs	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	-\$34	0	-\$34
Programs Subtotal			0	\$0	0	-\$10,034	0	-\$10,034
Total Decrease	0	+\$75,000	0	\$0	0	-\$10,034	0	-\$10,034
Total Change	16	+\$84,904	0	\$0	0	-\$9,633	0	-\$9,633

SPECIAL BENEFITS FOR DISABLED COAL MINERS

BUDGET AUTHORITY BY OBJECT CLASS					
(Dollars in Thousands)					
		FY 2016 Enacted	FY 2017 Full Year C.R.	FY 2018 Request	Diff. FY18 Request / FY17 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	\$73,958	\$74,919	\$76,342	\$1,423
11.1	Full-time permanent	1,367	1,397	1,423	26
11.3	Other than full-time permanent	0	0	0	0
11.5	Other personnel compensation	14	21	21	0
11.9	Total personnel compensation	1,381	1,418	1,444	26
12.1	Civilian personnel benefits	364	374	382	8
13.0	Benefits for former personnel	0	0	0	0
21.0	Travel and transportation of persons	3	0	3	3
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	17	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	8	20	20	0
25.3	Other goods and services from Federal sources 1/	530	1,450	1,450	0
25.4	Operation and maintenance of facilities	0	3	3	0
25.5	Research and development contracts	0	0	0	0
25.7	Operation and maintenance of equipment	2,580	1,663	1,993	330
26.0	Supplies and materials	18	13	13	0
31.0	Equipment	40	0	0	0
41.0	Grants, subsidies, and contributions	0	0	0	0
42.0	Insurance claims and indemnities	85,000	75,000	65,000	-10,000
	Total	89,941	79,952	70,319	-9,633
	1/Other goods and services from Federal sources				
	Working Capital Fund	0	1,450	1,450	0
	Services by DOL Agencies	530	0	0	0

SPECIAL BENEFITS FOR DISABLED COAL MINERS

AUTHORIZING STATUTES

Public Law / Act	Legislation	Statute No. / US Code	Volume No.	Page No.	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.				N/A

SPECIAL BENEFITS FOR DISABLED COAL MINERS

APPROPRIATION HISTORY					
(Dollars in Thousands)					
	Budget Estimates to Congress	House Allowance	Senate Allowance	Appropriations	FTE
2008					
Base Appropriation...1/	\$276,221	\$276,221	\$276,221	\$270,221	17
2009					
Base Appropriation...2/	\$250,130		\$250,130	\$244,130	17
2010					
Base Appropriation...3/	\$214,180	\$225,180	\$225,180	\$225,180	17
2011					
Base Appropriation...4/	\$203,000	\$203,220	\$203,220	\$203,220	17
2012					
Base Appropriation...5/	\$182,227	\$182,227	\$182,227	\$182,227	16
2013					
Base Appropriation...6/	\$163,220			\$162,970	15
2014					
Base Appropriation...7/				\$121,716	15
2015					
Base Appropriation...8/				\$102,756	16
2016					
Base Appropriation...9/	\$88,302	\$88,302	\$88,302	\$92,882	16
2017					
Base Appropriation...10/ 11/	\$77,319				0
2018					
Base Appropriation	\$69,319				16

^{1/} Includes first quarter Advance appropriation of \$68,000 requested in Fiscal Year 2007.

^{2/} Includes first quarter Advance appropriation of \$62,000 requested in Fiscal Year 2008.

^{3/} Includes first quarter Advance appropriation of \$56,000 requested in Fiscal Year 2009.

^{4/} Includes first quarter Advance appropriation of \$45,000 requested in Fiscal Year 2010.

^{5/} Includes first quarter Advance appropriation of \$41,000 requested in Fiscal Year 2011.

^{6/} Includes first quarter Advance appropriation of \$40,000 requested in Fiscal Year 2012 and the appropriation includes sequestration amount of -\$267 pursuant to P.L. 113-6.

^{7/} Includes first quarter Advance appropriation of \$40,000 requested in Fiscal Year 2013 and the appropriation includes sequestration amount of -\$377 pursuant to P.L. 113-76.

^{8/} Includes first quarter Advance appropriation of \$24,000 requested in Fiscal Year 2014 and the appropriation includes sequestration amount of -\$384 pursuant to P.L. 113-235.

^{9/} Includes first quarter Advance appropriation of \$21,000 requested in Fiscal Year 2015 and the appropriation includes sequestration amount of -\$361 pursuant to P.L. 114-113.

^{10/} Includes first quarter Advance appropriation of \$19,000 requested in Fiscal Year 2016

^{11/} A full-year 2017 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 the 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. The program now carries responsibilities for both Parts B and C of the Act.

The beneficiary population covered by the SBDCM appropriation is essentially closed and declining in number. 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.

SPECIAL BENEFITS FOR DISABLED COAL MINERS

BUDGET AUTHORITY BEFORE THE COMMITTEE				
(Dollars in Thousands)				
	FY 2016 Enacted	FY 2017 Full Year C.R.	FY 2018 Request	Diff. FY18 Request / FY17 Full Year C.R.
Benefit Payments	85,000	75,000	65,000	-10,000
Administration	4,941	4,952	5,319	367
Total Budget Authority for the Fiscal Year	89,941	79,952	70,319	-9,633
Less Funds Advanced in Prior Year	-21,000	-19,000	-16,000	3,000
Current Request for the Fiscal Year	68,941	60,952	54,319	-6,633
New Advances 1st Quarter Next FY	19,000	16,000	15,000	-1,000
Activity Appropriation	87,941	76,952	69,319	-7,633
FTE	16	16	16	0

NOTE: FY 2016 reflects actual FTE. Authorized FTE for FY 2016 was 16. Administration amounts for 2016 and 2017 are after sequester; 2018 amount is level with the annualized CR amount before sequester.

Introduction

Special Benefits for Disabled Coal Miners 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. The program strives to be a premier service organization, viewed by its stakeholders as a fair and balanced adjudicator that exercises sound case and fiscal management.

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
2013	\$162,970	\$158,000	\$4,970	15
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	\$0	\$0	\$0	0

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

FY 2018

The FY 2018 Request is \$54,319,000. This includes administrative funding of \$5,319,000, level with the FY2017 annualized Continuing Resolution (CR) amount before sequestration and 16 FTE. Of the \$65,000,000 for benefits, \$16,000,000 is an advance appropriation that was provided in the FY 2017 annualized CR. An advance appropriation of \$15,000,000 is included for the first quarter of FY 2019 to ensure continuity of benefit payments during the transition between fiscal year appropriations.

SPECIAL BENEFITS FOR DISABLED COAL MINERS

At the funding level requested in FY 2018, the program will focus resources on accomplishing the mission of continuing to provide benefits and support to this beneficiary population.

FY 2017

Figures shown for FY 2017 reflect the annualized Continuing Resolution level, as a full-year appropriation had not been enacted at the time the budget was produced. The Department will provide an Operating Plan after a full-year appropriation bill is enacted.

SPECIAL BENEFITS FOR DISABLED COAL MINERS

DETAILED WORKLOAD AND PERFORMANCE				
	FY 2016 Enacted		FY 2017 Full Year C.R.	FY 2018 Request
	Target	Result	Target	Target
Special Benefits for Disabled Coal Miners				
SBDCM WL 1 Number of Part B Beneficiaries Requiring Benefit Maintenance	11,400[e]	11,688	10,500[e]	10,100[e]

Legend: (r) Revised (e) Estimate (base) Baseline -- Not Applicable TBD - To Be Determined [p] - Projection

SPECIAL BENEFITS FOR DISABLED COAL MINERS

Workload Summary

In FY 2018, OWCP projects an average of 10,100 Part B beneficiaries, which reflects the decline of the beneficiary population projected for FY 2017 and FY 2018. 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 and operational performance targets.

SPECIAL BENEFITS FOR DISABLED COAL MINERS

CHANGES IN FY 2018

(Dollars in Thousands)

Activity Changes

Built-In

To Provide For:

Costs of pay adjustments	\$26
Personnel benefits	8
Employee health benefits	0
Moving allowance	0
Two days less of Pay	0
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	0
Supplies and materials	0
Equipment	0
Grants, subsidies, and contributions	0
Insurance claims and indemnities	0

Built-Ins Subtotal **\$34**

Net Program **\$333**

Direct FTE **0**

	Estimate	FTE
Base	\$4,986	16
Program Increase	\$367	0
Program Decrease	-\$34	0