



President's Budget Request for Fiscal Year (FY) 2024

Health IT Highlights – March 2023

Background

On March 9, the Biden administration released its budget request for FY 2024. You can read the [full FY24 budget here](#). The transmittal of President Biden's budget to lawmakers on Capitol Hill marks the beginning of the appropriations process, though it primarily serves as a messaging document intended to convey policy priorities. Congressional appropriators have no obligation to enact any part of the President's budget. Following the receipt of the request, Congressional offices will begin to engage stakeholders in the appropriations process, respective appropriations committee hearings will commence, and appropriations subcommittee markups will take place shortly thereafter.

Quick Facts:

- \$6.9 trillion in total spending
- \$144 billion in discretionary funding and \$1.7 trillion in mandatory spending for the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)
- \$104 million for the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC)



Source: OMB

What CHIME's Public Policy Team is Watching:

Cybersecurity: The proposed budget provides an additional \$145 million for the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), a total of \$3.1 billion. This includes \$98 million to implement the Cyber Incident Reporting for Critical Infrastructure Act of 2022 ([CIRCIA](#)) and \$425 million to improve CISA's internal cybersecurity capabilities.

Moreover, the budget request provides the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) with \$188 million for cybersecurity initiatives, an increase of \$88 million above last year. This funding is located in the Office of the Chief Information Officer (CIO), an internally facing division of HHS (i.e., the cybersecurity funds are used to secure HHS and its umbrella agencies). At this funding level, the HHS Cybersecurity Program directs:

- \$50 million for investment in the development of a robust Zero Trust architecture, in line with best practices on minimizing risk;
- \$22 million for Cybersecurity Operations and Engagement Activity to acquire and act on relevant threat intelligence;
- \$38 million for Cybersecurity Risk, Governance, FISMA compliance and Privacy Management Activity;
- \$45 million for Cybersecurity tools and enterprise solution activities; and,
- \$33 million for modernizing security event logging.

Telehealth: Within the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), the budget requests \$45 million for telehealth, \$7 million above the FY 2023 enacted level. These funds would be used to expand provider training, increase access, and improve health outcomes in rural and underserved communities.

Public Health: The proposed budget includes \$340 million, \$165 million above the FY 2023 enacted level, for the [CDC's Data Modernization Initiative](#) to advance and strengthen public health data systems.

Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC): The President requested \$104 million for ONC, an increase of \$37 million over the FY 2023 enacted level. The breakdown:

- \$52 million for Standards, Interoperability, and Certification work, an increase of \$18 million. This increase would enable ONC to broaden efforts to align federal agency standards adoption and use, coordinate complementary activities and investments with standards development organizations, and further administration priorities around equity and interoperability.
- \$39 million for Policy Development and Coordination efforts, an increase of \$18 million. This increase in funding would focus on efforts to accelerate the adoption and expansion of exchange through the Trusted Exchange Framework and Common Agreement ([TEFCA](#)) and advance interoperability policy efforts.
- \$13 million to support overall leadership, operational, and administrative functions, an increase of \$1 million.



Source: OMB

Other Noteworthy Mentions Under ONC:

- **Information Blocking:** The budget request continues to include a legislative proposal to allow ONC to issue advisory opinions for information blocking, which would allow HHS to issue public, legally binding advisory opinions for the information blocking regulations.

- **HITAC:** ONC will continue to lead and engage the Health IT Advisory Committee ([HITAC](#)) to inform the development of federal health IT policies and the implementation of its programs impacted by the policies and HHS and administration priorities.
- **TEFCA:** In FY 2024, ONC will promote and accelerate the adoption of the TEFCA by a wide range of healthcare entities and will focus on updating, as needed, the Common Agreement, its standard operating procedures (SOPs), and technical guidance to improve the reliability, efficiency, and effectiveness of the participating Qualified Health Information Networks (QHINs).

HHS Office for Civil Rights (OCR): The budget requests \$78 million for HHS' OCR, an increase of \$38 million. OCR's budget includes a robust investment in enforcement staff to address and resolve major case receipt increases that have led to a significant complaint inventory backlog, and additional resources to bolster its policy, education, and outreach efforts in all federally protected nondiscrimination areas.

HHS Office of the Inspector General (OIG): \$515 million for HHS-OIG, including \$236 million in discretionary funding which is \$37 million above the FY 2023 enacted level. The proposed budget includes \$20 million to hire specialized personnel from a competitive cybersecurity job market, increase OIG's cybersecurity efforts, support needed expansions in digital technology, modernize their IT infrastructure, and further promote an artificial intelligence (AI)-ready workforce.

Sources:

- FY 2024 Budget (and fact sheets): <https://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget/>
- FY 2024 HHS Budget in Brief: <https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/fy-2024-budget-in-brief.pdf>

Please email policy@chimecentral.org with any questions.