



Grassroots 101: The Appropriations Process

- The federal fiscal year runs from October 1-September 30
- Two types of spending:
 1. Mandatory spending is a federal program that guarantees specific benefits to individuals, businesses, or units of government that are eligible. This includes Social Security and Medicare.
 2. Discretionary spending is controlled through the annual appropriations process and therefore, funding levels for these programs are established annually. This includes education programs.

Timeline

- **April-June:** Federal agencies begin budget requests
- **July-August:** Office of Management and Budget (OMB) provides guidance to agencies
- **Early fall:** Federal agencies submit initial budget requests to OMB
- **November-December:** OMB and the president review requests
- **First Monday of February:** The president submits budget to Congress
- **February-September:** Congressional review
- **By July 15:** The president submits mid-session review to Congress
- **October 1:** Fiscal year begins
- **October-September:** Congress apportions funds to agencies

Additional Resources

CEC Legislative Action Center:
<http://capwiz.com/cek/home/>

CAN Resources: www.cec.sped.org

Federal Hearings:
<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/chearings/index.html>

Monitor Legislation on The Federal Register: <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html>

Congressional Contact Information
<http://capwiz.com/cek/dbq/officials/>

House of Representatives:
<http://www.house.gov>

Senate: <http://www.senate.gov>