

APA Federal Advocacy and Policy Update

Week of Dec 1, 2025

Federal Advocacy & Policy Update: Key Highlights From APA Services

Congress continues to negotiate Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26) appropriations, with Republican chairs of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees announcing agreement on a framework for five of twelve federal funding bills. Notably, these do **not** include the largest and most politically sensitive areas—Labor-HHS, Defense, and other major health programs.

Lawmakers remain concerned about the fast-approaching January 30, 2026 deadline, when current stopgap funding expires. Democratic votes will be required to advance any final package, and negotiations remain tense as Congress continues to grapple with disagreements tied to expiring health insurance subsidies, the issue that triggered the last shutdown.

APA Services will soon share opportunities for psychologists to engage in federal advocacy as the process unfolds, stay tuned to e-news and email for opportunities to engage in this!

Medicare & Telehealth Guidance Update

On November 14, 2025, CMS released updated guidance clarifying the status of Medicare telehealth claims, incorporating new provisions from Congress' reinstatement of certain telehealth flexibilities following the government shutdown, as well as policies in the 2026 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Final Rule. Psychologists are encouraged to review the latest *Practice Update* newsletter for details ([free subscription available](#)) and can read the article with more details [here](#).