

APA Federal Advocacy and Policy Update

Week of October 27, 2025

Opportunities for CPA Members to Advocate: If you are a clinician who has experience and knowledge of Medicaid, the legislative committee is looking for members to help with advocacy in the state. Please contact Michelle Dawson mdsepsych@gmail.com if interested.

Hill & Budget Update:

Senate Democrats are discussing a possible full-year stop-gap funding measure covering major federal agencies, which could shift current negotiations beyond short-term shutdown fixes. The proposal would likely face challenges in the House, as both parties grapple with separating Affordable Care Act (ACA) subsidy issues from broader spending debates. APA Advocacy continues to press for government reopening and restoration of key funding and services without taking a position on specific mechanisms. Members are encouraged to review APA's *Response Center* policy insights on the shutdown's impact on psychology.

Administration:

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) will continue processing applications for the *Rural Health Transformation Program*—part of the *One Big Beautiful Bill Act*—to offset rural Medicaid funding cuts. States must apply by early November, with awards expected by December 31.

APA Policy Highlights:

- **Digital Mental Health Innovation:** APA Advocacy presented the *Regulatory Landscape Panel* at *Inside the Lab* in Austin, emphasizing ethical, evidence-based development of digital and AI mental health tools. This initiative promotes psychological science as foundational to emerging technologies.
- **Higher Education Advocacy:** APA led a bipartisan House letter urging the Department of Education to include clinical psychology in the definition of “professional degree” under new federal student loan borrowing limits. This designation is essential to sustaining training pipelines for licensed psychologists.
- **Support for International Psychology Scholars:** APA participated in an American Board of Professional Psychology webinar addressing policy challenges for international students and professionals, including opposition to proposed F-1/J-1 visa duration changes and the new \$100k H-1B visa fee.