



# NASCOE

## Legislative Update

### 2024 Federal Appropriations Update

April 8, 2024

By David McBryde and Jon Weishaar

Last month, the House and Senate wrapped up the federal appropriations process. We now have full fiscal year funding through September 30, 2024. As reported, the final agreement resulted in negotiators increasing the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) by \$1 billion. The additional WIC funding resulted in decreases for many USDA funded programs.

However, for the Farm Service Agency (FSA), bill language separated the funding level for County Offices (CO). This decision protected CO funding from the larger FSA mission area and from reductions. In general, our advocates helped FY 2024 CO funding remain equal to FY 2023 CO funding levels. The following chart highlights specific funding by function.

Agency	FY 2023	FY 2024	Comparison
FSA Salaries & Expenses	1,521,110,000	1,515,110,000	(-6,000,000)
FSA County Offices	696,594,000	696,594,000	-0-
FPAC Business Center	248,684,000	244,183,000	(-4,501,000)
RMA	66,870,000	65,637,000	(-1,233,000)
NRCS	941,124,000	914,899,000	(26,225,000)

We are actively working with FSA leadership to determine their direction regarding funding County Office incentive pay initiatives. For now, we can report continuing incentive pay for employees is a priority for USDA's leadership. We continue to monitor this for membership.

In a surprise announcement, Chairwoman Kay Granger (R-TX) announced she would step down as chair of the House Appropriations Committee. We expect the House Steering Committee will formally select Representative Tom Cole (R-OK) as chair of the Committee.

Finally on March 21, the House Agriculture Subcommittee held a hearing with Secretary Vilsack. This hearing included significant discussion about FSA field offices and the need for additional staff. We are thankful to Congressman Scott Franklin's (R-FL) work raising the importance of customer service and the need for additional CO employees. We expect the Senate Appropriations Committee will quickly schedule Secretary Vilsack for his annual budget hearing. **THANK YOU** all for your work helping educate legislators about the importance of County Office employees and let us know if you need information regarding the federal budget process.



#### NASCOE Legislative Co-Chairperson

David McBryde,  
North Carolina  
Cell: (919) 418-3380



#### NASCOE Legislative Co-Chairperson

Jon Weishaar,  
Colorado  
Cell: (308) 760-8739