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\$537 Million Included For U.S. Territories in Biden's \$6.9 Trillion 2024 Budget

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President Joseph Biden. By. POOL VIA CNP/ZUMA PRESS

The U.S. Dept. of Interior announced Thursday that the Biden administration has included \$537 million in funding for U.S. territories in his \$6.9 trillion FY 2024 budget.

The proposal would fund initiatives benefitting fellow Americans in the U.S. territories of American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands and support certain programs for the freely associated states: the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), and the Republic of Palau, according to D.O.I.

“President Biden has proposed an important blueprint for our country’s future that reflects the importance of science, equity and collaboration in carrying out the Department of the Interior’s important missions,” said Assistant Secretary for Insular and International Affairs Carmen G. Cantor. “The 2024 budget request makes critical, targeted investments in the American people and in the Territories that will promote greater prosperity and economic growth for decades to come. For the Insular Areas, the budget will provide for investments in infrastructure, energy resiliency and security, and promote racial justice and equity in underserved communities allowing Interior to fulfill its responsibilities in the Pacific and the Caribbean.”

The FY 2024 budget proposal for OIA includes \$122 million in current appropriations and \$414 million in permanent funding. It also reflects proposed increases from the FY 2023 enacted level of \$4 million in Capital Improvement Projects grant funding to support critical infrastructure needs in the territories, and \$900,000 for the Coral Reef Initiative and Natural Resources grant program to address additional conservation needs for all Insular Areas.

For OIA, the FY 2024 budget proposal:

Underscores the importance of Compacts of Free Association:

Financial assistance provided under the Compacts of Free Association is scheduled to end after FY 2023 for the FSM and the RMI and after FY 2024 for Palau. The Administration supports renewing the funding of our Compact of Free Association relationships. Continuing decisions established in the FY 2023 budget, the 2024 budget proposal seeks \$6.5 billion in economic assistance over 20 years to be provided through a mandatory appropriation at the Department of State, and language calling for continued implementation of the Compacts at the Department of the Interior. Negotiations on the expiring provisions of the Compacts of Free Association continue, underscoring the importance of these bilateral relationships. The Administration intends to submit a legislative proposal to Congress upon completion of these negotiations later this year. The United States remains committed to its long-standing partnerships with the governments and the people of the freely associated states as we work together to promote a free and open Indo-Pacific.

Proposes support for Compact migrants:

With mandatory appropriations for Compact Impact (authorized under the 2003 Compacts of Free Association Act) also expiring after FY 2023, the proposed FY 2024 budget discontinues the smaller discretionary supplement to the mandatory funds for Compact Impact. The Administration supports allowing Compact migrants to become eligible for key federal social safety net programs while residing in the United States, as a long-term solution to the financial impacts of Compact migrants on state and territorial governments. The matter requires congressional review and approval.

For more information on the President’s FY 2024 budget, visit:

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget/>. For the Department of the Interior’s FY 2024 Budget in Brief, visit: <https://www.doi.gov/budget/appropriations/2024>