Defense spending accounts for nearly half of total discretionary spending

2020 Discretionary Outlays: $1,627 Billion

- Defense
- Health
- Transportation
- Veterans' Benefits and Services
- Community and Regional Development
- Education
- Administration of Justice
- International Affairs
- General Government
- Natural Resources and Environment
- Housing Assistance
- General Science, Space and Technology
- Training and Employment


NOTES: Health includes funding for agencies that provide healthcare services or engage in health research, such as the National Institutes of Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and Indian Health Service. General government includes central executive and legislative functions as well as the administrative costs of Social Security, Medicare, and income security programs. Energy is included in Transportation and Agriculture is included in Natural Resources and Environment. Veterans’ benefits primarily consists of medical and hospital care. In 2020, spending on health programs was boosted by programs to address the pandemic; in 2019, the largest category other than defense was transportation.