1. The President’s Budget

- **Timing:** February
- **Target:** Congress
- **Message:** Support (or don’t) the President’s budget request

To start the budget process, the President submits a detailed budget request to Congress.
  - It includes a target for top-line spending, as well as specific amounts for each government agency.

**FY 2014**

The President requested:
- **$3.8 T** in spending
- **$31.1 B** for NIH

The President’s budget is detailed but ultimately carries little weight in subsequent negotiations in Congress.
2. Federal Budget

- **Timing:** March
- **Target:** Budget Committees and Congress
- **Message:** Allocate the maximum amount of money toward the top line budget

The budget committees decide top line budgets (spending targets) which are then voted on in the full chambers.

The two chambers then conference to reconcile any differences.
- If there is no conference, the two chambers continue under different top-line numbers.

**FY 2014**

- House Budget: $3.5 T
- Senate Budget: $3.7 T

The huge difference in top-line budgets means a conference is unlikely.

A large difference in top line numbers means the resulting House and Senate appropriations bills will be different and difficult to reconcile.
3. Appropriations to Subcommittees

- **Timing:** April
- **Target:** Appropriations Committees
- **Message:** Allocate the maximum amount of money to the NIH & NSF subcommittees

- The appropriations committees decide the total amount each of the 12 appropriations subcommittee can allocate.
  - The Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (Labor-HHS) Appropriations Subcommittee oversees NIH.
  - The Commerce, Justice, Science (CJS) Appropriations Subcommittee oversees NSF.

**FY 2014**

- The House assigned $121 B to Labor-HHS.
- The Senate assigned $164 B to Labor-HHS.

This difference means that the Senate Labor-HHS subcommittee will be able to allocate more money to NIH than the House Labor-HHS subcommittee.
4. Appropriations to Agencies

- **Timing:** May - July
- **Target:** Appropriations Subcommittees
- **Message:** Allocate the maximum amount of money to NIH and NSF

- The 12 appropriations subcommittees hold hearings and decide the budgets for each agency under their purview.

**FY 2014**

- The House has not marked up Labor-HHS.
- The Senate appropriated $30.9 B to NIH.

No mark-up means no bills to conference on.
5. Appropriation Bill Voted On

- **Timing:** June - September
- **Target:** Appropriations Committees and Congress
- **Message:** Support (or don’t support) the appropriations bill

- Amendments are added and bill is voted on in committee and then in full chamber.

**FY 2014**

- The House has not marked up Labor-HHS.
- The full Senate Appropriations Committee voted to send the Labor-HHS bill to the full Senate.
- The Senate has not yet voted on the bill.
The Federal Budget Process

6. Conference and Final Bill

- **Timing:** September
- **Target:** Congress
- **Message:** Pass a budget—don’t rely on continuing resolution

- The House and Senate resolve the differences between their appropriations bills in conference.
- Once differences are reconciled, each chamber votes on conference report (the final version of a bill that is negotiated between the House and Senate).

FY 2014

- A conference is unlikely due to differences in numbers.
- If a conference is unlikely, a continuing resolution (for a few months or more) to fund the government is likely.
6.5. Continuing Resolution

• **Timing:** Late September
• **Target:** Congress
• **Message:** Pass a budget before the continuing resolution expires

- A continuing resolution (CR) provides funding for existing federal programs at current, reduced, or expanded levels.
  - It usually calls for flat funding.
- If a continuing resolution is not passed, the federal government will shut down until there is a budget or CR.

**FY 2014**

- NIH was funded at $30.6 B in FY 2013.
- When sequestration is factored in, funding was $28.9 B

A continuing resolution would essentially mean flat-funding from FY 2013 minus the FY 2014 sequestration (estimated at 7 percent cut).