

FY2015 Appropriations Priorities LABOR, HHS, EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES

ABOUT THE ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC AND LAND-GRANT UNIVERSITIES

Founded in 1887, the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (A·P·L·U) is an association of over 230 public research universities, land-grant institutions, and state public university systems.

APLU member campuses enroll more than 4.4 million undergraduate and 1.3 million graduate students, employ more than 1.3 million faculty members, and conduct academic research totaling more than \$41 billion annually.

As the nation's oldest higher education association, APLU is dedicated to excellence in learning, discovery and engagement. For more information, visit www.aplu.org

APLU is part of the broad business, university and science community concerned about cuts and stagnating federal funding in science, research and education at a time when other nations are increasing their research and education investments. We believe the FY2015 Labor-HHS-Ed Appropriations bill must work to close this innovation deficit with reasonable increases in key accounts, as described below.

These investments will develop the ideas, the people, and the innovations that power our economy, create jobs, improve health and strengthen our national security, ensuring that the U.S. maintains its role as global leader. Additionally, the growth supported by this innovation will help the nation address its fiscal challenges.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH (NIH)

APLU Request: \$32 billion

(FY2015 PBR = \$30.2B; FY2014 = \$29.9B; FY2013 = \$29B)

APLU supports \$32 billion for NIH in FY2015, a level necessary to avoid further loss of promising research. NIH, currently the world's premier biomedical research funding agency, competitively awards grants to scientists at APLU universities in all 50 states. Funding of \$32 billion would allow the NIH to continue to educate the next generation of scientists and fund leading-edge research with the goals of saving lives and improving health through medical discovery and scientific leadership.

Providing \$32 billion in FY 2015 would help NIH's budget begin to catch up with biomedical inflation. Taking into account biomedical research inflation, NIH's funding is 20% lower today than in 2003. As Congress seeks to optimally allocate limited resources, investing in scientific and medical research should be a priority. Robust NIH funding is necessary to ensure we close the innovation deficit and build a better America. Scientific and medical advances supported by the NIH yield a strong return and bolster the health of our economy as well as our citizens and people the world over.

HEALTH RESOURCES & SERVICES ADMINISTRATION (HRSA) TITLE VII & TITLE VIII PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMS

APLU Request: \$520 million

(FY2015 PBR = \$439M; FY2014 = \$469M; FY2013 = \$438M)

APLU supports funding of \$520 million in FY2015 for Title VII health professions programs and Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development programs at the Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA). The Title VII and VIII programs marked their 50th anniversary in 2013. This important milestone provides an opportunity to reflect on the critical role that Title VII and VIII play in bolstering the health workforce and meeting the health education needs in the United States. In addition, funding for these programs remains important for meeting the health needs of underserved populations.

APLU FY2015 LABOR-HHS-ED APPROPRIATIONS PRIORITIES (con't)

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

PELL GRANT PROGRAM

APLU Request: \$4,860 appropriated for the maximum award

(FY2015 PBR = \$4,860 [total \$5,830]; FY2014 = \$4,860 appropriated [total \$5,730]; FY2013 = \$4,860 appropriated [total \$5,645])

APLU strongly supports an appropriated level of \$4,860 in FY2015 for the maximum Pell award, achieving the total maximum award of \$5,830 once mandatory funds are included.

The Federal Pell Grant Program provides need-based grants to financially disadvantaged students and are the foundation of low-income students' aid packages, to which other forms of aid (state and institutional) are added. The Pell Grant program is the largest federal source of college aid to students. Strong support for student aid programs is an important federal investment to ensure we have a citizenry and workforce prepared to tackle our nation's challenges.

SUPPLEMENTAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY GRANT (SEOG)

APLU Request: \$735 million

(FY2015 PBR = \$733M; FY2014 = \$733M; FY2013 = \$696M)

The Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant program provides up to an additional \$4000 in grant assistance to Pell Grant recipients with unmet need. Institutions must match one-to-three the federal SEOG funds, a strong leverage ratio for the federal investment. APLU urges Congress to provide funding in FY2015 equal to the FY2012 level of \$735 million for this important piece of the federal financial aid portfolio.

FEDERAL WORK STUDY (FWS)

APLU Request: \$976 million

(FY2015 PBR = \$975M; FY2014 = \$975M; FY2013 = \$926M)

Work Study provides funds for part-time employment to help needy students finance the cost of college. APLU advocates funding FWS at a level of \$976 million in FY2015, an increase of only one million dollars over current year funding, and equivalent to FY2012 funding. Continued support of this program would help provide many students an alternative to loan debt.

GRADUATE EDUCATION: GRADUATE ASSISTANCE IN AREAS OF NATIONAL NEED (GAANN)

APLU Request: \$31 million

(FY2015 PBR = \$29M; FY2014 = \$29M; FY2013 = \$29M)

APLU urges Congress to at least maintain the FY2012 funding levels of \$31 million in FY2015 for the Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need (GAANN) program. The GAANN traineeships are vital programs that strengthen U.S. economic competitiveness via support of graduate students in critical fields of study.

The Javits Fellowship was consolidated into the GAANN program in FY2012. We support continued funding in FY2015 for this final year of non-competing continuation Javits grants. In the longer-term, APLU urges Congress to work on building support for graduate students in the humanities. Together, the GAANN and Javits programs help ensure a strong pipeline of talented experts and educators who will help to meet the demands of our 21st century workforce.

APLU FY2015 LABOR-HHS-ED APPROPRIATIONS PRIORITIES (con't)

TRIO PROGRAMS

APLU Request: \$890 million

(FY2015 PBR = \$838M; FY2014 = \$838M; FY2013 = \$796M)

The TRIO program helps low-income, first generation students prepare for, enter, and graduate from college. Two-thirds of TRIO students come from families with incomes of less than \$34,000 for a family of four, where neither parent graduated from college. TRIO programs currently serve 840,000 students in all 50 states. APLU recommends funding of \$890 million for TRIO programs in FY2015.

GAINING EARLY AWARENESS & READINESS FOR UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS (GEAR UP)

APLU Request: \$323 million

(FY2015 PBR = \$302M; FY2014 PBR = \$302M; FY2013= \$286M)

APLU urges Congress to support the GEAR UP program at a level of \$323 million in FY2015. The GEAR UP grant program is designed to increase the number of low-income students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education. GEAR UP provides six-year grants to states and partnerships to provide services at high-poverty middle and high schools.

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION & FOREIGN LANGUAGE STUDIES: TITLE VI

APLU Request: \$76 million

(FY2015 PBR = \$76M; FY2014 = \$72M; FY2013 = \$70M)

For International Education and Foreign Languages Studies, APLU supports funding of at least the president's requested level of \$76 million in FY2015. These programs play a critical role in expanding our next generation's skills of global competency that will support our long-term security, global leadership, and economic competitiveness. The 43% cut in Title VI funding over the last four years and the corresponding reduction in the number of National Resource Centers endangers the domestic pipeline of language and area experts capable of ensuring domestic capacities in less commonly taught languages and cultures and reduces the ability of universities to offer global learning experiences for students.

FUND FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION (FIPSE) STUDY ABROAD

APLU Request: \$5 million

(FY2015 PBR = n/a This is a new proposed program.)

APLU requests \$5 million from the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE) specifically for a competitive grants program enabling universities to leverage funding to significantly increase the number of students studying abroad and in doing so expand diversity of participants and locations including to developing nations. This initiative is consistent with the authorization for FIPSE which deems international cooperation and student exchanges an area of national need.

INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION SCIENCES (IES)

APLU Request: \$637 million

(FY2015 PBR = \$637M; FY2014 = \$577M; FY2013 = \$563M)

For FY2015, APLU urges a funding level of \$637 million for the Institute of Education Sciences (IES). The Research, Development, and Dissemination account of IES funds competitive grant programs through the National Center for Education Research (NCER) and the National Center for Special Education Research (NCSER). We are particularly supportive of these programs and urge special attention on NCSER, which has not held a grant competition since FY 2012. Because of the lack of grants in this area, we ask Congress to ask IES for an explanation of how special education research is being prioritized within IES and when NCSER will hold a future competition.