

## **APLU Analysis of the Administration's FY2018 Budget Blueprint**

**[March 16, 2017]**

This document represents an initial analysis of the Administration's FY2018 budget blueprint for the various agencies and programs of interest to the APLU community. As further materials are released, the APLU staff may provide additional updates.

### **Broad Highlights of FY2018 Budget Blueprint**

The Administration's FY2018 budget blueprint proposes a \$54 billion increase for national defense discretionary budget authority and a reduction of \$54 billion for nondefense discretionary programs. The budget blueprint provides an initial outline of the Administration's agency and program funding requests. The Administration is expected to release a full FY2018 budget request in May 2017.

The blueprint would reduce funding for the National Institutes of Health by \$5.8 billion and State Department and U.S. Agency for International Development by \$10.1 billion. It also proposes to eliminate all funding for a number of agencies and programs, including the National Endowment for the Humanities and the National Endowment for the Arts.

The documents related to the Administration's FY2018 budget blueprint are available at the following website: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget>.

Following is information gleaned from the budget blueprint about programs of interest, in alphabetical order by agency. The blueprint most often compares the proposed funding levels for FY2018 to the "2017 annualized continuing resolution (CR) level." The current CR levels are slightly lower than the FY2016 enacted levels. In cases where the blueprint does not provide the CR levels, this analysis compares to the FY2016 enacted levels.

### **Department of Agriculture (USDA):**

The Administration's FY2018 budget blueprint requests \$17.9 billion for USDA, a \$4.7 billion (21 percent) decrease from the 2017 annualized CR level.

The blueprint would provide "about \$350 million" for the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI). The blueprint would also "continue support" for USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture capacity programs, but does not provide details on funding levels. It is not clear from the blueprint if the final budget request would propose cuts, increases or flat funding for those programs.

## **Department of Commerce**

The Administration's FY2018 budget blueprint requests \$7.8 billion for the Department of Commerce, a \$1.5 billion (16 percent decrease) from the 2017 annualized CR level.

The blueprint would eliminate funding for the Manufacturing Extension Partnership program at the National Institute of Standards and Technology. It would also cut \$250 million in targeted National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration grants and programs supporting coastal and marine management, research, and education, including an elimination of the Sea Grant program.

## **Department of Defense (DoD)**

The budget blueprint requests \$639 billion for DoD, a \$52 billion increase from the 2017 annualized CR level.

The budget blueprint does not mention defense basic or applied research, or the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency. Along with the budget blueprint, the Administration released the DoD's Request for Additional FY2017 Appropriations which can be found [here](#).

## **Department of Education (ED): Student Aid and Higher Education**

The budget blueprint would provide \$59 billion in discretionary funding for the Department of Education, \$9 billion (13 percent) below the 2017 annualized CR level.

It would eliminate the Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant program and level fund the discretionary portion of the Pell Grant program while rescinding \$3.9 billion from the Pell Grant program's \$10.6 billion surplus. The blueprint also "eliminates or reduces" over 20 categorical programs, including Title VI International Education programs. It is not clear which of the programs would be eliminated and which would be reduced.

The blueprint would "significantly" reduce funding for the Federal Work-Study program, though the exact cut is not stated. Under the blueprint, TRIO would receive \$808 million, a \$92 million cut from FY2016, and GEAR UP would receive \$219 million, a \$104 million cut from FY2016.

The blueprint would also "protect support for Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Minority-Serving Institutions, which provide opportunities for communities that are often underserved, maintaining \$492 million in funding for programs that serve high percentages of minority students."

### **Department of Energy (DOE)**

The FY2018 budget blueprint requests \$28 billion for DOE, a \$1.7 billion (5.6 percent) decrease from the 2017 annualized CR level. The blueprint would cut the DOE Office of Science by approximately \$900 million. The DOE Office of Science was funded at \$5.350 billion in FY2016.

The blueprint would also eliminate funding for the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy and appears to direct the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy to focus on limited, early-stage applied energy research and development activities.

### **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**

The Administration's FY2018 budget blueprint requests \$5.7 billion for the Environmental Protection Agency, a reduction of \$2.6 billion (31 percent) from the 2017 annualized CR level. The blueprint would fund EPA's Office of Research and Development (ORD) at a level of approximately \$250 million, a reduction of \$233 million (48 percent) from the 2017 annualized CR level. The blueprint directs ORD to "prioritize activities that support decision-making related to core environmental statutory requirements, as opposed to extramural activities, such as providing STAR grants."

The blueprint would also eliminate more than 50 EPA programs, totaling \$347 million. The blueprint does not specify the 50 programs to be eliminated.

### **Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)**

The Administration's FY2018 budget blueprint requests \$69 billion for HHS, a \$15.1 billion (17.9 percent) decrease from the 2017 annualized CR level.

The budget blueprint would reduce funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) by \$5.8 billion from the 2017 annualized CR level, to \$25.9 billion in FY2018. The blueprint also proposes a reorganization and consolidation of NIH programs, which would also consolidate the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality within NIH. The blueprint does not include additional details on the proposed consolidation.

The budget blueprint proposes cuts of \$403 million in health professions and nursing training programs from the Health Resources Services Administration's (HRSA) Title VII and Title VIII programs. HRSA's Title VII and Title VIII programs were funded at \$492 million in FY2016.

### **Department of Interior (DOI)**

The blueprint provides \$900 million for DOI's U.S. Geological Survey to focus investments in essential science programs. According to the blueprint, this includes research and data collection that informs sustainable energy development, responsible resource management, and natural hazard risk reduction.

### **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)**

The Administration's FY2018 budget blueprint requests \$19.1 billion for NASA, a 0.8 percent decrease from the 2017 annualized CR level. The blueprint requests \$624 million for NASA's Aeronautics Research and Development Directorate, which was funded at \$640 million in FY2016. The budget blueprint would eliminate the Office of Education, which includes the Space Grant program. Space Grant was funded at \$40 million in FY2016 and the Office of Education at \$115 million in FY2016.

### **State Department**

The budget blueprint aims to reduce foreign assistance and "refocus" State Department and USAID diplomatic and development programs. The Department of State and USAID programs are reduced by \$10.1 billion (28 percent) from the annualized 2017 continuing resolution level. Though the budget does not directly address higher education programming, proposed cuts are expected as the blueprint seeks to consolidate all programs and "free up funding for critical priorities at home and put America first."

Of note, the budget blueprint reduces funding for the Department of State's Educational and Cultural Exchange programs, but would focus on "sustaining the flagship Fulbright program, which forges lasting connections between Americans and emerging leaders around the globe."