

APLU Analysis of the Trump Administration's FY2020 Budget Request to Congress

Updated: March 18, 2019

This document represents an initial analysis of the administration's fiscal year (FY) 2020 budget request for the various agencies and programs of particular interest to APLU institutions. As further materials are released, APLU staff will provide additional updates and will continue to update the [FY2020 appropriations priorities chart](#).

APLU released a [statement](#) expressing deep concern and opposition to proposed cuts and elimination of higher education and research programs within the president's budget request.

APLU also recently joined with the Association of American Universities (AAU) in [urging](#) the administration and Congress to negotiate a new bipartisan budget agreement that raises the discretionary spending caps for fiscal years 2020 and 2021.

Broad Highlights of FY2020 Budget Request

The FY2020 president's budget request (PBR), [A Budget for a Better America: Promises Kept. Taxpayers First](#), proposes \$2.7 trillion in spending cuts over 10 years. The 150-page document adheres to defense and nondefense spending caps in current law but provides additional defense resources by designating investments as Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) funds.

Much like previous PBRs, this budget proposes eliminating several higher education and research programs, including the Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant program, GEAR UP, Title VI International Education, and the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy.

Overall, the PBR would significantly reduce investment in higher education and research. For example, compared to FY2019, the Department of Education would receive a \$7.1 billion cut (10 percent) under the PBR, not including a \$2 billion rescission to the Pell Grant surplus. Additionally, the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation would see a \$4.7 billion cut (12.1 percent) and \$1 billion cut (12 percent), respectively.

Documents related to the administration's FY2020 budget request are available at the following website: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget>.

Following is information collected from the budget request about programs of interest, in alphabetical order by department/agency. This analysis uses the FY2019 enacted levels as a comparison to the PBR FY2020 numbers.

Department of Agriculture (USDA)

FY2020 USDA Congressional Justification

USDA's [Budget in Brief](#) reports the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) would receive \$1.4 billion per the PBR, a \$15.6 million reduction from FY2019. The budget request would provide \$500 million for the NIFA Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI), a \$100 million increase over the FY2019 enacted level. The budget acknowledges that funding increase are balanced with "eliminating lower priority programs." Proposed funding for other NIFA Research and Education Activities are listed below:

- Hatch Act Funds, \$243.2 million (FY2019 \$259 million)
- Smith-Lever 3(b)&(c), \$299.4 million (FY2019 \$315 million)
- Evans-Allen Program, \$53.8 million (FY2019 \$58 million)
- McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry, \$28.9 million (FY2019 \$36 million)
- Extension Services at 1890 Institutions, \$45.3 million (FY2019 \$48.6 million)

The budget request also includes \$50 million in a new competitive grant program to "modernize agriculture research facilities at land-grant universities.

Department of Commerce

The administration's budget would eliminate "low priority" NOAA education programs, such as Sea Grant and the Office of Education. In FY2019, Sea Grant (together with the Marine Aquaculture Program) received \$80 million.

The PBR would eliminate the Economic Development Administration and the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) program at the National Institute of Standards and Technology. MEP was funded at \$140 million in FY2019. Compared to FY2019, the PBR would provide level funding of \$15 million for National Network for Manufacturing Innovation (NNMI), or Manufacturing USA, in FY2020.

Department of Defense (DoD)

The PBR would fund DoD Science and Technology (6.1-6.3) at \$14.135 billion, \$1.9 billion decrease from FY2019 enacted. The budget proposes \$2.320 billion for DoD Basic Research, a \$299 million reduction from FY2019. The DoD's [R-1 programs](#) document includes funding levels for research development, test and evaluation programs.

Under the PBR, the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) would receive \$3.556 billion, a \$142 million increase over FY2019.

The request also includes a new Army Basic Research Program Element, "Cyber Collaborative Research Alliance," which is a result of [Army Futures Command](#). For more DoD budget documents, visit the [DoD Comptroller's website](#).

Department of Education (ED)

Budget Summary

The budget request would provide \$64 billion in funding for the Department of Education, \$7.1 billion below the FY2019 level. Additionally, the request would take \$2 billion from the Pell Grant surplus.

The budget would maintain the discretionary appropriation of the Pell Grant program at \$22.475 billion and retain the maximum Pell award of \$6,195. The PBR proposes expanding Pell Grant eligibility to “high-quality” short-term programs “that lead to a credential, certification, or license in a high-demand field.”

For campus-based aid, the PBR would eliminate the Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG) program and significantly cut Federal Work Study from \$1.1 billion to \$500 million. The request would “dramatically reform” the Federal Work Study program to “allocate funding to institutions enrolling high numbers of Pell Grant recipients that would support workforce and career-oriented training opportunities for low-income undergraduate students.” Presently, the program benefits undergraduate and graduate students.

Under the PBR, TRIO would receive \$950 million, a reduction of \$110 million from FY2019, and GEAR UP would be eliminated. The request proposes transitioning TRIO programs to a state formula grant program. The PBR notes that although GEAR UP would be eliminated, the activities could be supported within the new TRIO. The PBR also eliminates Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need (GAANN), Strengthening Institutions Program, International Education and Foreign Language Studies programs (Title VI), and Teacher Quality Partnerships.

The PBR characterizes the Title VI and Fulbright-Hays programs as duplicative of programs in other agencies which have a primary mission of protecting national security and asserts that the other agencies are better equipped to support the objectives of the programs.

The PBR requests \$521.6 million for the Institute of Education Sciences, \$93.9 million less than the FY2019 level. The request would eliminate funding for the Regional Education Laboratories and Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems.

The PBR proposes a consolidation of five income-driven repayment plans into one plan which would set monthly payments at 12.5 percent of discretionary income and eliminate the standard repayment cap. Undergraduate borrowers would be eligible for forgiveness after 15 years while graduate students would be eligible after 30 years of repayment. The plan would raise monthly payments for some borrowers (from 10 percent to 12.5 percent) but would reduce the time to forgiveness for undergraduates from 20 years to 15. The plan would be a significant setback for graduate students.

Other proposals in the PBR include elimination of the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program and elimination of subsidized Stafford Loans for undergraduate students.

Additionally, the president’s budget request would require institutions of higher education to take on some of the financial risk associated with federal student loans. This institutional risk sharing would be based on the loan repayment rates at each college and university.

Department of Energy (DOE)

[FY2020 DOE Congressional Justification](#)

The PBR would fund DOE's Office of Science at \$5.5 billion, a more than \$1 billion cut from FY2019. The budget directs the office to focus on early-stage research, operate the national laboratories, and continue high priority construction projects.

Under the PBR, Basic Energy Sciences would receive \$1.858 billion, a \$307.7 million cut below FY2019 enacted. The PBR would provide \$921 million for Advanced Scientific Computing Research, \$14.6 million below current levels. Biological and Environmental Research would be funded at \$494 million, a cut of \$210.5 million compared to FY2019. The budget proposes \$403 million for Fusion Energy Science which is \$161 million below FY2019. The administration would fund High Energy Physics is \$768 million, \$211.9 million less than FY2019. Nuclear Physics would be funded at \$625 million, which is \$65 million below FY2019. Science Laboratories and Infrastructure would receive \$163 million under the PBR, a \$69 million reduction from the FY2019 level.

For the third year in a row, the administration's FY2020 budget proposes elimination of the Advanced Research Projects Agency Energy (ARPA-E) program, citing the opportunity to "integrate the positive aspects of ARPA-E into DOE's applied energy research programs." ARPA-E was funded at \$400 million in FY2019.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

According to EPA's [Budget in Brief](#), the PBR would provide the EPA Office of Science and Technology with \$463 million, \$247 million less than FY2019. The PBR would eliminate the Science to Achieve Results (STAR) grant program, stating that the grants are "duplicative." The EPA Budget in Brief also says that "EPA will prioritize activities that support decision-making related to core environmental statutory requirements, as opposed to extramural activities."

The budget request directs the Office of Research and Development to "prioritize activities directly tied to statutory requirements and inquiries into environmental and human health sciences."

Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

The HHS [Budget in Brief](#) highlights the administration's efforts around the opioid crisis and lowering the cost of prescription drugs, among other priorities.

The PBR also includes support for a recently announced initiative to end HIV transmission in the United States over the next decade. Specifically, HHS proposes \$291 million towards the first phase of the initiative aimed at targeting areas with high infection rates. Additionally, the proposal would invest \$140 million in Centers for Disease Control and Prevention funds to support initiatives around HIV.

For the [National Institutes of Health \(NIH\)](#), the FY2020 PBR proposes \$34.368 billion, \$4.7 billion below the FY2019 level. This figure includes \$492 million made available through the 21st Century Cures Act.

Similar to the FY 2018 and 2019 PBRs, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) would be consolidated into NIH as a new institute, the National Institute for Research on Safety and Quality.

The budget request proposes the elimination of diversity pipeline and primary care training programs, as well as a decrease for nursing workforce development programs. Specifically, the PBR would provide \$200 million for Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA) Title VII and Title VIII programs. In FY2019, HRSA Title VII and VIII programs received \$642 million.

Department of the Interior (DOI)

The [DOI Budget in Brief](#) says the PBR would zero out the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Water Resources Research Institutes, which received \$6.5 million in FY2019. It would also eliminate the USGS Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Units, which were funded at \$18.4 million in FY2019.

The PBR does not include funding for the Joint Fire Science Program (JFSP). In FY2019, JFSP received \$3 million from DOI and \$3 million from USDA's Forest Service program.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

[Budget Summary](#) [FY2020 NASA Justification](#)

The PBR would fund the NASA Science Mission Directorate at \$6.304 billion, a \$601 million decrease from FY2019. The budget proposal would provide \$667 million for the Aeronautics Research and Development Directorate, a \$58 million decrease from FY2019.

The PBR renames the Space Technology account as "Exploration Technology" to "better reflect the new focus of this account on supporting the Exploration Campaign." The PBR would fund Exploration Technology at \$1.014 billion, \$87 million above FY2019 enacted.

No funding is requested for NASA's Space Grant program, a program that received \$44 million in FY2019.

National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)

The PBR requested \$38 million to close the NEH, stating that "Activities funded by NEH are not considered core Federal responsibilities." The agency received an appropriation of \$155 million in FY2019.

National Science Foundation (NSF)

[FY2020 NSF Congressional Justification](#)

[FY2020 Budget Table](#)

The PBR would provide NSF with \$7.1 billion, a nearly \$1 billion decrease from FY2019 levels.

Specifically, the budget proposes \$5.662 billion for NSF Research and Related Activities, which is \$858 million below the FY2019 level. NSF Major Research Equipment and Facilities Construction would receive \$223.2 million under the request, which is \$72.5 million below current levels. The PBR proposes \$823 million for Education and Human Resources, an \$87 million decrease from FY2019.

Department of State and U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)

The administration's request would again eliminate Development Assistance (DA) within USAID, collapsing the account into a new Economic Support and Development Fund (ESDF). Under the new ESDF umbrella, the budget requests \$406.7 million for USAID's Education Strategy including for programs to assist "higher educational institutions to support development progress across sectors." Though the budget proposal includes \$492 million for the implementation of the Global Food Security Strategy, it makes no specific reference to Feed the Future Innovation Labs. It does not designate funding in support of the Global Development Lab.

Also of note, the budget request proposes a 52 percent reduction in funding for the Department of State's Educational and Cultural Exchange programs, despite repeated acknowledgement of the importance of these programs within the PBR given the administration's concerns with global competition.