This document represents an initial analysis of the Biden administration’s FY2022 “skinny” budget request for the various agencies and programs of interest to APLU institutions. APLU staff will provide additional updates as further materials are released.

FY2022 Budget Blueprint Highlights

The Biden administration on Friday, April 9, released its “skinny” budget request for Fiscal Year (FY) 2022. The request outlines some discretionary appropriations priorities of the administration. The administration is expected to release later in the spring its mandatory funding requests.

The $1.52 trillion FY2022 budget blueprint proposes $769 billion for nondefense (16 percent above FY2021) and $753 billion for defense (1.7 percent above FY2021) programs. The request includes an additional $3 billion for Pell Grants to support a $400 rise in the maximum award, while noting it is part of a plan to double Pell. The budget contains significant boosts to federal research agencies, including $51 billion for the National Institute of Health ($9 billion more than FY2021), $6.5 billion of which is dedicated to the creation of a new Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health to help drive transformational innovation in health research; $10.2 billion for the National Science Foundation ($1.7 billion above FY2021); and $915 million for NASA’s Aeronautics Research Directorate Program and $1.4 billion for the Space Technology Program. The Department of Energy would receive funding for the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy and a new Advanced Research Projects Agency for Climate to support transformative solutions to climate change. The proposal invests heavily in climate science research and development across multiple federal science agencies, including at the Environmental Protection Agency. Also included in the budget blueprint is $27.8 billion ($3.8 billion above FY2021) for the Department of Agriculture, inclusive of funding to expand broadband access to rural communities, foster development of regional food systems, and invest in critical research and development capacity for farmers.

The budget blueprint also proposes funding to build a diverse STEM workforce by investing in underserved and underrepresented students in STEM fields in partnership with Historically Black Colleges and Universities and other Minority Serving Institutions. Other highlights include funding to address 21st century infrastructure needs, diseases and epidemics, and the physical and mental health of students.

Department of Agriculture (USDA)

The president’s 2022 discretionary request includes $27.8 billion for USDA, a $3.8 billion or 16-percent increase from the 2021 enacted level.

The request includes $4 billion for the USDA Research, Education, and Economics (REE) Mission Area, which is comprised of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, the Agricultural Research Service, the Economic Research Service, and the National Agricultural Statistics Service. This is an unprecedented $647 million increase above the FY2021 enacted level for USDA’s research, education, and outreach
programs. The request states that “investments in agricultural research would advance innovation and the application of science-based and data driven tools to put American technologies into the hands of farmers.”

The president requests a $161 million investment to support a new multi-agency initiative to “integrate science-based tools into conservation planning in order to measure, monitor, report, and verify carbon sequestration, greenhouse gas reduction, wildlife stewardship, and other environmental services at the farm level and on Federal lands.”

**Department of Commerce**

The administration’s FY2022 budget blueprint requests $11.4 billion for the Department of Commerce, a $2.5 billion (28 percent increase) from FY2021 levels. As per the letter, “the 2022 discretionary request supports American manufacturing and research, advances economic recovery in underserved communities, invests in climate science and resilience, and strengthens American competitiveness and security.”

**National Institutes for Standards and Technology (NIST)**

The budget request includes $442 million for NIST manufacturing programs, which represents a more than doubling of the 2021 enacted level. This increase includes $150 million to fully fund two new Manufacturing Innovation Institutes (MIIs), one of which is aimed at restoring the United States as a global leader in the design and manufacture of semiconductors. These MIIs would complement additional institutes launched by the Department of Defense and the Department of Energy as part of the growing Manufacturing USA network. The discretionary request also expands the Manufacturing Extension Partnership by providing $275 million, an increase of $125 million over the 2021 enacted level.

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)**

The discretionary request provides $6.9 billion, an increase of more than $1.4 billion over the 2021 enacted level, for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

The request includes $800 million to expand investments in climate research, support regional and local decision-making with climate data and tools, and improve community resilience to climate change. The budget increase includes competitive grants “to build coastal resilience to help reduce the costly economic and environmental impacts of severe weather events on communities.” There is no mention of Sea Grant in the skinny request. However, the request mentions that the additional funding would leverage “work to provide localized information to help communities respond to the threat of climate change.”

**Department of Defense (DoD)**

The president’s 2022 discretionary request includes $715 billion for DoD.

While the budget request does not mention funding allocations for defense basic or applied research or the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, the administration states that “DOD plays an important role in Federal research and development that spurs innovation, yields high-value technology, ensures American dominance against near-peer adversaries, and creates good-paying jobs. The
discretionary request prioritizes defense research, development, test, and evaluation funding to invest in breakthrough technologies that would drive innovation and underpin the development of next-generation defense capabilities.”

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

Overall, the president's budget request would fund the Department of Education at $102.8 billion for FY2022, a 40 percent increase over FY21 levels (ED was funded at $73 billion in FY2021).

The administration requests an increase to the Pell maximum of $400, noting that "this investment is one piece of a more comprehensive proposal to double the maximum Pell Grant." Mandatory funding components of the budget request will be released by the White House later this spring. We could possibly see more proposed changes to the Pell program through mandatory funding then. The request also notes that "the discretionary request would also make Pell Grants available to “DREAMers,” students who are “Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients.” In total, the administration estimates that its discretionary request will provide an additional $3 billion for the Pell Grant program.

The skinny budget is silent on the other higher education programs APLU tracks: the Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG), Federal Work Study (FWS), TRIO programs, GEAR UP programs, Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need (GAANN), and Title VI international education and foreign language studies. It also does not include a request for the Institute of Educational Sciences (IES).

One other area noted in the proposal is more than $600 million in additional funding for Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities (TCCUs), Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs), and Community Colleges to enroll, retain, and graduate students. It is not clear how the $600 million will be divided over Title III, V, and VII programs—those details could be included in the full PBR later this year.

**Department of Energy (DOE)**

The president’s FY2022 budget requests $46.1 billion for DOE, a $4.3 billion or 10.2 percent increase from the agency’s FY2021 allocation.

The discretionary request invests $7.4 billion, an increase of more than $400 million over the 2021 level, in DOE’s Office of Science “to better understand the changing climate; identify and develop novel materials and concepts for clean energy technologies of the future; advance artificial intelligence and computing to enhance prediction and decision making across numerous environmental and scientific challenges; and support the National Laboratory network with cutting-edge scientific facilities.”

The request includes a total of $1 billion to create a new Advanced Research Projects Agency for Climate and invest in the existing Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy. The request states that $700 million would be funded through DOE and that “together, these initiatives would support transformative solutions for carbon-pollution free energy, adaptation, and resilience against the climate crisis and lay the foundation for future improvements in research and development across multiple agencies.”

While exact funding levels are not mentioned, the budget request would also invest in Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs) by creating and enhancing research funding opportunities and investing in
infrastructure such as laboratory facilities and information technology upgrades for Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and MSIs.

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

The administration’s FY2022 budget requests $131.7 billion for HHS, a $25 billion (23.5 percent) increase from FY2021 levels.

The discretionary request includes $51 billion for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), a $9 billion increase over the 2021 enacted level, to continue to support research that enhances health, lengthens life, and reduces illness and disability. Included in this increase is $6.5 billion to establish ARPA-H. As the release states, “with an initial focus on cancer and other diseases such as diabetes and Alzheimer’s, this major investment in Federal research and development would drive transformational innovation in health research and speed application and implementation of health breakthroughs.”

The administration’s request looks to address gun violence in the U.S. and requests “doubling funding for firearm violence prevention research at CDC and NIH and includes $100 million for CDC to start a new Community Based Violence Intervention initiative—in collaboration with Department of Justice—to implement evidence-based community violence interventions locally.” The budget request also supports research to understand disparate health impacts of climate change and “includes $110 million for NIH’s Climate Change and Human Health program, a $100 million increase over the 2021 enacted level, to support research aimed at understanding the health impacts of climate change. In addition, the discretionary request includes $110 million for CDC’s Climate and Health program, a $100 million increase over the 2021 enacted level, to identify potential health effects associated with climate change and implement health adaptation plans.”

**Department of Interior (DOI)**

The president’s 2022 discretionary request includes $17.4 billion for DOI, a $2.4 billion or 16-percent increase from the 2021 enacted level.

The discretionary request provides an additional $550 million over the 2021 enacted level to “decrease climate pollution, accelerate clean energy deployment, and expand efforts around climate adaptation and ecosystem resilience among all the Department’s land management agencies.” While APLU priority programs are not specifically mentioned, the discretionary request includes a $200 million increase to “support for climate science at the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and other bureaus.” The request states that the investment is aimed at providing information about the impacts of climate change and how best to implement mitigation, adaptation, and resilience efforts. It states that “funds would help ensure that coastal, fire-prone, and other particularly vulnerable communities have accurate and accessible information and tools to allow them to better respond to the climate crisis.”

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

The president’s 2022 discretionary request includes $63.5 billion for the State Department and other international programs, a $6.8 billion or 12-percent increase from the 2021 enacted level.
The priorities outlined in the president’s FY22 discretionary request include “providing resources to address the critical threats posed by the COVID-19 pandemic public health and economic crises, climate change...while reestablishing the United States as a leader on the world stage.”

A major focus in the budget request is expansion of global health security to “work to prevent, prepare for, and respond to future infectious disease outbreaks, whether naturally occurring, accidental, or deliberate.” The request provides $10 billion for global health programs, an increase of over $800 million above the 2021 enacted level. This additional funding would “expand Global Health Security Agenda capacity-building programs to additional nations and increase investments in crosscutting research and viral discovery programs to detect and stamp out future infectious disease outbreaks before they become pandemics.”

**Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**

The president’s 2022 discretionary request includes $11.2 billion for EPA, a $2 billion or 21.3-percent increase from the 2021 enacted level.

While the APLU priority line for S&T was not mentioned, the request noted “commitment to tackling Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) pollution.” The discretionary request provides approximately $75 million to accelerate toxicity studies and research via grants for technical assistance for PFAS contamination.

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

The administration’s FY2022 budget requests $24.7 billion for NASA, a 6.3 percent increase from FY2021 allocations.

For NASA’s Space Technology portfolio, the Administration requests $1.4 billion, a $345 million increase above 2021 enacted levels. “With this investment, the program would enhance the capabilities and reduce the costs of the full range of NASA missions and provide new technologies to help the commercial space industry grow. In addition, the discretionary request encourages novel early-stage space technology research that would support the development of clean energy.”

Furthermore, the discretionary request provides $915 million, an increase of $86 million above the 2021 enacted level, for aeronautics research and development that “would broaden and accelerate the testing of technologies that would enable highly efficient, next-generation airliners.” While the budget does not specify funding allocations for the entire Science Mission Directorate, the discretionary request does provide $2.3 billion for Earth Science programs, an increase of $250 million above the 2021 enacted level, “to initiate the next generation of Earth observing satellites to study pressing climate science questions.”

**National Science Foundation (NSF)**

The president’s 2022 discretionary request includes $10.2 billion for NSF, a $1.7 billion or 20 percent increase from the 2021 enacted level.
With these funds, the agency would advance climate science and sustainability research, enhance fundamental research and development, advance racial equity in science and engineering by providing, strengthen U.S. leadership in emerging technologies, and continue the construction of major research facilities.

The administration’s request includes the establishment of a new directorate for technology, innovation, and partnerships within NSF. The new directorate “would work with programs across the Agency and with other existing Federal and non-Federal entities to expedite technology development in emerging areas that are crucial for U.S. technological leadership, including artificial intelligence, high performance computing, disaster response and resilience, quantum information systems, robotics, advanced communications technologies, biotechnology, and cybersecurity.”