

**ABOUT THE
ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC
AND LAND-GRANT
UNIVERSITIES**

Founded in 1887, the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) is an association of more than 230 public research universities, land-grant institutions, and state public university systems.

APLU member campuses in the U.S. annually enroll 4 million undergraduate and 1.2 million graduate students, award 1 million degrees, employ 1 million faculty and staff, and conduct \$40.2 billion in university-based research. Collectively, they demonstrate the power and the good of public universities.

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
1307 New York Avenue, NW
Suite 400
Washington, DC 20005-4722
p: 202.478.6040
www.aplu.org

FY2017 Appropriations Priorities

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES

APLU believes that the FY2017 Agriculture Appropriations bill must have reasonable increases in key accounts, as described below. These investments enable our member institutions to partner with agricultural producers in ensuring a safe, secure and plentiful supply for food and energy, as well as clean and sustainable air, water and other natural resources. The growth supported by these partnerships and innovation will help the nation address its fiscal challenges.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (NIFA)

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD RESEARCH INITIATIVE (AFRI)

APLU FY2017 Request: \$700 million

(FY2017 PBR = \$700M (\$375M discretionary); FY2016 = \$350M; FY2015 = \$325M; FY2014 = \$316.4M)

APLU supports an appropriation of \$700 million for the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative, USDA's flagship competitive grants program. AFRI funds competitive grants supporting research, education and extension activities to address key issues of national, regional, and multi-state importance in sustaining all components of agriculture, including farm efficiency and profitability, ranching, renewable energy, forestry, aquaculture, human nutrition, food safety and biotechnology.

Since 2010, applications to AFRI have more than doubled, however the number of proposals funded has only increased by 15 percent and average award amount remains unchanged. In 2014 alone, more than 1,100 highly meritorious proposals were not awarded due to limited funds, indicating an urgent need for program increases. Recognizing the potential of this program, Congress authorized AFRI at an annual level of \$700 million in the last Farm Bill. Funding AFRI at that full authorized amount would help support projects to address the challenges facing U.S. agriculture and ensure our nation's food security.

CAPACITY FUNDS:

FORMULA & BLOCK GRANT FUNDING PROGRAMS OF NIFA

APLU also urges strong support for several NIFA funding lines that underwrite the basic research and extension capacity at America's land-grant universities and related institutions. Most of these programs have state-matching requirements and are essential to sustain the national food, agriculture, and natural resources research and extension capabilities that benefit both rural and urban areas.

- Hatch Act (\$256 million) for agriculture experiment stations
- Smith-Lever Funds 3(b) and 3(c) (\$304 million) for cooperative extension
- Evans-Allen (\$60.5 million) for agricultural research
- McIntire-Stennis (\$35.5 million) for cooperative forestry research
- 1890 Institutions Extension Services (\$49.4 million)

Additional APLU FY2017 Agriculture Appropriations bill priorities and detailed justifications, as determined by the Association's Commission on Food, Environment and Renewable Resources Board on Agriculture Assembly, are available at <http://www.land-grant.org/>