



## 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](http://www.aplu.org)

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# FY2017 Appropriations Priorities LABOR, HHS, EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH (NIH)

#### APLU FY2017 Request: \$34.536 billion

(FY2017 PBR = \$33.136B (\$31.336B discretionary); FY2016 = \$32.1B; FY2015 = \$30.1B)  
APLU strongly urges Congress to provide NIH with an appropriation of \$34.536 billion in FY2017, a level necessary to continue America's global leadership in medical research and development of life-saving cures. The FY2016 appropriation for NIH was a welcome increase of \$2 billion, and a strong first step in restoring NIH's purchasing power after over a decade of cuts and flat funding. Providing \$34.536 billion in FY2017 would further help NIH's budget catch up with biomedical inflation and many prior years of stagnant funding. Even with the FY2016 increase, when factoring in biomedical research inflation, NIH's funding is still significantly lower today than in 2003.

NIH, currently the world's premier biomedical research funding agency, competitively awards grants to scientists at APLU universities in all 50 states. An appropriations level of \$34.5 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.

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 prevent an [innovation deficit](#) and build a better America. The call to action, [Innovation: An American Imperative](#), signed by ten major industry CEOs and more than 300 additional leading organizations from American industry, higher education, science and engineering, recommends annual increases of at least four percent real growth for scientific research. APLU's FY2017 request of \$34.5 billion for the NIH is consistent with that recommendation. 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 AND TITLE VIII PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMS

#### APLU FY2017 Request: \$524 million

(FY2017 PBR = \$461M; FY2016 = \$492M; FY2015 = \$487M)

APLU supports funding of \$280 million in FY2017 for Title VII health professions programs and \$244 million for Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development programs at the Health Resources Services Administration. The Title VII and VIII programs play a critical role in bolstering the health workforce and meeting the health education needs in the United States. These programs serve to fill gaps in the health professions workforce, increase minority representation in these professions and respond to the health needs of underserved populations. Strong funding for these programs is necessary to best address these challenges, especially as the U.S. is facing unprecedented provider shortages and a growing and aging population.

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

### PELL GRANT PROGRAM

#### **APLU FY2017 Request: \$4,860 appropriated for the maximum award**

(FY2017 PBR = \$4,860 [total \$5,935]; FY2016 = \$4,860 appropriated [total \$5,815]; FY2015 = \$4,860 appropriated [total \$5,775])

APLU strongly supports an appropriated level of \$4,860 in FY2017 for the maximum Pell award, achieving an estimated total maximum award of \$5,935 when including mandatory funds. Additionally, APLU ardently advocates that the Pell surplus be used *only* to fund the Pell program, and specifically to once again provide for year-round Pell.

The Federal Pell Grant Program provides need-based grants to financially disadvantaged students and is 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 and is essential to the national goal of building a workforce in which 60 percent of adults have post-secondary degrees. For many students, a Pell Grant will be the determining factor when deciding if they can pursue a higher education. In addition to advocating for sufficient funding to support the maximum authorized Pell Grant, APLU strongly backs indexing Pell to inflation and once again providing a flexible Pell Grant that can be used in a third semester. Year-round Pell is a major priority for APLU and our universities, as it will allow students the ability to work toward their degrees throughout the calendar year.

### SUPPLEMENTAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY GRANT (SEOG)

#### **APLU FY2017 Request: \$757 million**

(FY2017 PBR = \$733M; FY2016 = \$733M; FY2015 = \$733M)

The Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG) program provides up to an additional \$4000 in grant assistance to Pell Grant recipients with unmet need thus further reducing the cost of college and enhancing access for the neediest students. Institutions must contribute at least 25 percent of the SEOG award funds, making it a strong leverage of the federal investment. APLU urges Congress to provide funding in FY2017 of \$757 million, the pre-sequester level of funding, for this critical student aid program.

### FEDERAL WORK STUDY (FWS)

#### **APLU FY2017 Request: \$990 million**

(FY2017 PBR = \$990M; FY2016 = \$990M; FY2015 = \$990M)

The Federal Work Study (FWS) program is a critical partnership between the federal government, institutions, and students. It provides students the opportunity to earn additional aid through part-time employment on campus and in the community. The FWS program is an essential part of a financial aid package and a strong alternative to additional loan debt. APLU advocates funding FWS at a level of \$990 million in FY2017, consistent with FY2016 funding.

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

#### **APLU FY2017 Request: \$31 million**

(FY2017 PBR = \$29M; FY2016 = \$29.3; FY2015 = \$29.3M)

APLU urges Congress to support the pre-sequester funding level of \$31 million in FY2017 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 and focus on supporting graduate students in the humanities as outlined under the Javits Fellowships. Together, the GAANN and Javits programs help ensure a strong pipeline of talented experts and educators who will help meet the demands of our 21st century workforce.

## **TRIO PROGRAMS**

### **APLU FY2017 Request: \$980 million**

(FY2017 PBR = \$900M; FY2016 = \$900M; FY2015 = \$840M)

The TRIO programs help low-income, first generation, and disabled students prepare for, enter, and graduate from college. Given the growing achievement gap in educational attainment between low-income and high-income students, TRIO programs play an increasingly critical role. TRIO programs serve nearly 800,000 students with over 2,800 programs nationally. APLU recommends funding TRIO programs at \$980 million in FY2017.

## **Gaining Early Awareness & Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP)**

### **APLU FY2017 Request: \$343 million**

(FY2017 PBR = \$323M; FY2016 = \$323M; FY2015 = \$302M)

APLU urges Congress to support GEAR UP at a level of \$343 million in FY2017, a \$20 million increase over current levels. The GEAR UP grant program substantially increases the number of low-income students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education by providing tutoring, mentoring, academic preparation, and college scholarships. GEAR UP facilitates critical partnerships between high-poverty middle and high schools, colleges, businesses, and community-based organizations.

## **Title VI: International Education and Foreign Language Studies**

### **APLU FY2017 Request: \$76 million**

(FY2017 PBR = \$67M; FY2016 = \$72M; FY2015 = \$72M)

APLU supports funding the International Education and Foreign Languages Studies at \$76 million in FY2017, an increase of \$4 million. These programs play a critical role in expanding our next generation's skills of international competency that will support our global leadership, economic competitiveness, and long-term security. Cuts of 43 percent over the past six years have resulted in a significant reduction in the number of National Resource Centers (from 127 to 100 in the last grant competition), endangering the domestic pipeline of language and area experts capable of ensuring needed U.S. capacities in less commonly taught, but strategically important, languages and cultures, and reducing the ability of universities to offer students global learning. Because these programs serve national security as well as business workforce demands, APLU strongly urges this \$4 million funding increase in FY2017 for Title VI International Education and Foreign Language Studies.

## **Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education: First in the World**

### **APLU FY2017 Request: \$100 million**

(FY2017 PBR = \$100M; FY2016 = \$0; FY2015 = \$60M)

APLU requests \$100 million in FY2017 for the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education: First in the World (FITW) competitive grant program. FITW funds competitive grants to universities to spur the development of innovations that improve educational outcomes and make college more affordable for students and families, with an emphasis on evidence based practices. Past awards have supported the development of individualized student support services such as early alert and advising systems to improve completion rates. FITW has also supported the development of innovative active learning STEM programs that reach female students and other underrepresented groups in STEM. The program was not funded in FY2016 but some multi-year awards continue to support FITW activity. APLU strongly supports restoring the FITW funding to spur additional evidence-based postsecondary innovations.

## **Institute for Education Sciences**

### **APLU FY2017 Request: \$694 million**

(FY2017 PBR = \$694M; FY2016 = \$618M; FY2015 = \$574M)

APLU urges a funding level of \$694 million in FY2017 for the Institute of Education Sciences (IES) to build on scientific evidence-based approaches to education. We are particularly supportive of the IES Research, Development, and Dissemination and Research in Special Education accounts, as they fund cutting-edge research through the National Center for Education Research and the National Center for Special Education Research. APLU also supports grants for statewide longitudinal data systems as they have helped some states make important data linkages which shed light on educational outcomes and best practices.