



ASSOCIATION OF
PUBLIC &
LAND-GRANT
UNIVERSITIES

FY2020 Appropriations Priorities

INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES

ABOUT THE ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC AND LAND-GRANT UNIVERSITIES

APLU is a research, policy, and advocacy organization dedicated to strengthening and advancing the work of public universities.

With a membership of 241 public research universities, land-grant institutions, state university systems, and affiliated organizations, APLU's agenda is built on the three pillars of increasing degree completion and academic success, advancing scientific research, and expanding engagement.

Annually, its 199 U.S. member campuses enroll 4.2 million undergraduates and 1.2 million graduate students, award 1.1 million degrees, employ 1.1 million faculty and staff, and conduct \$42.4 billion in university-based research.

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NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES (NEH)

APLU FY2020 Request: \$167.5 million

(FY2020 PBR = \$38M*; FY2019 = \$155M; FY2018 = \$153M)

*Funds to close the agency.

The NEH is the lead federal agency focused on the development and support of scholarship in the humanities. NEH is a vital source of funds for scholars and researchers whose work helps citizens and policy-makers better understand and address the social, economic, political and cultural challenges facing our nation and world today. For example, the NEH agency-wide initiative, [Standing Together: The Humanities and the Experience of War](#), supports projects to promote discussion and foster a deeper understanding, among returning veterans and the public, of the military experience and impact of war.

APLU urges Congress to fund the NEH at \$167.5 million, including increased support for the competitive grant programs, which would help NEH rebuild its capacity to support humanities scholarship. NEH grants are awarded on a merit-reviewed basis to organizations and institutions in every U.S. state and territory. Regardless of whether the activities support teacher training on humanities topics, the digitization of historical documents, or documentaries that cover critical periods of our nation's history, the NEH programs seek to provide a greater understanding of the societal questions that impact us all.

U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY (USGS)

Water Resources Research Institutes (WRRIs)

APLU FY2020 Request: \$10 million

(FY2020 PBR = \$0; FY2019 = \$6.5M; FY2018 = \$6.5M)

The WRRIs are essential to solving state, regional and inter-jurisdictional water resources problems with federal funding serving as the driving force of collaboration in water research and education. WRRIs leverage federal funds to address a range of water-related issues, from drought mitigation and emergency management to protecting aquifers and reducing water treatment costs. The institutes also train the next generation of water resources managers and scientists. Water challenges have a far-reaching and increasing impact on our society, from human and ecological health to food production to tourism. Increased support for the WRRIs will help fund needed additional research, fulfill advancing technology needs, and provide stakeholders and policymakers evidence-based solutions to address these critical socio-economic issues. APLU recommends \$10 million for the WRRIs in FY2020.

APLU FY2020 INTERIOR APPROPRIATIONS PRIORITIES (cont'd)

Cooperative Fish & Wildlife Research Units (CRUs)

APLU FY2020 Request: \$23.9 million

(FY2020 PBR = \$0; FY2019 = \$18.4M; FY2018 = \$17.3M)

The CRUs consist of 40 Units in 38 states and are true federal-state-university-private partnerships. CRUs target the interface of science and management and are crucial to successfully addressing the natural resource management challenges of the nation. The Units work to address a host of problems, ranging from diseases impacting wildlife and the marine aquaculture industry to minimizing the impacts of energy exploration to combatting invasive species, as well as many other concerns. They also train the next generation of natural resource professionals, grounding them in science while providing them a management-orientation with experience at the private, state, and federal levels. APLU requests \$23.9 million for FY2020, with the increase slated to continue to fill the current vacancy gaps in the Units and fund new Unit requests in unrepresented states.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA)

Office of Science and Technology

APLU FY2020 Request: \$748 million

(FY2020 PBR = \$463M; FY2019 = \$706M; FY2018 = \$706M)

APLU recommends \$748 million in FY2020 for the EPA Office of Science and Technology (S&T), a critical funder of grants to increase our understanding of the risks to human health and ecosystems, and to develop innovative solutions to these problems. Within EPA S&T, APLU strongly supports the Science to Achieve Results (STAR) program, which competitively funds research grants and graduate fellowships in environmental science and engineering disciplines. EPA has not had any new STAR research competitions for over a year, which means lost research opportunities. STAR awards support important inquiry on topics such as water conservation, quality and access, and the relationship between urban air pollution and tuberculosis. APLU urges new STAR competitions.

JOINT FIRE SCIENCES PROGRAM (JFSP)

APLU FY2020 Request: \$16 million

(FY2020 PBR = \$0; FY2019 = \$6M; FY2018 = \$3M)

APLU recommends \$16 million in FY2020 for the Joint Fire Science Program (JFSP). Cooperatively funded in the Interior Appropriations bill by both the Department of Agriculture Forest Service Wildland Fire Management and the Department of Interior Wildland Fire Management programs, the JSFP is a unique program that supports funding for critical research to address fire management challenges. Past research has focused on issues such as understanding smoke impacts to communities, overcoming barriers to prescribed fire, identifying how fire suppression costs affect decision making, analyzing fire behavior, and understanding fire effects on resources and communities. Given the significant and devastating challenges that wildfires increasingly pose to residential communities, a robust funding level for JFSP is essential. APLU recommends fully funding the program at its authorized level of \$16 million in FY2020.
