



FY2024 DEFENSE, LABOR-HHS-EDUCATION, AND STATE-FOREIGN OPERATIONS APPROPRIATIONS BILLS

SUMMARY OF APLU PRIORITIES

Last night, Congress released [bill text and explanatory statements](#) for the Defense, Financial Services, Homeland Security, Labor-Health and Human Services-Education, Legislative Branch, and State and Foreign Operations FY2024 appropriations bills. The \$1.2 trillion package funds agencies within the six bills through September 30, 2024, the end of the current fiscal year.

APLU updated our [Appropriations Priorities Chart](#) to reflect funding levels in this second FY2024 measure.

As a reminder, APLU also produced an [analysis](#) that contains funding levels and policy provisions of interest within the first minibus.

With essentially flat funding overall per the budget agreement by congressional leaders and President Biden, Congress simply does not have the resources to make the investments we know are needed to advance our nation's global competitiveness, support the workforce, drive scientific discovery and innovations, and provide ladders of economic mobility to low-income students.

Most of public universities' U.S. Department of Education priorities, including Pell, Supplemental Education Opportunity Grants (SEOG) and Federal Work Study (FWS) are flat funded. Flat funding is never the goal but given that SEOG and FWS were proposed for elimination in the relevant House bill and proposed for a small cut in the Senate bill, it is a great advocacy victory to end up with no cuts.

The National Institutes of Health receives \$47.081 billion for FY24, \$378 million below last year's funding level. With \$678 million in mandatory funding under the 21st Century Cures Act expiring, appropriators were able to minimize the cut, but not completely prevent the harm. This funding level will make it difficult for NIH to advance new biomedical research that is critical to improving the health of patients and communities nationwide.

On Department of Defense research programs, while some university defense research accounts were increased over FY2023 levels, many other accounts were cut. APLU's appropriations chart provides the more nuanced details.

APLU is encouraged that the USAID Feed the Future Innovation Labs, an important global agriculture research program, received a boost in funding of \$10 million to \$72 million.

The House is expected to take up the legislation under suspension of the rules on Friday, despite the chamber's 72-hour rule for considering new legislation. The Senate would then follow suit this weekend. Despite this timeline, a brief lapse in funding is likely, though the White House is unlikely to force agencies to implement shutdown contingency plans.

DEFENSE

[EXPLANATORY STATEMENT](#) | [BILL TEXT](#)

The final bill allocates \$148.3 billion for DoD Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation, which includes Basic Research 6.1 accounts and applied accounts, an increase of six percent over FY2023. The agreement includes \$4.123 billion for the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), a one percent increase over FY2023. Appropriators included varying levels of investment within APLU priority university research program elements. Defense-wide Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation accounts were generally increased over FY2023 levels, while Army, Navy, and Air Force PEs were cut over FY2023 levels.

APLU staff are working with coalition partners to confirm 6.1-6.3 funding details included in the legislation and will update our appropriations chart once complete.

LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION

[EXPLANATORY STATEMENT](#) | [BILL TEXT](#)

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

The agreement provides \$47.08 billion in base funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), including \$407 million in 21st Century Cures Act funding, but does not backfill reductions in expiring mandatory Cures Act funding from FY2023 to FY2024. As a result, the bill includes a net cut of \$378 million as compared to the prior fiscal year. The agreement makes investments in several priority areas:

- \$7.3 billion, an increase of \$120 million above the FY2023 enacted level, for the National Cancer Institute (NCI);
- \$4.5 billion, an increase of \$100 million above the FY2023 enacted level for Alzheimer’s disease and related dementia research;
- \$75 million, flat funding from FY2023, for expanded access and activities authorized in the ACT for ALS Act;
- \$2.2 billion, an increase of \$75 million above FY2023, for the National Institute of Mental Health;
- \$90 million, flat funded over FY2023, for the INCLUDE Down syndrome research initiative;
- \$12.5 million, flat funded over FY2023, to continue firearm injury and mortality prevention research;
- \$270 million, flat funded from FY2023, for Universal Flu Vaccine Research;
- \$95 million, flat funded from FY2023, for the Fogarty International Center;
- \$76.5 million, flat funded from FY2023, for the Office of Research on Women’s Health.

ADVANCED RESEARCH PROJECTS AGENCY FOR HEALTH (ARPA-H)

The agreement also includes \$1.5 billion to ARPA-H separate from NIH to “accelerate the pace of scientific breakthroughs for diseases such as ALS, Alzheimer’s disease, diabetes, and cancer.” Per an

Appropriations Committee summary document, “investment in therapeutic interventions is vital to drive the development of novel treatments and personalized approaches for difficult-to-treat cancers such as glioblastoma. Accordingly, the agreement strongly urges ARP A-H to consider funding research on rare cancers that have low survival rates and for which there have been little advancement in therapeutics, including the evaluation of immune-based therapies, targeted therapies, and combination treatments.”

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

The appropriations bill provides an overall decrease of \$237 million for the Department of Education for FY2024 compared to FY2023 levels, mostly due to a significant decrease in total earmarks, cuts to Teacher and School Leader Incentive Grants, and rescissions of \$286.8M from Rehabilitation Services.

The bill maintains the Federal Pell Grant maximum award at \$7,395 for the 2024-25 award year without rescinding funds from the Pell Grant program reserve.

The bipartisan agreement flat funds many APLU priorities including the Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant (SEOG) program Federal Work Study (FWS), TRIO, GEAR UP, Title VI International Education programs, Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need (GAANN), and the Child Care Access Means Parents in School (CCAMPIS) program.

The agreement reduces the Institute of Education Sciences (IES) by \$14.5 million (1.8 percent) to \$793.1 million. Within IES, the agreement provides flat funding to most program lines providing grants to institutions of higher education: Research, Development and Dissemination at \$245 million, Research in Special Education at \$64.3 million, and Special Education Studies and Evaluations at \$13.3 million. The agreement provides a \$5 million cut to Regional Education Laboratories (RELs), a \$10 million cut to Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems (SLDS), and a \$501,000 increase to National Assessment Governing Board. The report language rejects the National Center for Education Statistics’ (NCES) plan to reduce the frequency of the National Postsecondary Student Aid Study’s (NPSAS) data collection noting insufficient stakeholder input, and instead requires NCES to conduct NPSAS every two years.

The agreement provides small FY2024 appropriations increases (less than \$5 million each) for Title III and V Aid for Institutional Development programs serving Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs), Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs), and other Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs). However, the agreement reduces funding by \$10 million for the Strengthening Institutions Program for low-resourced institutions serving low-income students, thus leading to a \$2.5 million reduction in the overall Aid for Institutional Development program subtotal. The agreement includes \$3 million for supplemental grants for HBCUs that are community or junior colleges.

The agreement also provides \$171 million to the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE), a cut of \$13 million below FY2023, mostly in earmarks. FIPSE programs in the agreement include:

- Flat funding of \$50 million for the HBCU, TCU, and MSI Research and Development Infrastructure Grant program
- Flat funding of \$45 million for the Postsecondary Student Success Grant program

- Flat funding of \$45 million for the Rural Postsecondary and Economic Development Grant program;
- \$7 million for ED’s Open Textbooks Pilot, a \$5 million reduction below FY2023;
- \$10 million for Basic Needs grants, flat funding with FY2023;
- \$9 million for the Centers of Excellence for Veterans Student Success program to help campuses coordinate student services to address the academic, financial, physical, and social needs of veteran students, flat funding with FY2023;
- \$5 million for Transitioning Gang-Involved Youth to Higher Education.

The agreement urges ED to continue mitigating its FAFSA delays by keeping institutions, scholarship providers, and states up to date in a timely fashion, and regularly updating public data on 2024-25 FAFSA completion. The report directs ED to provide a detailed spending plan for the Student Aid Administration account, including breakouts by baseline operations and development, servicing, student aid core systems, IT, and other activities. The briefings must include updates on implementing the FUTURE Act, FAFSA Simplification Act, Unified Servicing and Data Solution, and student loan servicing contracts. The report directs ED to provide updates on the Federal Student Aid Office of Enforcement investigation priorities and resources. The report supports ED exploring innovative ways to help low-income students pay for college, including matched savings programs.

STATE AND FOREIGN OPERATIONS

[EXPLANATORY STATEMENT](#) | [BILL TEXT](#)

The bill provides the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) with \$271 million for higher education in FY2024, a cut of \$14 million compared to the prior fiscal year. Within the appropriation, \$33 million is designated for partnerships between United States higher education institutions, and those in developing countries, to increase international higher education capacity.

The Bureau for Food Security’s Feed the Future Innovation Labs receive \$72 million, a 16 percent increase. The role of land-grant institutions is referenced in the report language, providing that USAID should continue to support the work of public institutions with specialized capabilities in agricultural research and to assist developing countries to improve food production.

The bill provides \$17 million for study abroad programs under the Benjamin Gilman International Scholarships program and \$287.8 million for the Fulbright Program, both flat funded over FY2023.
