



# Analysis of the Biden Administration's FY2024 Budget Request

On March 9, 2023, the White House released the administration's [FY2024 President's Budget Request \(PBR\)](#) to Congress. Following the release of the PBR, the Administration has continued to publish more agency budget details the week of March 13, 2023.

Of particular note, in support of scientific research, the PBR proposes investment of \$21 billion in discretionary spending for CHIPS and Science Act-authorized activities. For example, the PBR proposes \$375 million in National Institutes for Standards and Technology programs; provides \$277 million for the Manufacturing Extension Partnership; and supports cutting edge research at national laboratories and universities through the Department of Energy's Office of Science. Additionally, the budget request proposes \$1.2 billion for the Directorate for Technology Innovation and Partnerships (TIP) at NSF to accelerate technology development in emerging areas crucial to U.S. technological leadership.

On higher education, the PBR proposes to increase the maximum Pell Grant by \$820 through a combination of discretionary and mandatory increases as well as increases in Title III and V programs that support HBCUs and MSIs. The plan also includes components of Build Back Better such as a federal-state partnership to achieve free community college and tuition subsidies for qualifying students at Minority Serving Institutions.

This document represents an analysis of the request for the various agencies and programs of particular interest to APLU institutions. We have updated the [APLU FY2024 appropriations priorities chart](#) to include the PBR numbers. Below is information collected from the budget request about programs of interest in alphabetical order by department/agency.

## **FY2024 Budget Links**

[Budget](#)

[Analytical Perspectives](#)

[Appendix](#) (including budget by agency)

## **Department of Agriculture (USDA)**

[FY2024 Budget | NIFA](#)

The PBR includes \$1.87 billion in discretionary funding for the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). The NIFA budget request includes support for both capacity and competitive programs. The President's Budget Request includes \$10 million for the Research Facilities Act (RFA), an \$8 million increase over FY2023. The congressional justification states that the competitive program provides funding for the construction, alteration, acquisition, modernization, renovation, or remodeling of facilities that are supportive of research in food and agricultural sciences. There is an emphasis on facilities that are located at or primarily benefit minority serving institutions.

The congressional justification references the 2021 Gordian Report, which APLU commissioned, noting “A study published in 2021 found that deferred maintenance needs at schools of agriculture across the U.S. had increased to \$11.5 billion, with a total replacement cost of \$38.1 billion. Many grants administered by NIFA prohibit spending funds on research facilities. An increase in funding for this program would allow for more institutions to improve their agricultural research facilities with multiple benefits including greater output of cutting-edge research that addresses current and future priority issues, improved training of a more diverse and well-trained workforce, and enhanced competition with global competitors.”

The Budget includes \$550 million for the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI). AFRI is the nation’s premier competitive, peer-reviewed research program for fundamental and applied sciences in agriculture. A total of \$20 million is included in the AFRI budget proposal to support the Cancer Moonshot efforts.

The request includes \$265 million for the Hatch program and \$325 million for Smith Lever 3(b) and 3(c), which are flat over FY2023. The request includes \$38 million for the McIntire Stennis Cooperative Forestry program, which is also flat as compared to the FY2023 funding level. Evans-Allen capacity funds support agricultural research activities at 1890s land-grant universities (LGUs). The increased funding totaling \$98 million in 2024 is distributed to Historically Black LGUs and is leveraged with matching funding from non-federal sources. The Budget proposes an increase of \$20 million for the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program to address the disparity of program funding between the 1862 and the 1890 Land-Grant Institutions.

Finally, the budget includes \$2.3 million for Women and Minorities in STEM Fields (a 15 percent increase over FY2023). Per the request, the additional funding will allow Women and Minorities in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Fields Grant Program (WAMS) “to support a robust and diverse food and agricultural STEM workforce, highly competent in applying STEM knowledge and skills” from rural areas.

## **Department of Commerce**

### **FY2024 Budget | Commerce**

The administration’s FY2024 budget requests \$12.3 billion for the Department of Commerce, a \$1.3 billion (11 percent increase) from FY2023 levels. As per the budget, the request builds off previous investments provided in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the Inflation Reduction Act, and the CHIPS and Science Act stating this budget “makes investments that will drive U.S. innovation and global competitiveness, foster inclusive capitalism and equitable economic growth, address the climate crisis, expand opportunity and discovery through data, and provide 21st-century service to deliver on its mission.”

## **Economic Development Administration**

### **FY 2024 Budget | EDA**

EDA has not yet released a detailed budget breakdown.

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

### **FY 2024 Budget | NOAA**

NOAA has not yet released a detailed budget breakdown.

## **National Institute for Standards and Technology (NIST)**

### **FY 2024 Budget | NIST**

The budget request includes \$98 million for the Manufacturing USA Program (formerly known as the National Network for Manufacturing Innovation), an increase of \$61 million (164.9 percent), “to support the progress of NIST’s existing manufacturing institute, funding for a new institute to be launched in 2023.”

The discretionary request also includes \$277 million for the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP), an increase of 58.3 percent over FY2024. “The funding provided for Manufacturing USA will also finance \$60 million in new competitive awards to enable existing Manufacturing USA institutes to promote domestic production of technologies developed at the institutes.”

## **Department of Defense (DoD)**

### **FY 2024 Budget | DoD**

The president’s FY2024 discretionary request includes \$842 billion for DoD. DoD’s press release notes the importance of the Research, Development, Testing & Evaluation (RDT&E) accounts to “invest in capabilities that will ensure we maintain a ready, lethal, and combat-credible joint force with a laser focus on China as the Department’s pacing challenge and addressing the acute threat posed by Russia.” Despite the argument in DoD’s press release, the total request for RDT&E was just \$144.9 billion (a \$4.9 billion increase over FY2023), which includes a reduction in funding for basic research at \$2.8 billion. Most of the university-based research programs tracked by APLU would receive significant cuts under the proposal, with the biggest exception being the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), which would receive an eight percent increase over FY2022.

DoD’s FY2024 [budget documents](#) provide additional information.

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

### **FY 2024 Budget | ED**

The PBR proposes to increase funding for the Department of Education (ED) to \$90 billion in discretionary funding, a \$10.8 billion (13.6 percent) increase over the 2023 net enacted level. Of that, the request includes \$3.9 billion in discretionary funds for Higher Education programs aimed at improving student achievement and increasing access to a high-quality education for all students.

The PBR proposes to increase the maximum Pell Grant award to \$8,215 for the 2024-2025 academic year through a mix of both mandatory and discretionary spending, an increase of \$820 over the 2023-2024 academic year. On the discretionary spending side, the PBR proposes a \$500 increase over FY2023

levels. The PBR also includes a \$320 increase to the mandatory add-on award for Pell. The budget notes that this would build on the bipartisan increases to the maximum Pell Grant award over the past two years, which have totaled \$900, and would provide a path to double the maximum award to \$13,000 by 2029. The administration also notes its continued interest in working with Congress to enable Dreamers to access federal student financial aid.

The request calls for \$1.298 billion for the TRIO program, an additional \$107 million over FY2023 appropriations, representing an increase of 8.96 percent. The increase is specifically directed toward one of the seven TRIO programs, the Student Support Services program. The PBR also requests \$408 million for GEAR UP, a \$20 million or 5.15 percent increase over FY2023. Additionally, the PBR proposes to increase funding for the Child Care Access Means Parents in Schools (CCAMPIS) program to \$95 million, an increase of \$20 million over FY2023.

The PBR proposes to flat fund several other higher education programs, including the Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG) program, the Federal Work Study (FWS) program, the Graduate Assistance for Areas of National Need (GAANN) program, and Title VI international education programs. The request uses FY2023 appropriations as a basis for flat funding—\$910 million for SEOG, \$1.23 billion for FWS, \$23.5 million for GAANN, and \$85.7 million for Title VI.

The PBR would provide robust funding increases to Title III and V programs for FY2024. This includes a discretionary request of \$886.8 million for Title III Aid for Institutional Development, an increase of \$103.4 million or 13.2 percent over FY2023. Title III funds Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities (TCCUs), and Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs), as well institutions eligible for the Strengthening Institutions Program (SIP). It also includes \$265.6 million for Aid for Title V for Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs), an increase of \$10.5 million or 4.1 percent more than FY2023.

Further, the PBR proposes to increase funding for the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE) to \$725 million, up \$541 million over FY2023, to support two existing programs and three new grant programs. As a part of this increase, the Postsecondary Student Success Grant (PSSG) program would receive \$165 million, an increase of \$120 million over FY2023. It would also include \$350 million for the existing HBCU, TCCU, and MSI Research and Development Infrastructure Grants program, and create three new programs: \$150 million for a new School- and Campus-Based Mental Health Service program, \$30 million for a Systemwide Holistic Student Supports grant program, and \$30 million for a Postsecondary Advancement and Success Technical Assistance Center.

Separately, the PBR calls for \$870.9 million for the Institute of Education Sciences (IES), which includes a \$63.3 million increase over FY2023.

Of note, the PBR also calls for \$2.7 billion for Student Aid Administration, including to the ED Office of Federal Student Aid (FSA), a \$620 million increase over the FY2023. Congress flat-funded FSA in FY2023, leading to some concerns given the number of legislative changes that are currently in the process of implementation with the office.

## **Department of Energy (DOE)**

### **FY 2024 Budget | DOE**

The president's FY2024 budget requests \$52 billion for DOE, a \$3.3 billion or 6.2 percent increase from the agency's FY2023 allocation, which includes the \$2.1 billion rescission of Strategic Petroleum Reserve balances enacted in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023.

The discretionary request invests \$8.8 billion, an increase of more than \$700 million or 12.8 percent over FY2023, in DOE's Office of Science "for clean energy, climate change, emerging technologies, workforce development, and more, and moves the Department closer to the authorized funding level provided by the President's CHIPS and Science Act. These critical investments ensure that the U.S. will continue to lead the world in emerging technologies, which are essential for ensuring America's future economic and national security remains strong and competitive. Within the \$8.8 billion, the Budget requests over \$1 billion for the Fusion Energy Science Program to help unlock the full potential of commercialized fusion energy and support the President's bold climate vision."

The PBR includes \$650.2 million for the Advanced Research Projects Agency – Energy (ARPA-E), an increase of \$180.2 million or 38.3 percent over FY2023. The PBR provides "ARPA-E's will support research and development (R&D) on climate adaptation and resiliency energy innovations as well as support the Administration's Net Zero Gamechangers Initiative. This will support the target to achieve net zero emissions by 2050, including coordination across agencies, to meet the Administration's goals to adapt and strengthen resilience from the most devastating impacts of climate change. Funding is requested to support the Administration's energy technology agenda that will drive innovation to tackle the climate crisis while creating good paying jobs, assure the United States remains the world's leader in energy technologies, and increase societal resilience to climate change impacts. ARPA-E will work with the other Agencies to develop transformative solutions for the climate crisis, including adaptation and resilience, and lay the foundation for future improvements in R&D across the Federal Government."

## **Department of Health and Human Services**

### **FY 2024 Budget | HHS**

#### **National Institutes of Health (NIH)**

The FY2024 President's Budget provides \$48.26 billion for NIH (excluding certain budget transfers), an increase of \$811 million or 1.7 percent above FY 2023 enacted. The NIH budget proposal specifically highlights \$1 billion for the administration's Cancer Moonshot Initiative, which aims to reduce the cancer death rate by at least 50 percent over the next 25 years. The budget also highlights investments in pandemic preparedness (\$2.69 billion), nutrition research (\$121 million), the *All of Us* and Brain initiatives (\$462 million), combating opioid and other addictions (\$1.8 billion), Influenza research (\$270 million), HIV/AIDS research (\$26 million), health disparities research (\$95 million), mental health (\$200 million increase), human health and climate change research (\$25million), and NIH research infrastructure (\$350 million).

The proposal also calls for an additional \$1 billion increase (\$2.5 billion total) for the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA- H).

In FY 2024, NIH estimates, under the administration’s proposal, it will support a total of 44,410 research project grants, an increase of 790 above FY 2023, including a total of 10,414 new and competing grants.

## **Department of Interior (DOI)**

### **FY 2024 Budget | DOI**

The Department of Interior Joint Fire Science Program and the USDA Forest Service both request \$4 million each with a total request of \$8 million, a reduction of \$1 million compared to the FY2023 enacted level. Additionally, the request includes \$29.3 million for Cooperative Research Units within the United States Geological Survey (USGS), an increase of \$1.1 million over FY2023.

The PBR includes the USGS, Water Resources Research Act (WRRRA) at \$15 million in FY2023, a decrease of \$500,000 over FY2023.

## **Department of State**

### **FY 2024 Budget | State**

The PBR would provide \$783.7 million for the Department of State Educational and Cultural Exchange (ECE) Programs, a 0.8 percent increase over FY2023 levels, of which \$381.8 million is marked for Academic programs. A specific request number is not listed for two of APLU’s priority programs: EducationUSA and the Increase and Diversity Education Abroad for U.S. Students (IDEAS) Program. The PBR includes \$16.2 million for the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program, a 1.3 percent increase over FY2023 funding.

## **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**

### **FY 2024 Budget | EPA**

Full details on the budget will be available later this month at the following link: [EPA’s FY 2024 Congressional Justification \(CJ\) and Budget in Brief](#).

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

### **FY 2024 Budget | NASA**

The administration’s FY2024 budget requests \$27.2 billion for NASA, a 7.1 percent increase from FY2023.

The administration requests \$8.3 billion for the Science Mission Directorate, which represents a 6 percent increase from FY2023 while noting this request includes “funds for the James Webb Space Telescope, the Mars Sample Return (MSR) mission, and implementation of the Earth System Observatory.”

The discretionary request includes \$2.47 billion for Earth Science programs, an increase of \$278 million (16 percent) above the FY2023 enacted level. “The Budget supports an increase in Interdisciplinary Science in anticipation of NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar’s (NISAR) planned launch in October 2024. It also reflects adjustments to the Earth Science Directed Research and Technology (DR&T) to

offset increases in Directorate Support which funds NASA's Science Mission Directorate's institutional and crosscutting activities. The increase in Directorate Support, supports improved benefits and pay for Fellows in NASA's Postdoctoral Fellowship program as well as ramping up NASA's Science Mission Directorate's website modernization activities.”

For NASA’s Space Technology portfolio, the administration requests \$1.4 billion, \$191.6 million (30.9 percent) above FY2023 enacted levels. “The Agency Technology and Innovation activity and its associated Office of the Chief Technologist was proposed to transfer to the Office of Technology, Policy, and Strategy under the Safety, Security, and Mission Services appropriation in the FY 2023 operating plan. As a result, STMD is not formulating its FY 2024 budget. This budget proposal supports space nuclear technologies (Fission Surface Power, Nuclear Thermal Propulsion, and Nuclear Electric Propulsion) at an increase of approximately \$75 million from the FY 2023 President's Budget Request, which will support propulsion development as well as designing, building, and testing the first ever space fission power system for deployment to and demonstration on the lunar surface.”

The PBR also includes \$58 million for the Space Grant program, flat funded over FY2023. Per summary documents, “Targeted future partnerships include new science-focused student challenges. Most current student challenges are engineering focused, but STEM is more than engineering. While some consortia do not have strong engineering academic institutions, they do have medical and science colleges and universities. Initiating these new student challenges potentially in the medical arena and/or Earth and planetary sciences, which includes climate change, will allow Space Grant to reach a larger and more diverse group of students. With the next total solar eclipse in 2024, Space Grant will work closely with the consortia and NASA mission directorates to support and amplify nationwide STEM engagements around the eclipse. Additionally, Space Grant will continue to monitor the second of the three-year award of the Space Grant K-12 Inclusivity and Diversity in STEM (SG KIDS) activities. First awarded in FY 2022 with funding initiating in FY 2023, the awardees will continue executing the NASA-aligned hands-on activities that have been heavily geared towards impacting historically underrepresented student populations.”

## **National Science Foundation (NSF)**

### **FY 2024 Budget | NSF - National Science Foundation**

The administration’s FY 2024 budget requests for NSF is \$11.3 billion, a \$1.8 billion or 18.6-percent increase from the FY2023 enacted level (\$9.5 billion).

The budget request highlights a proposed \$1.2 billion for the CHIPS and Science Act authorized Directorate for Technology Innovation and Partnerships (TIP) to accelerate technology development in emerging areas crucial to U.S. technological leadership. Within TIP the budget proposal calls for \$300 million to invest in the Regional Innovation Engines program.

Additionally, the budget calls for \$1.6 billion for climate research and development, an increase of \$630 million above the 2023 enacted level. This funding would be used “to support research in atmospheric composition; water and carbon cycles; renewable energy technologies; climate resilience technologies for communities heavily affected by climate change; social, behavioral, and economic research on human responses to climate change; and more.” The budget also proposes \$15 million for 128 new

National Science Foundation fellowships that would provide researchers studying disparate impacts of climate change.

The budget proposal also proposes investments in STEM workforce development programs including \$1.4 billion, a \$198 million increase from the 2023 enacted level, to accelerate STEM education and workforce development and \$420 million to increase the participation of historically underrepresented communities and women and girls in science and engineering fields.

Finally, the budget proposal highlights \$2 billion for research and development in advanced manufacturing, advanced wireless, artificial intelligence, biotechnology, microelectronics and semiconductors, and quantum information science and \$2.4 billion for research infrastructure at NSF.

## **U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)**

### **FY 2024 Budget | USAID**

The request supports global food security by supporting additional funding for the Feed the Future (FTF) Initiative, which expanded from 12 to 20 target countries in 2022. The request also supports the new Vision for Adapted Crops and Soils, which per the Congressional Budget Justification, “as part of FTF and in partnership with the African Union, will increase productivity through a systemic focus on building soil health and increasing the resilience of key indigenous food crops.” The CBJ goes on to say that “programming will facilitate and deploy best practices for improving and sustaining soil health. It will catalyze investments in plant breeding to develop crops that are productive, nutritious, and adapted to changing weather.”

As is customary, the PBR does not include specific funding level requests for Feed the Future Innovation Labs or “Higher Education” within Development Assistance.



#### **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 in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico. With a membership of 251 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 210 U.S. member campuses enroll 4.5 million undergraduates and 1.3 million graduate students, award 1.3 million degrees, employ 1.2 million faculty and staff, and conduct \$48.5 billion in university-based research.*