



FY 2025 APPROPRIATIONS PRIORITIES
LABOR, HHS, EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES
FINAL REQUEST

AGENCY	ACCOUNT	APLU FY25 FINAL REQUEST
Department of Health and Human Services Department of Education	National Institutes of Health (NIH)	\$51.303 billion
	Pell Grant Program	\$22.475 billion [\$13,000 maximum award]
	Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG) Program	\$1.15 billion
	Federal Work Study (FWS) Program	\$1.603 billion
	TRIO Programs	\$1.260 billion
	GEAR UP Programs	\$400 million
	Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need (GAANN) Program	\$35 million
	Title VI: International Education & Foreign Language Studies	\$91 million
	Child Care Access Means Parents in School (CCAMPIS) Program	\$100 million
	Postsecondary Student Success Grants (PSSG) Program	\$165 million
Institute for Education Sciences (IES)	\$900 million	

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH (NIH)

APLU FY2025 REQUEST: \$51.303 BILLION

FY2025 PBR = \$48.300 BILLION; FY2024 = \$47.081 BILLION; FY2023 = \$44.459 BILLION

APLU requests at least \$51.303 billion for NIH core programs for FY25. This level is necessary to ensure we maintain America’s global leadership in medical research, pursue developments of health treatments and life-saving cures for diseases such as Alzheimer’s, cancer and diabetes, work to reduce health disparities, and continue work to combat future health challenges.

Our request represents a \$3.8 billion increase over the FY24 Senate mark for NIH, which would allow for the NIH base budget to keep pace with the biomedical research and development price

index (BRDPI) and allow meaningful growth of at least five percent. APLU's request is in line with distinguished leaders and experts in medical research, including former NIH Director Francis Collins, that have recommended sustained real growth for NIH through increases that exceed inflation by 4-6 percent. In addition, the Science & Technology Action Committee also estimated that the U.S. should at least double its R&D investment by 2026 in order to remain a global competitor in science, technology, engineering, and math.

NIH, the world's premier biomedical research funding agency, competitively awards grants to scientists at our nation's research universities in all 50 states. In addition to saving lives, improving health, and offering hope to people affected by disease, NIH is also a major catalyst for local economies. According to a [report](#) by United for Medical Research, NIH research supported 412,041 jobs and drove \$92.89 billion in economic activity in FY23, totaling \$2.46 in economic activity for every dollar invested in the program.

Research funded by the NIH produces life-changing developments such as new medications, vaccines, magnetic imaging, and immunotherapy. As one of our nation's largest funders of university research, it is imperative for the NIH to receive robust annual growth in order to maintain U.S. research and development leadership internationally.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

PELL GRANT PROGRAM

APLU FY2025 REQUEST: \$22.475 BILLION [\$13,000 MAXIMUM PELL GRANT]

FY2025 PBR = \$24.576 BILLION [\$8,145]; FY2024 = \$22.475 BILLION [\$7,395]; FY2023 = \$22.475 BILLION [\$7,395]

Pell Grants are the cornerstone of financial aid, targeting federal resources to students most in need of support to access and afford a college education. Over the past 50 years, the federal Pell Grant program has provided over 80 million students with the opportunity to pursue higher learning and achieve their full potential. Over seven million students, or about 40 percent of undergraduates, receive a Pell Grant each year, including more than 2.5 million students at public four-year institutions. Pell Grants are well-targeted to students with clear financial need: approximately three-fourths of all Pell Grant dollars are awarded to students with a family income below \$30,000.

For many students, Pell Grants make the difference between being able to afford college or not. Research shows that need-based aid increases student persistence, completion, and wages after graduation. One study found that Pell Grant recipients' higher wages and associated taxes result in the government recouping its investment in just ten years.

Published in-state tuition and fees at public four-year universities average \$11,260, lower than a decade ago after accounting for inflation. Federal investments to boost Pell, combined with increased state support, and the commitment of institutions to hold down costs, are working. Congress has made tremendous progress over the past four years, increasing the Pell Grant maximum award by more than \$1,000. To make higher education more affordable and accessible to those most in need of support, we need to build upon this progress with bold new investments.

APLU calls on Congress to double the maximum Pell award to \$13,000, which can occur

through a combination of both mandatory and discretionary program increases. APLU also urges that the Pell reserve only be used to fund the Pell program. To the maximum extent possible, the reserve should remain intact to protect the long-term fiscal health of the program and support program modernizations that benefit students. APLU strongly believes that all Americans, regardless of their family income, should be able to pursue a college degree if they so choose, and that family income should not be a barrier. Pell Grants are central to this goal.

SUPPLEMENTAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY GRANT (SEOG)

APLU FY2025 REQUEST: \$1.15 BILLION

FY2025 PBR = \$910 MILLION; FY2024 = \$910 MILLION; FY2023 = \$910 MILLION

The Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG) program provides up to \$4,000 in additional grant aid to Pell Grant recipients, serving as a core component of financial aid packages for students with the greatest financial need. Federal SEOG dollars are matched by participating institutions, requiring colleges to contribute at least 25 percent of the awarded funds. This source of funding provides important flexibility to institutions, allowing financial aid officers to target additional assistance to support students who have experienced unexpected changes to their financial circumstances. These supplemental resources are a critical tool to help students continue accessing higher learning opportunities and stay on the path to degree completion.

Pell Grants and other need-based aid, such as SEOG, increase enrollment, persistence, and completion. SEOG served more than 1.6 million students in FY23, and the average award was \$780 per student.

APLU urges Congress to maintain its commitment to campus-based aid and fund SEOG at \$1.15 billion for FY25. This funding level is equal to the FY10 level adjusted for inflation.

FEDERAL WORK-STUDY

APLU FY2025 REQUEST: \$1.603 BILLION

FY2025 PBR = \$1.23 BILLION; FY2024 = \$1.23 BILLION; FY2023 = \$1.23 BILLION

The Federal Work Study (FWS) program is a critical partnership between the federal government, institutions, and students. It provides students with the opportunity to earn additional aid through part-time employment on campus, in the community, and in positions related to the student's course of study. FWS is an essential part of a financial aid package and a strong alternative to additional loan debt. In addition to helping students finance their education, students gain valuable work experience that enables them to be more competitive in today's workforce.

Research shows that students in Work-Study jobs have higher rates of persistence, degree completion, and employment after college than their peers in other jobs. Colleges must match part of Work-Study funds, and set aside a portion for community service employment, such as reading, tutoring, counseling, or support in a nonprofit organization. 660,000 students earn Work-Study. However, due to limited appropriations, only about 10 percent of first-time, full-time undergrads are able to participate at current funding levels.

APLU requests funding the program at a minimum level of \$1.603 billion, which is the FY10 level adjusted for inflation.

TITLE III & V PROGRAMS: FUNDING FOR HBCUs, HSIs, AND OTHER MSIs

The programs authorized in Title III and V of the Higher Education Act provide critical support for our nation's Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs), Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions (ANNAPISIs), Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian-Serving Institutions (ANNHs), Predominantly Black Institutions (PBIs), and Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities (TCCUs). These programs support capacity building and other activities at these institutions, including strengthening STEM education, enhancing research capacity, investing in academic services and student success, and providing support to students at risk of dropping out. APLU supports strong, reliable funding for the programs authorized through these titles. While mandatory funds for Title III, Part F programs have been restored, these resources should be accompanied by robust discretionary investment. APLU's membership includes more than 60 MSIs, many of which rely upon this funding for a range of programs to boost student success.

APLU requests Congress provide critical increases for the range of Title III and V programs in FY25.

TRIO PROGRAMS

APLU FY2025 REQUEST: \$1.260 BILLION

FY2025 PBR = \$1.211 BILLION; FY2024 = \$1.191 BILLION; FY2023 = \$1.191 BILLION

The TRIO programs help low-income, first generation, and disabled students prepare for, enter, and graduate from college. The seven programs funded through TRIO provide a range of services for the students they support, including college counseling, academic tutoring, assistance with college transfer, and supports for adult learners who are balancing the demands of higher education with their career and family responsibilities. Nationally, TRIO programs serve more than 800,000 students through more than 3,000 programs, operating in virtually every congressional district and several independent territories. Without these services, students are often unable to take advantage of the financial assistance provided by the other Title IV programs to access and complete postsecondary education. In 2019, a rigorous matched comparison study conducted by the Department of Education found that TRIO students are 47 percent more likely to complete community college or transfer to a four-year college and are 18 percent more likely to complete a four-year degree than comparable low-income students.

APLU requests Congress provide \$1.260 billion for the TRIO program for FY25, scaling program services to meet the needs of students transitioning to and through college.

GAINING EARLY AWARENESS & READINESS FOR UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS (GEAR UP)

APLU FY2025 REQUEST: \$400 MILLION

FY2025 PBR = \$398 MILLION; FY2024 = \$388 MILLION; FY2023 = \$388 MILLION

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 a range of research-based programs, including tutoring services, mentoring, financial literacy education, parental engagement, and college scholarships. GEAR UP programs also facilitate critical partnerships between high-poverty middle and high schools, colleges, local businesses, and community-based organizations to strengthen local pathways to and through college. APLU institutions leverage both TRIO and GEAR UP grants to build out these partnerships strengthening the pathway from high school to higher education for all students. This is in keeping with our public mission and is one of the many reasons these programs are so important to public colleges and universities.

APLU requests Congress provide \$400 million for the GEAR UP program in FY25.

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

APLU FY2025 REQUEST: \$35 MILLION

FY2025 PBR = \$24 MILLION; FY2024 = \$23.5 MILLION; FY2023 = \$23.5 MILLION

The Graduate Assistance in Areas on National Need (GAANN) program funds vital fellowships for graduate students with demonstrated financial need to pursue advanced studies in an area of national need, including many STEM disciplines. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the largest share of new job openings annually is for occupations that typically require post baccalaureate study. The GAANN program is an important resource to help ensure a strong pipeline of talented experts who will help meet the demands of our 21st century workforce.

APLU requests \$35 million for FY25, the program's authorized funding level.

TITLE VI: INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION & FOREIGN LANGUAGE STUDIES

APLU FY2025 REQUEST: \$91 MILLION

FY2025 PBR = \$81.5 MILLION; FY2024 = \$85.7 MILLION; FY2023 = \$85.7 MILLION

Title VI International Education and Foreign Language Studies programs expand the international competency skills for the nation's next generation workforce advancing American global leadership, economic competitiveness, and long-term security. To help address recent concerns over language and culture education programs at U.S. universities funded by other countries, we need much stronger and well-resourced Title VI programs. These programs serve critical national security as well as workforce development goals. As an example, Title VI

programs contribute to global competencies of not only students and scholars, but also military servicemembers who have utilized the programs' experts and resources for intensive area and language training.

APLU is grateful for modest increases in funding Congress provided over the last several fiscal years. Many years of stagnant and decreased funding, however, have resulted in a marked reduction in the number of National Resource Centers, endangering the domestic pipeline of experts in less commonly taught, but strategically important, languages and cultures. The reductions have also impeded the ability of universities to offer students opportunities for global learning.

APLU requests of \$91 million to fund the program in FY25.

CHILDCARE ACCESS MEANS PARENTS IN SCHOOLS PROGRAM (CCAMPIS) APLU FY2025 REQUEST: \$100 MILLION FY2025 PBR = \$80 MILLION; FY2024 = \$75 MILLION; FY2023 = \$75 MILLION

The Child Care Access Means Parents in Schools (CCAMPIS) program provides grants to colleges and universities to help support low-income student parents attending their institution with access to childcare programs. More than one in four students pursuing higher education today are also parents. Student parents often struggle to find high-quality and affordable childcare options and as a result are less likely to graduate from their course of study. Access to childcare, however, can often make all the difference.

More than one in five college students today are raising children while in school. A recent study found that students using on-campus childcare had a 70 percent higher fall-to-fall persistence rate and were three-and-a-half times more likely to graduate on time than their peers who did not use on-campus childcare.

For FY25, APLU requests at least \$100 million for the CCAMPIS program to continue building capacity at institutions of higher education to provide high-quality childcare options for student parents with demonstrated financial need.

POSTSECONDARY STUDENT SUCCESS GRANT (PSSG) PROGRAM APLU FY2025 REQUEST: \$165 MILLION FY2025 PBR = \$100 MILLION; FY2024 = \$45 MILLION; FY2023 = \$45 MILLION

The Postsecondary Student Success Grant (PSSG) program, established by Congress in FY22 through the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE), directed the U.S. Department of Education to launch a pilot program "to support evidence-based activities to improve postsecondary retention and completion rates." Public universities measure success not just by the number of students admitted, but also the students who cross the finish line and earn their degree. As institutions have worked to increase completion rates, higher education leaders have identified a range of effective strategies with evidence of success. The Postsecondary Student Success Grant (PSSG) program helps colleges and universities scale these kinds of student success initiatives and build the research base for effective interventions. However, severely limited funding, despite an encouraging growth trajectory, limits the impact of the

program. The need is far greater than the appropriation.

More than 100 applicants in FY23 and FY24 applied for the extremely rigorous competitive grant, which requires the strongest evidence of success to earn more funding, and which provides rigorous evaluations to scale up the most effective practices. However, Congress only provided enough funding for five winners in FY22 and 10 winners in FY23. A majority of winners are public four-year institutions, and many more have applied but could not be funded. If Congress provides significant funding, more institutions could win and scale up the impact to improve college completion and maximize federal and state investments in higher education.

For FY25, APLU requests at least \$165 million for the PSSG program.

INSTITUTE FOR EDUCATION SCIENCES

APLU FY2025 REQUEST: \$900 MILLION

FY2025 PBR = \$815.5 MILLION; FY2024 = \$793.1 MILLION; FY2023 = \$807.6 MILLION

Through its four centers, the Institute for Education Sciences (IES) delivers rigorous research that advances effective, evidence-based approaches for learning, as well as produces high-quality data and statistics that help us understand the effectiveness of our nation's education institutions. In particular, the IES National Center for Education Research (NCER) funds important research to build an evidence-base for effective strategies that support learners of all ages, including strategies to increase postsecondary completion. Public universities are deeply engaged in understanding how to help students succeed in college and beyond, and the work advanced through IES is instrumental in the continued advancement of our nation's education system. Further, the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) at IES provides key investments in State Longitudinal Data Systems, which help states link PreK-12, postsecondary, and workforce systems to gain a better understanding of student outcomes.

APLU requests at least \$900 million for IES in FY25.