

# FY2016 Appropriations Priorities

## LABOR, HHS, EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES

### 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 238 public research universities, land-grant institutions, and state public university systems.

APLU member campuses annually enroll 4.8 million undergraduate and 1.3 million graduate students, award 1.2 million degrees, and conduct \$41.4 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)

APLU  
1307 New York Avenue, NW  
Suite 400  
Washington, DC 20005-4722  
p: 202.478.6040  
[www.aplu.org](http://www.aplu.org)

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH (NIH)

#### APLU FY2016 Request: at least \$32 billion

(FY2016 PBR = \$31.3B; FY2015 = \$30.1B; FY2014 = \$29.9B)

APLU supports funding of at least \$32 billion for NIH in FY2016, a level necessary to avoid further loss of promising research. NIH, currently the world's premier biomedical research funding agency, competitively awards grants to scientists at APLU universities in all 50 states. Funding of at least \$32 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.

Providing at least \$32 billion in FY 2016 would help NIH's budget begin to catch up with biomedical inflation. Taking into account biomedical research inflation, NIH's funding is 20% lower today than in 2003. 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 close the innovation deficit and build a better America. 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 FY2016 Request: \$524 million

(FY2016 PBR = \$469M; FY2015 = \$487M; FY2014 = \$469M)

APLU supports funding of \$524 million in FY2016 for Title VII health professions programs and 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. In addition, funding for these programs remains important for meeting the health needs of underserved populations.

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

### PELL GRANT PROGRAM

#### APLU FY2016 Request: \$4,860 appropriated for the maximum award

(FY2016 PBR = \$4,860 [total \$5,915]; FY2015 = \$4,860 appropriated [total \$5,775]; FY2014 = \$4,860 appropriated [total \$5,730])

APLU strongly supports an appropriated level of \$4,860 in FY2016 for the maximum Pell award, achieving an estimated total maximum award of \$5,915 when including mandatory funds.

The Federal Pell Grant Program provides need-based grants to financially disadvantaged students and are 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. Strong support for student aid programs is an important federal investment to ensure we have a citizenry and workforce prepared to tackle our nation's challenges.

## **APLU FY2016 LABOR-HHS-ED APPROPRIATIONS PRIORITIES (con't)**

### **SUPPLEMENTAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY GRANT (SEOG)**

#### **APLU FY2016 Request: \$757 million**

(FY2016 PBR = \$733M; FY2015 = \$733M; FY2014 = \$733M)

The Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG) program provides up to an additional \$4000 in grant assistance to Pell Grant recipients with unmet need and plays a role in reducing the cost of college for many students. Institutions must contribute at least 25% of the SEOG award funds, making it a strong leverage of the federal investment. APLU urges Congress to provide funding in FY2016 of \$757 million, the amount provided in FY2010, for this important piece of the federal financial aid portfolio. This increase will begin to return to the crucial level of grant aid that was provided just a few years ago.

### **FEDERAL WORK STUDY (FWS)**

#### **APLU FY2016 Request: \$990 million**

(FY2016 PBR = \$990M; FY2015 = \$990M; FY2014 = \$975M)

The Federal Work Study program provides funds for part-time employment to help needy students finance the cost of college. APLU advocates funding FWS at a level of \$990 million in FY2016, level with the FY2015 amount. Continued support of this program would help provide many students an alternative to loan debt.

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

#### **APLU FY2016 Request: \$31 million**

(FY2016 PBR = \$29.2M; FY2015 = \$29.3M; FY2014 = \$29M)

APLU urges Congress to at least maintain the pre-sequester funding level of \$31 million in FY2016 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 to meet the demands of our 21st century workforce.

### **TRIO PROGRAMS**

#### **APLU FY2016 Request: \$860 million**

(FY2016 PBR = \$860M; FY2015 = \$840M; FY2014 = \$838M)

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, the TRIO programs play an increasingly critical role. TRIO programs serve nearly 800,000 students by over 2,800 programs nationally. APLU recommends funding of \$860 million for TRIO programs in FY2016, equal to the President's Request.

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

#### **APLU FY2016 Request: \$321.6 million**

(FY2016 PBR = \$302M; FY2015 = \$302M; FY2014 = \$302M)

APLU urges Congress to support the GEAR UP program at a level of \$321.6 million in FY2016, a \$20 million increase over current levels. The GEAR UP grant program is designed to increase the number of low-income students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education. GEAR UP provides six-year grants to states and partnerships to provide services at high-poverty middle and high schools.

## **APLU FY2016 LABOR-HHS-ED APPROPRIATIONS PRIORITIES (con't)**

### **INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION AND FOREIGN LANGUAGE STUDIES: TITLE VI**

#### **APLU FY2016 Request: \$76 million**

(FY2016 PBR = \$76M; FY2015 = \$72M; FY2014 = \$72M)

For International Education and Foreign Languages Studies, APLU supports funding of at least the president's requested level of \$76 million in FY2016. These programs play a critical role in expanding our next generation's skills of global competency that will support our global leadership, economic competitiveness, and long-term security. The cuts to the program of 43 percent over the past four 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 domestic capacities in less commonly taught languages and cultures and reducing the ability of universities to offer global learning experiences for students.

### **FUND FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION: FIRST IN THE WORLD**

#### **APLU FY2016 Request: \$200 million**

(FY2016 PBR = \$200M; FY2015 = \$60M; FY2014 = \$75M)

APLU requests \$200 million for the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE) First in the World (FITW) competitive grant program. FITW funds competitive grants to institutions of higher education to spur the development of innovations that improve educational outcomes and make college more affordable for students and families, and to develop an evidence base of effective practices. In 2014, only 24 awards were made from nearly 500 applications submitted by institutions. The innovation spurring program aims to increase college access and completion, increase STEM enrollment and completion, and reduce time to completion. The increase in FY2016 will allow for larger grants to bring these promising strategies and evaluations to scale across the varied landscape of higher education institutions.

### **FUND FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION: STUDY ABROAD**

#### **APLU FY2016 Request: \$5 million**

(FY2016 PBR = n/a This is a new proposed program.)

APLU requests \$5 million within FIPSE specifically for a competitive grant program enabling universities to leverage funding to significantly increase the number of post-secondary students studying abroad and to expand diversity of participants and locations including developing nations. This initiative is consistent with the authorization for FIPSE which deems international cooperation and student exchanges an area of national need and the recommendations of the congressionally-chartered Commission on the Abraham Lincoln Study Abroad Fellowship Program.

### **INSTITUTE FOR EDUCATION SCIENCES**

#### **APLU FY2016 Request: \$675 million**

(FY2016 PBR = \$675M; FY2015 = \$574M; FY2014 = \$577M)

For FY2016, APLU urges a funding level of \$675 million, equal to the Administration's request, for the Institute of Education Sciences (IES). We are particularly supportive of the IES Research, Development, and Dissemination and Research in Special Education accounts, as they fund competitive grant programs through the National Center for Education Research (NCER) and the National Center for Special Education Research (NCSER).