



FY2018 Appropriations Priorities

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, & 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 237 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 195 U.S. member campuses enroll 4 million undergraduates and 1.2 million graduate students, award 1.1 million degrees, employ 1 million faculty and staff, and conduct \$40.7 billion in university-based research.

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NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION (NSF)

APLU FY2018 Request: \$8 billion

(FY2018 PBR = \$6.653B; FY2017 = \$7.472B; FY2016 = \$7.463B)

The NSF funds merit-based research across disciplines and supports science, math and engineering education across the country, including at APLU universities in all 50 states. APLU supports an appropriation of \$8 billion for NSF in FY2018. This funding would provide approximately a four percent real growth increase in funding from the FY2016 funding levels, making the necessary investments to support the development of new innovations and our national economic competitiveness.

As Congress seeks to optimally allocate limited resources, funding scientific research at agencies like the NSF should be top a priority. Robust funding across accounts and research areas will help accelerate NSF's "Ten Big Ideas" framework, a bold, long-term agenda for the U.S. science and research enterprise. Strong funding for NSF will help prevent an [innovation deficit](#) and build a better America, as science and technological advances are the foundation of our nation's economic growth and aid in our national defense.

The call for action, [Innovation: An American Imperative](#), signed by ten major industry CEOs and more than 500 additional leading organizations from American industry, higher education, science and engineering, recommends at least four percent real growth in annual funding for scientific research. Funding NSF at \$8 billion is consistent with this recommendation and will help ensure the U.S. remains a leader in scientific advancement.

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION (NASA)

Science Mission Directorate

APLU FY2018 Request: \$5.908 billion

(FY2018 PBR = \$5.712B; FY2017 = \$5.765B; FY2016 = \$5.589B)

The NASA Science Mission Directorate is an essential part of meeting the growing challenges to fully understand global changes to the Earth and answer fundamental questions regarding the universe through space exploration. NASA Science includes Earth Science, Planetary Science, Astrophysics, the James Webb Space Telescope and Heliophysics. APLU recommends funding of \$5.908 billion for NASA Science in FY2018, a five percent real growth increase over current FY2016 levels.

APLU FY2018 COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE APPROPRIATIONS PRIORITIES (con't)

Aeronautics Research Directorate

APLU FY2018 Request: \$712 million

(FY2018 PBR = \$624M; FY2017 = \$660M; FY2016 = \$640M)

APLU recommends funding of \$712 million for the Aeronautics Research Directorate (ARD) which supports cutting-edge aviation research. Continued investment in research such as hypersonics, new methods of propulsion, and material science are crucial to push the envelope of civilian aeronautics, and these discoveries are routinely leveraged for the benefit of the space program. Increased funding will help ensure a comprehensive aviation research effort at ARD and the U.S.'s leadership as the global aeronautics leader.

Space Technology Directorate

APLU FY 2018 Request: \$796 million

(FY2018 PBR = \$679M; FY2017 = \$687M; FY2016 = \$687M)

The Space Technology Directorate supports innovative research and technology development, including through grants to researchers at APLU institutions, needed for current and future NASA missions. The scientific knowledge gained from the Space Technology Directorate has led to advancements that improve the lives of all Americans, such as the development of cutting-edge medical devices including pacemakers and Lasik eye surgery, increased agricultural production, and development of improved military protective armor. APLU recommends funding this important directorate at \$796 million.

National Space Grant College and Fellowship Program

APLU FY 2018 Request: \$45 million

(FY2018 PBR = 0; FY2017 = \$40M; FY2016 = \$40M)

The National Space Grant College and Fellowship Program is a national network of universities working together to support and expand science and engineering education related to aerospace. APLU recommends funding Space Grant at \$45 million for FY2018 and supports Congress' directive in FY2016 and the House Appropriations Committee FY2017 bill which caps the administrative fees of each program within the Education Office at five percent.

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION (NOAA)

Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR)

APLU FY 2018 Request: \$520 million

(FY2018 PBR = \$350M; FY2017 = \$514M; FY2016 = \$482M)

The Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) provides the research foundation for understanding the complex systems that support our planet. NOAA funds crucial science related to our oceans and atmosphere that provides decision makers with critically important data and services which enhance the nation's economy, security, and environment. APLU supports \$520 million for OAR in FY2018.

APLU FY2018 COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE APPROPRIATIONS PRIORITIES (con't)

National Sea Grant College Program (including Marine Aquaculture Program)

APLU FY2018 Request: \$80 million

(FY2018 PBR = 0; FY2017 = \$72.5M; FY2016 = \$73M)

The National Sea Grant College Program is a nationwide network of 32 university-based programs that work with coastal communities. Sea Grant engages this network of the nation's top universities in conducting scientific research, education, training, and extension projects designed to foster science-based decisions about the use and conservation of our aquatic resources. The program addresses national priorities at the local level, while identifying citizens' needs to help guide state and national research agendas. APLU urges Congress to provide \$80 million for the National Sea Grant College Program in FY2018.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY (NIST)

Manufacturing Extension Program (MEP)

APLU FY2018 Request: \$142 million

(FY2018 PBR = \$6M; FY2017 = \$130M; FY2016 = \$130M)

The Manufacturing Extension Program (MEP) focuses on increasing the competitiveness of the U.S. industrial base in every state by serving as a catalyst for strengthening American manufacturing. In turn, this helps transform the sector into a more efficient and powerful engine of innovation. The MEP centers are non-profit, university or state-based organizations which provide manufacturers with an array of services that focus on growth, productivity, and efficiency. APLU urges Congress to fund the MEP program in FY2018 at \$142 million.
