



# FY 2021 Appropriations Priorities

## Labor, HHS, Education, and Related Agencies

Agency	Account	APLU FY2021 Request
Department of Health and Human Services	National Institutes of Health (NIH)	\$44.7 billion
	Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) Title VII and VIII Health Professional Programs	\$790 million
	Agency for Health Research and Quality (AHRQ)	\$471 million
Department of Education	Pell Grant Program	\$7,000 Max Grant
	Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG)	\$1.052 billion
	Federal Work Study (FWS)	\$1.467 billion
	TRIO Programs	\$1.15 billion
	Gaining Early Awareness & Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP)	\$400 million
	Graduate Education: Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need (GAANN)	\$35 million
	Institute for Educational Sciences (IES)	\$670 million
Title VI: International Education & Foreign Language Studies	\$106 million	

### DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

#### NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH (NIH)

APLU FY2021 Request: \$44.7 billion

FY2021 PBR = \$37,905 B; FY2020 = \$41.7 B; FY2019 = \$39.084 B

APLU advocates for an NIH appropriation of \$44.7 billion for FY2021, including funds provided through the 21st Century Cures Act for targeted initiatives. This level is necessary to ensure America’s global leadership in medical research and development of health treatments and life-saving cures. NIH, the world’s premier biomedical research funding agency, competitively awards grants to scientists at our nation’s research universities in all 50 states<sup>1</sup>. Increases to NIH would build upon a very positive funding path in recent years for the agency and allow for meaningful growth to research in all disciplines.

Thanks to Congress’ tremendous support, NIH will continue its role in helping propel the U.S. economy forward. In fiscal year 2018, NIH research funding supported more than 433,000 jobs and nearly \$74 billion in economic activity across the United States. A consistent, robust funding trajectory for NIH is essential to safeguard our country’s medical research capacity, address debilitating diseases that threaten individuals’ lives and wellbeing, and keep the U.S. at the global forefront of this economically-critical enterprise.

<sup>1</sup> United for Medical Research, “NIH In Your State” available at <https://www.unitedformedicalresearch.org/nih-in-your-state/>

**RESOURCES & SERVICES ADMINISTRATION (HRSA)**  
**TITLE VII AND TITLE VIII HEALTH PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMS**  
**APLU FY2021 Request: \$790 million**  
**FY2021 PBR = \$250.4M; FY2020 = \$734.5M; FY2019 = \$666.7M**

HRSA's Title VII health professions programs and Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development programs improve the supply, geographic distribution, and diversity of the health workforce through education, training, and financial aid.

According to HRSA, there is a current nationwide shortage of 14,425 primary care, 10,355 oral health, and over 6,000 mental health professionals. It is estimated that this shortage impacts over 200 million patients, with even greater negative impacts for patients in rural and underserved parts of our country. Adequate funding for Title VII and Title VIII programs is needed to address our current provider shortages, as well as the current and future challenges of a rapidly growing and aging population.

**AGENCY FOR HEALTH RESEARCH AND QUALITY (AHRQ)**  
**APLU FY2021 Request: \$471 M**  
**FY2021 PBR = \$0; FY2020 = \$338 M; FY2019 = \$338 M**

AHRQ is an essential component of our nation's healthcare system, charged with improving the quality and delivery of healthcare. AHRQ works with universities to produce research and disseminates knowledge to make healthcare safer, higher quality, and more accessible, equitable, and affordable. AHRQ is the only federal agency that generates reliable research on how to deliver the highest quality of care, at the greatest value, with the best outcomes. Thanks to AHRQ-funded research, healthcare professionals can analyze where inefficiencies and gaps exist within our healthcare system and implement solutions and cost saving strategies, and patients can better understand where their dollars are going and how they are being used.

In our nation, we have seen an increase in promising healthcare treatments. AHRQ-funded research is vital to ensure these innovations are accessible to patients across the country. AHRQ also works across the spectrum of healthcare, assessing the impact of mental health programs, improving training programs, and ensuring medicines become more patient-focused.

## **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

### **PELL GRANT PROGRAM**

**APLU FY2021 Request: Sums necessary to reach maximum Pell award of \$7,000**  
**FY2021 PBR = \$22.475 B [\$6,345]; FY2020 = \$22.475 B [\$6,345]; FY2019 = \$22.475 B [\$6,195]**

The Federal Pell Grant Program is the foundation of financial aid for low-income students, making college possible for over 7 million students annually. Unfortunately, the purchasing power of the Pell Grant has continuously declined since the program's inception in the 1970s, shouldering students with a growing share of the cost of college. APLU strongly supports an ambitious, multi-year increase to the maximum Pell award, starting with an increase to \$7,000 for FY2021. 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.

Compelling new research shows that within four-year institutions, eligibility for additional Pell Grant aid significantly increases students' degree completion and earnings after graduation. Increasing the purchasing power of the Pell Grant is a cost-effective investment for boosting college attainment for low-income 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 FY2021 Request: \$1.052 billion**

**FY2021 PBR = \$0; FY2020 = \$865 M; FY2019 = \$840 M**

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. Since FY2005 adjusted for inflation, the SEOG program has seen diminished federal investment, limiting the number of students that institutions are able to provide with supplemental aid. While Congress has begun to reverse this trend since FY2018, the impact of federal disinvestment has not been fully reversed.

APLU urges Congress to fund SEOG at \$1.052 billion for FY2021, which is equal to the FY2005 level of \$779 million adjusted for inflation.

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

**APLU FY2021 Request: \$1.467 billion**

**FY2021 PBR = \$500 M; FY2020 = \$1.18 B; FY2019 = \$1.13 B**

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.

APLU requests funding the program at a minimum level of \$1.467 billion, which is the FY 2002 level of \$1.011 billion adjusted for inflation.

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

APLU appreciates the bipartisan work of Congress to permanently restore mandatory funding to Title III, Part F programs which support 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). We urge Congress to also ensure strong support through the annual appropriations process.

The programs authorized in Titles III and V of the Higher Education Act provide critical support for 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 mandatory programs should also be accompanied by robust discretionary investment. APLU's membership includes 61 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 FY2021.

### **TRIO PROGRAMS**

**APLU FY2021 Request: \$1.15 billion**

**FY2021 PBR = \$950 M; FY2020 = \$1.09 B; FY2019 = \$1.06 B**

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. TRIO programs serve nearly 800,000 students through almost 3,000 programs nationally, operating in virtually every United States congressional district and several independent territories.

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

**APLU FY2021 Request: \$400 million**

**FY2021 PBR = \$0; FY2020 = \$365 M; FY2019 = \$360 M**

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.

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

**APLU FY2021 Request: \$35 million**

**FY2021 PBR = \$0; FY2020 = \$23 M; FY2019 = \$23 M**

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, the program's authorized level.

### **INSTITUTE FOR EDUCATION SCIENCES (IES)**

**APLU FY2021 Request: \$670 million**

**FY2021 PBR = \$565.4 M; FY2020 = \$623.5 M; FY2019 = \$615 M**

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.

The 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. 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. Further,

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

**APLU FY2021 Request: \$106 million**

**FY2021 PBR = \$0; FY2020 = \$76.2 M; FY2019 = \$72 M**

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. Increased funding in Fiscal Year 2020 was a positive reversal of many years of stagnant and decreased funding which 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.

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.

### **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 over 200 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, our U.S. member campuses enroll 4.3 million undergraduates and 1.2 million graduate students, award 1.2 million degrees, employ 1.1 million faculty and staff, and conduct \$46.7 billion in university-based research.*