



# FY 2021 Appropriations Priorities

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND  
DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES

Agency	Account	FY2021 APLU Request
USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA)	Hatch Act (State Agricultural Experiment Stations)	\$280 million
	Smith Lever Funds (Extension Activities)	\$341 million
	Evans-Allen Program (1890s Research and Education)	\$73 million
	1890 Institutions Extension Services	\$62 million
	McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry	\$39 million
	Research Grants for 1994 Institutions	\$5.8 million
	Extension Services at 1994 Institutions	\$9 million
	Payments Funding for 1994 Institutions	\$6 million
	Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI)	\$460 million
	International Agriculture Programs (PL115-334, Section 3307, Section 7123, and Section 7124) i	\$20 million

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)

### NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (NIFA)

For FY2021 the APLU Board on Agricultural Assembly (BAA), Policy Board of Directors approved an advocacy target request of **at least an 8% increase for each of the APLU priority programs within NIFA**. The APLU emphasizes that all accounts, capacity and competitive, are crucial to the success of agricultural research. Adequate investment in both competitive and capacity building programs is needed to help research universities train and retain the next generation of agriculture scientists while also providing opportunities for research impact and success. Food and agricultural research—both capacity and competitive investments—have a remarkable return on investment for society, resulting in \$60-\$20 for every \$1 spent depending on the nature of the applied research.<sup>1</sup> Investments made in capacity programs will strengthen the impact of those made in competitive programs.

<sup>1</sup> OECD, 2016, [Food and Agricultural Reviews Innovation, Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability in the United States](#) ISBN: 9264264124, 9789264264120

Heisey, Paul W., and Keith O. Fuglie. [Agricultural Research Investment and Policy Reform in High-Income Countries](#), ERR-249, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service, May 2018.

## **CAPACITY FUNDS PROGRAM: HATCH ACT**

**APLU FY2021 Request: \$280 million**

**FY2021 PBR = \$243M; FY2020 = \$259M; FY2019 = \$259M**

The Hatch Act capacity funds program, which extends grants to the Land-grant University (LGU) System, is a key federal-state partnership to address high-priority agricultural research needs: safe and nutritious food, plant and animal protection and health, soil and water conservation, and a healthy environment. States provide a minimum one-to-one match for each federal dollar thus strengthening the federal investment.

The Hatch capacity funds enable translational research to address critical local, state, regional, and national problems. State Agricultural Experiment Stations (SAES) provide the LGU system with the capabilities to respond to critical issues such as invasive plant and animal species (e.g. Spotted Lanternfly, Spittlebugs, etc.), biosecurity, sustainable land and water use, climate resilience strategies, timely economic analysis, and productivity and safety on farms.

SAES faculty, infrastructure, and facilities supported by Hatch Act appropriations are fundamental to leverage state and regional investments to address complex regional problems. As examples, these problems include water resource issues in the Salinas Valley or drought-induced irrigation pressure on crops near the Ogalla Aquifer. Hatch funds also increase the quality of food for our nation's consumers.

Hatch Act investments have not kept up with the costs of research nor with inflation. An APLU report<sup>2</sup> on significant problems with agriculture research infrastructure, demonstrates an \$8.4B LGU deferred maintenance issue which needs to be addressed to maintain pace with global competitors and enhance the program's support of farmers and consumers.

## **CAPACITY FUNDS PROGRAM: SMITH-LEVER FUNDS**

**APLU FY2021 Request: \$341 million**

**FY2021 PBR = \$299M; FY2020 = \$315M; FY2019 = \$315M**

Smith-Lever funds support Cooperative Extension, a unique network of local experts who deliver vital, practical information to agricultural producers, small business owners, communities, and families. This publicly funded, out-of-the classroom educational network combines the expertise and resources of federal, state and local partners.

Thousands of Extension employees and countless volunteers support this partnership and multiply its impact across nearly all the 3,143 counties, parishes and burrows in the United States. Strong partnerships with both public and private external groups are also crucial to the Extension System's impact. 4-H is the best known of Cooperative Extension's network. 4-H programs empower youth to reach their full potential, while promoting interest in agriculture and civic leadership. Smith-Lever investments have not kept up with the costs of research nor with inflation.

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<sup>2</sup> [A National Study of Capital Infrastructure & Deferred Maintenance at Schools of Agriculture](#)

### **CAPACITY FUNDS PROGRAM: EVANS-ALLEN PROGRAM**

**APLU FY2021 Request: \$73 million**

**FY2021 PBR = \$54M; FY2020 = \$67M; FY2019 = \$58M**

Evans-Allen supports agricultural research at the 1890s land-grant universities and Tuskegee University to meet the needs of underserved populations. Research conducted under the Evans-Allen Program has led to hundreds of scientific breakthroughs benefitting stakeholders of 1890s Institutions and the global agricultural economy. As an example, researchers at an 1890s institution developed post-harvest technology to eliminate the problem of allergens in peanuts and are expanding their studies to address wheat allergens and tree nut allergens. Peanut allergies, which have tripled in the past two decades, are the leading cause of food allergy related deaths in children.<sup>3</sup> Investments in Evans-Allen also supports training of undergraduate and graduate students. APLU continues to support an equitable LGU system, requesting an increase of 8 percent for 1890 Institutions' research through Evans-Allen.

### **CAPACITY FUNDS PROGRAM: 1890 INSTITUTIONS EXTENSION SERVICES**

**APLU FY2021 Request: \$62 million**

**FY2021 PBR = \$49M; FY2020 = \$57M; FY2019 = \$48.6M**

Extension Services of 1890s land-grant universities support practitioners adopting new approaches to growing and management including through on-site demonstrations. 1890s Extension leads to more successful small and medium-size family farms. Extension programs also enhance the marketing skills of farmers aiding in placing products in local, national, and global markets. 1890s Extension programs in business and entrepreneurship enhance the ability of minority farmers and landowners to acquire capital, integrate new technologies, and use estate planning and tax incentive programs to retain operations and increase profitability. The 1890 Institution Extension Services coordinate with the 1862 Extension System to fill gaps and support underserved populations. APLU continues to support an equitable LGU system, requesting an increase of 8 percent for 1890 Institutions' extension.

### **CAPACITY FUNDS PROGRAM: McINTIRE-STENNIS COOPERATIVE FORESTRY**

**APLU FY2021 Request: \$39 million**

**FY2021 PBR = \$29M; FY2020 = \$36M; FY2019 = \$36M**

McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry funding supports university-based research and education that protects our forests and watersheds, preserves environmental resources, and trains the next generation of natural resource scientists. McIntire-Stennis funds, aligned with other state and private research funding, produces resources to assist landowners balance the production of ecosystem products and services with environmental sustainability. Research from McIntire-Stennis enables investigation and use of new technologies to monitor forest fires, develop new energy sources, and determine the impact of invasive species.

### **COMPETITIVE PROGRAM: AGRICULTURE AND FOOD RESEARCH INITIATIVE (AFRI)**

**APLU FY2021 Request: \$460 million**

**FY2021 PBR = \$600M; FY2020 = \$425M; FY2019 = \$415M**

AFRI supports research, education, and extension in plant health, production and products; animal health, food safety, nutrition and health; bioenergy, natural resources and environment; agriculture systems and technology; and agriculture economics and rural communities. Competitive research is an essential part of funding agricultural research, education, and extension. APLU supports uniform increases of 8 percent across the full NIFA portfolio. All accounts, capacity and competitive, are crucial

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<sup>3</sup> [The Economic Impact of Peanut Allergies by H. Eric Cannon, PharmD, FAMCP](#)

to the success of agricultural research. This will help research universities train and retain the next generation of agriculture scientists while also providing opportunities for research impact and success. New technologies and knowledge stemming from agriculture research will enable farmers and ranchers to succeed in the global marketplace. And, the investments made in capacity programs will strengthen the impact of those made in competitive programs.

#### **COMPETITIVE PROGRAM: 1994 INSTITUTION EXTENSION PROGRAM**

**APLU FY2021 Request: \$9 million**

**FY2021 PBR = \$6.5M; FY2020 = \$8M; FY2019 = \$6.5M**

The Tribal College (also known as the 1994 land-grant institutions) Extension program supports community-based learning on topics such as farmer education, youth development, diet and nutrition, and rural entrepreneurship. Outreach, technical assistance, and continuing education through traditional Cooperative Extension programs are limited in many tribal communities, often due to remote rural settings and funding limitations. The 1994s lack the funding they need to develop and deliver appropriate extension programming in these underserved tribal communities. Yet, with adequate funding, the 1994s can provide relevant, local community extension services that are innovative and provide important opportunities to tribal communities.

#### **COMPETITIVE PROGRAM: 1994 INSTITUTION RESEARCH PROGRAM**

**APLU FY2021 Request: \$5.8 million**

**FY2021 PBR = \$3.8M; FY2020 = \$3.8M; FY2019 = \$3.8M**

The Tribal College Research program helps the 1994s build scientific research capacity and provide a strong foundation in research knowledge for students. The 1994s often serve as the primary institution of scientific inquiry, knowledge and learning for tribal communities. The modest research funding received by the 1994s helps protect reservation forests, woodlands, grasslands, and crops, and monitoring of the quality of soil, water, and other environmental factors. 1994 land-grant university research projects range from studying bison herd productivity to efforts focused on promoting traditional plants and diets, controlling invasive species, and revitalizing tribal economies. Yet, current research funding for the 1994s is inadequate to build the institutional research capacity to fully meet the needs of tribal communities and lands.

#### **COMPETITIVE PROGRAM: 1994 INSTITUTIONS EQUITY PAYMENT**

**APLU FY2021 Request: \$6 million**

**FY2021 PBR = \$3.4M; FY2020 = \$4M; FY2019 = \$3.4M**

The Tribal College Education Equity Grants program promotes and strengthens higher education instruction in the food and agricultural sciences at the 1994 land-grant institutions. Equity programs focus on undergraduate and/or graduate studies in the food and agricultural sciences in curricula design and development, faculty development, instruction delivery systems, student experiential learning, equipment and instrumentation for teaching, or student recruitment and retention. Current funding levels awarded to the 35 1994s are insufficient to develop the capacity to deliver high-quality instruction and student support services.

## COMPETITIVE PROGRAMS: INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS

APLU FY2021 Request: \$20 million

FY2021 PBR = \$0; FY2020 = \$1M; FY2019 = \$1M

### National Institute of Food and Agriculture:

Investments in international agriculture strengthens U.S. standing in global markets and develops a culturally competent agricultural workforce able to collaborate and compete in complex food, fuel, and fiber economies. APLU requests funding in international agriculture programs to revitalize:

- 1) Partnerships to Build Capacity in International Agricultural Research, Extension and Teaching and
- 2) International Agricultural Science and Education Competitive Grants within the National Institute for Food and Agriculture (Farm Bill- PL115-334, Section 7123 and Section 7124).

### Foreign Agricultural Service:

APLU also requests funding of \$5M for the International Agricultural Education Fellowship Program under the Foreign Agricultural Service, which strengthens ties between U.S. educators and agricultural education and youth extension programs within eligible countries.

## GENERAL SUPPORT

APLU also provides **general support** for [Capacity Building for Non-Land-grant Colleges of Agriculture, Higher Education Multicultural Scholars Program, The Graduate Fellowship and Institution Challenge Grants](#), Competitive Agricultural Facilities Grants at Land-grant Universities, USDA Agricultural Genome to Phenome Initiative (Farm Bill- PL115-334, Sec. 7208), [and Antimicrobial Resistance Programs](#).

### **Bill Language Request: WAIVER AUTHORITY**

APLU requests the following language in the FY21 appropriations bill to allow the Secretary of Agriculture to waive the matching requirement for the Specialty Crop Research Initiative (SCRI) and Emergency Citrus Disease Research and Extension (ECDRE) programs authorized in the 2018 Farm Bill: "The Secretary of Agriculture may waive the matching funds requirement under Section 412(g) of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7632(g))."

### **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.*