



AAU Summary of the Administration's FY18 Budget Outline: "America First - A Budget Blueprint to Make America Great Again"

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Overview: The Administration on March 16 released a 53-page [blueprint](#) of its FY18 budget. The blueprint addresses only discretionary spending and proposes a \$54-billion increase for defense programs and commensurate cuts in nondefense discretionary programs. The blueprint includes specific funding levels for some federal agencies and programs, but details for most are not mentioned. It includes a table on page 50 that specifies a cut of \$2.9 billion (-9.8 percent) from the annualized FY17 continuing resolution (CR) level to "Other Agencies." The Administration is expected to release its full FY18 budget in May.

The blueprint includes significant funding cuts or program eliminations for many research, student aid, higher education, humanities, and arts programs. Among the agencies and programs slated for cuts are: NIH, NASA, NOAA, DOE's Office of Science, and the Federal Work-Study program. Federal programs and agencies slated for elimination include: the Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant, NEH, and NEA.

Regulation: The blueprint reiterates the Administration's commitment to reducing regulations, including requiring agencies to: eliminate two regulations for each one they issue, impose no new incremental costs through regulation, and undertake efforts to repeal, replace, or modify existing regulations. Compliance would be monitored by a regulatory reform officer and a regulatory reform task force in each agency.

AAU's statement on the blueprint can be found [here](#). AAU is a member of the [Task Force on American Innovation](#), [United for Medical Research](#), and the [Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research Funding](#) all of which issued statements.

This document summarizes proposed FY18 funding for federal agencies and programs of interest to research universities.

Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI): The blueprint includes "about \$350 million," the same as FY16.

Department of Defense (DOD): The blueprint includes \$639 billion for DOD, a \$54 billion increase above the FY17 annualized CR level. The blueprint does not mention DOD Science and Technology programs or DARPA.

DOD, DHS FY17 Supplemental. The Administration also has submitted a \$30 billion [request](#) for supplemental FY17 funding for DOD and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), which it proposes to pay for, in part, by cutting \$18 billion from non-defense discretionary spending. The request does not specify how such cuts would be distributed.

Department of Education (ED): Overall, the blueprint includes \$59 billion in discretionary funding for ED, \$9 billion (13 percent) below the annualized FY17 CR level. For student aid, the blueprint proposes the following:

- Pell Grant: level funding the discretionary portion and rescinding \$3.9 billion from the program's \$10.6 billion surplus;
- Federal Work-Study: reduced funding, amount not specified;
- Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants: program eliminated;
- TRIO: \$808 million, a \$92 million cut from FY2016;
- GEAR UP: \$219 million, a \$104 million cut from FY16.

Additionally, the blueprint states that more than 20 other education programs, including Title VI International Education programs, would be eliminated or reduced. It is unclear how GAANN would fare.

Department of Energy (DOE): The blueprint includes \$28 billion for DOE, a \$1.7 billion (5.6 percent) cut from the annualized FY17 CR level. The DOE Office of Science would be cut by approximately \$900 million from its FY16 level of \$5.350 billion. The Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy (ARPA-E) would be eliminated.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA): The blueprint includes \$5.7 billion for EPA, a cut of \$2.6 billion (31 percent) from the annualized FY17 CR level. The Office of Research and Development (ORD) would be cut \$233 million (48 percent) from the annualized FY17 CR level. The document directs ORD to "prioritize activities that support decision-making related to core environmental statutory requirements, as opposed to extramural activities, such as providing STAR grants." The blueprint calls the elimination of more than 50 EPA programs, totaling \$347 million, but does not identify specific programs.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA): The blueprint includes \$19.1 billion, a 0.8 percent decrease from the annualized FY17 CR level. The Aeronautics Research and Development Directorate would receive \$624 million, a cut of \$16 million from FY16. NASA's Office of Education, including the Space Grant program, would be eliminated for savings of \$115 million (FY16). In the Science Mission Directorate, the Earth Science Division would be cut by \$102 million and funding for four earth science missions would be terminated. Funding for

Planetary Science would increase to \$1.9 billion, which includes funding for the launch of a new Mars Rover in 2020 and a fly-by mission to Jupiter's Europa moon.

National Institutes of Health (NIH): The blueprint includes \$25.9 billion, a cut of \$5.8 billion (18 percent) from the annualized FY17 CR level. The blueprint also proposes a reorganization and consolidation of NIH programs, which would also consolidate the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality within NIH. The blueprint does not include additional details on the proposed consolidation. NIH requires congressional authorization to reorganize.

National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST): The blueprint does not specify a funding level for NIST, but the agency's Manufacturing Extension Partnership program would be eliminated.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA): The blueprint includes cuts of \$250 million to grants and programs supporting coastal and marine management, research, and education. The Sea Grant program would be eliminated.

National Science Foundation (NSF): The blueprint does not mention NSF.