



AAU Summary of the Biden Administration's

FY22 Discretionary Funding Request

Last updated: April 14, 2021 (1 pm EDT)

GENERAL OVERVIEW: On April 9, the administration [released](#) a summary of the President's FY22 budget request for \$1.52 trillion in discretionary spending, an 8.4 percent increase over the current fiscal year. The [summary](#), transmitted in a letter to congressional leaders of the Budget and Appropriations Committees, proposes \$769 billion in non-defense spending and \$753 billion in defense spending. The president's request represents a 15.9 percent increase over current funding levels for domestic programs and a 1.6 percent increase for defense discretionary spending. The proposal also ends the use of Overseas Contingency Operations funding, a separate category for war funding not counted under the discretionary spending caps in past years. With the expiration of the Budget Control Act of 2011 in the current fiscal year, the president's request is the first in a decade to not have to comply with statutory caps on federal spending.

The summary outlines Biden's appropriations priorities including investments in public health, the economy, the climate crisis, advancing equity, and restoring America's global standing and confronting 21st century security challenges.

The administration's full FY22 budget request is expected in May.

View AAU's FY22 Funding Priorities table [here](#).

STUDENT AID AND HIGHER EDUCATION

Department of Education (ED): The President's request funds the Department of Education at \$102 billion for FY22, an increase of 40 percent above the FY21 level.

For student aid, the request increases the maximum Pell Grant by \$400 and expands Pell Grant eligibility to Dreamers, students who are Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients. The proposal also notes that the investment in the Pell Grant program "is one piece of a more comprehensive proposal to double the maximum Pell Grant."

The President's request is silent on other Higher Education programs such as the Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG), Federal Work Study (FWS), TRIO, Title VI (International Education Programs), and the Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need (GAANN). The request is also silent on the Institute of Education Sciences (IES).

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI): No details for AFRI are included, though the request provides \$4 billion, or \$647 million above the FY21 enacted level, for USDA's research, education, and outreach programs. The request states that, "investments in agricultural research would advance innovation and the application of science-based and data driven tools to put American technologies into the hands of farmers."

Department of Defense (DOD): The President's FY22 discretionary request includes \$715 billion for DOD. Notably, the discretionary request discontinues requests for Overseas Contingency Operations as a separate funding category. Though the preliminary budget document makes repeated mention of increased investments to bolster DOD's research and development capabilities, it does not specify programmatic requests for S&T or RDT&E.

Department of Energy (DOE): The President's FY22 discretionary request includes \$46.1 billion for DOE, a \$4.3 billion or 10.2 percent increase from the FY21 enacted level. The DOE Office of Science would receive \$7.4 billion, an increase of more than \$400 million or 5.3 percent over the FY21 level. The discretionary request also includes a total of \$1 billion to create a new Advanced Research Projects Agency for Climate (ARPA-C) and invest in the existing Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy (ARPA-E). The request notes that \$700 million would be funded through DOE. These initiatives would support high-risk, high-reward solutions for adaptation and resilience against the climate crisis and enable robust investments in clean energy technology research and development.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA): The President's FY22 discretionary request includes \$24.7 billion for NASA, a \$1.5 billion or 6.3 percent increase from the FY21 enacted level. While the discretionary request does not detail a total for the Science Mission Directorate (SMD), \$2.3 billion is noted for Earth Science, as well as support for the Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope. \$1.4 billion is requested for NASA's Space Technology research and development, a \$325 million increase above the last year. FY22 Aeronautics funding is requested at \$915 million, an increase of \$86 million above FY21, and the Office of STEM Engagement at \$147 million, or \$20 million above FY21.

National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH): The President's FY22 discretionary request does not include mention of NEH. However, the request includes \$17.4 billion for the Department of Interior, a \$2.4 billion or 16 percent increase from the FY21 enacted level.

National Institutes of Health (NIH): The President's FY22 discretionary request includes \$51 billion request for NIH. The request calls for \$6.5 billion to be directed to a proposed new ARPA-H structure within NIH to accelerate the implementation of research findings. In reference to ARPA-H, the release states, "with an initial focus on cancer and other diseases such as diabetes and Alzheimer's, this major investment in Federal research and development would drive transformational innovation in health research and speed application and implementation of health breakthroughs." The remainder of the proposed increase would ostensibly be applied to NIH's base funding. The discretionary request is approximately a 17 percent increase over the FY21 enacted level.

National Science Foundation (NSF): The President's request includes \$10.2 billion for NSF, a \$1.7 billion or 20 percent increase above FY21 (\$8.5 billion). This level of funding would support \$1.2 billion for climate and clean energy related research, increase by \$100 million funding for programs that aim to increase participation of groups traditionally underrepresented in science and engineering, and establish

a new Directorate for technology, innovation, and partnerships within NSF to help translate research into practical applications (no funding level is specified for the new directorate). The request specifies the level of funding for existing fundamental research programs of NSF at \$9.4 billion, or \$1.6 billion above FY21 levels. While not providing specific funding levels, the request notes that it in addition to continuing construction of major research facilities, it also funds “construction and procurement of smaller research facilities and equipment across the Nation.”

Climate Research: The President’s request prioritizes and increases investments in climate-related research across several federal agencies. The discretionary request proposes over \$4 billion to fund a broad portfolio of research across multiple agencies including the Department of the Interior, NASA, the National Science Foundation and others to improve understanding of the changing climate and inform adaptation and resilience measures. Climate research funding requests are as follows:

- **NSF:** The discretionary request provides \$1.2 billion for climate and clean energy related research, an increase of \$500 million above the FY21 level. NSF would fund a broad portfolio of research related to climate science and clean energy.
- **DOE:** The discretionary request draws on nearly every part of DOE’s wide-ranging portfolio to tackle clean energy and the climate crisis, including through funds directed to ARPA-E, the newly envisioned ARPA-C, and foundational research through the Office of Science.
- **NASA:** The discretionary request provides \$2.3 billion for Earth Science programs, an increase of \$250 million above the 2021 enacted level, to initiate the next generation of Earth-observing satellites to study pressing climate science questions. Additionally, the discretionary request encourages novel early-stage space technology research that would support the development of clean energy.
- **NOAA:** The discretionary request provides an increase of over \$1.4 billion over FY21 enacted level for NOAA. This increase includes \$800 million to expand investments in climate research, support regional and local decision-making with climate data and tools, and improve community resilience to climate change. It would also support an expanded drought early warning system and competitive grants to build coastal resilience to help reduce the economic and environmental impacts of severe weather on communities.
- **NIST:** The request provides \$916 million for NIST to expand scientific and technological research at NIST, an increase of \$128 million over the 2021 enacted level, to expand research advances in several areas, including climate-resilient building codes.
- **EPA:** The discretionary request includes an additional \$30 million to improve knowledge of the impacts of climate change on human health and the environment, which would more than double EPA’s climate change research budget.
- **CDC:** The request provides \$100 million for the CDC’s Climate and Health program.
- **AG:** The discretionary request includes an increase of \$161 million above the FY21 level to support a “multi-agency initiative to integrate science-based tools into conservation planning in order to measure, monitor, report, and verify carbon sequestration, greenhouse gas reduction, wildlife stewardship, and other environmental services at the farm level and on Federal lands.”
- **DOI:** The discretionary request provides \$550 million to help the Department of Interior decrease climate pollution, accelerate clean energy deployment and expand efforts around climate adaptation and ecosystem resilience. The U.S. Geological Survey would receive \$200 million to provide information about the impacts of climate change and how best to implement mitigation, adaptation, and resilience efforts.