

President Trump's FY 2026 Budget Request: CGS Programs of Interest

On Friday, May 2, 2025, President Donald Trump issued the administration's recommendations on discretionary funding levels for fiscal year (FY) 2026. In this "skinny" budget request [document](#), the administration proposes steep funding cuts to non-defense discretionary programs and increases to the Departments of Defense and Homeland Security. Specifically, the 46-page budget document proposes a base non-defense discretionary budget of \$163 billion, which is 22.6 percent below current-year spending for fiscal year 2024. The budget request proposes unprecedented increases in funding for defense and border security. Specifically, the administration proposes an increase of 13 percent or \$1 trillion for defense spending and \$175 billion for Homeland Security to help secure the southern border.

U.S. Department of Education: Prior to the release of this skinny FY 2026 budget request, the administration released several executive orders that affect higher education, including the [Improving Educational Outcomes by Empowering Parents, States, and Communities \(March 20, 2025\)](#), which calls for the closure of the U.S. Department of Education. Following the release of this budget request, Secretary of Education Linda McMahon remarked that "The President's skinny budget reflects funding levels for an agency that is responsibly winding down, shifting responsibilities to the states, and thoughtfully preparing a plan to delegate other critical functions to the more appropriate entities. The budget request would significantly cut the TRIO program which includes the Ronald McNair Scholarship program. The budget request also calls for a \$980 million reduction in funding for the Federal Work-Study program, which received an appropriation of \$1.2 billion in fiscal year 2024. The budget also proposes a cut of \$195 million for the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE) and the Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need (GAANN). The budget also proposes a cut of \$75 million for the Child Care Access Means Parents in School program (CCAMPIS). In the budget text, the administration "proposes the elimination of CCAMPIS because subsidizing child care for parents in college is unaffordable and duplicative." The administration also states in the budget text, that "funding can instead be secured through the Child Care Development Block Grant. Further, IHE could offer to accommodate this need among their student population."

U.S. Department of Energy: The FY 2026 skinny budget would cut spending for the *Department of Energy's Office of Science* by 14 percent to \$7.1 billion. The last time the Office of Science received this level of funding was in FY 2021. The budget also proposes a cut of 57 percent, which is \$200 million for the *Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy (ARPA-E)*.

National Institutes of Health (NIH): The FY 2026 budget would cut funding for the **NIH** by \$18 billion. Essentially, the administration is proposing that the biomedical agency receive \$27 billion in fiscal year 2026. The budget proposes to reform NIH and focus NIH research activities that are in line with the President's commitment to Make America Healthy Again (MAHA). Some of NIH's 27 institutes and centers would be merged into five institutes focused on body systems, neuroscience, general medical sciences, disability research, and behavioral health. The administration's budget request proposes the

elimination of funding for four institutes and centers: the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (-\$534 million), the Fogarty International Center(-\$95 million), the National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health (-\$170 million), and the National Institute for Nursing Research (-\$198 million). In the budget text, the administration says that “NIH research would align with the President’s priorities to address chronic disease and other epidemics, implementing all executive orders, and eliminating research on climate change, gender ideology, and divisive radicalism.” The new structure retains the Advanced Research Agency for Health (ARPA-H).

National Science Foundation (NSF): The FY 2026 budget requests a staggering 50 percent cut to the **NSF**. Under this budget proposal, the agency would shrink from its \$9 billion budget to \$3.9 billion in fiscal year 2026. The budget proposes cuts funding for climate, clean energy, social, behavioral, and economic sciences, and programs in low priority areas in science. In its budget request, the administration targets NSF’s Broadening Participation programs by essentially cutting \$200 million from its \$1.4 billion portfolio. Prior to the release of the budget request, the administration had already striped \$234 million from NSF for its infrastructure projects.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA): The FY 2026 budget proposes to cut the **NOAA** budget by at least \$1.52 billion, which is a 24 percent reduction from current funding levels. According to the budget request, \$1.31 billion of that reduction will come from climate-dominated research, data, and grant programs that are not aligned with the administration’s policy-ending “Green New Deal” initiatives.

Department of Agriculture – National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA): The FY 2026 budget proposes cutting the **NIFA** by \$602 million from current levels of funding. The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s extramural funding is distributed through NIFA. As mentioned in the budget text, “The budget eliminates wasteful programming in NIFA, such as activities related to climate change, renewable energy and promoting DEI in education. In addition, the budget reduces funding for formula grants because they generally do not achieve the same results as competitive grants. The budget protects funding to youth and K-12 programs, such as 4-H clubs, tribal colleges, and universities. It also ensures HBCUs are amply funded.”

Additional Agencies: The FY 2026 budget request calls for the elimination of the ***National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)*** and the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).