Stony Brook University

Office of Federal Relations

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Federal Funding Recommendations
Fiscal Year 2026

OVERVIEW

The FY2026 (FY26) funding recommendations outlined in this document were developed in consultation with the Association of American Universities (AAU) and Association of Public Land-Grant Universities (APLU). Stony Brook University (SBU) is a member of both AAU and APLU.

Department of Defense (DOD)

Research and DARPA

SBU urges Congress to provide a 6% increase for DOD Science & Technology Programs over FY24 enacted levels. Specifically, SBU urges Congress to provide at least $2.786 billion for DOD basic research (6.1), $4.370 billion for DARPA, and $22.8 billion for DOD S&T in FY26.

Account	FY24 Final	FY25 Request
Basic Research (6.1)	2,628	2,786
Applied Research (6.2)	7,604	8,060
Advanced Technology Development (6.3)	11,286	11,963
Total Science & Technology	21,518	22,817.5
DARPA	4,123	4,370

Robust investments in fundamental Defense research are essential to spurring new innovative discoveries that lead to next-generation applications. During this critical time of strategic power competition, it is imperative that the United States redoubles its investments in research, development, and training the Defense workforce.

Department of Education

Pell Grant

SBU recommends increasing the Pell Grant by $200 to have a maximum Pell Grant award of $7,595, with the long-term goal of doubling the maximum Pell Grant from the FY21 funding level of $6,495 to achieve $13,000.

The Pell Grant program is the nation's core investment in higher education to enable low-income students to access and afford college. According to the Congressional Budget Office

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(CBO), the program provided about six million students with Pell Grants for 2024. However, Pell Grants no longer cover the majority of the cost of attendance for students at a four-year institution. Increasing the maximum Pell Grant award will reduce the amount of student loan debt many low-income students incur and empower them to better contribute to the economy or earn advanced degrees important to the modern workforce. The Student Aid Alliance also recommends increasing the Pell Grant by $200. More than one third of SBU students receive Pell.

Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (SEOG)
SBU recommends $966 million for the Department of Education's SEOG program for FY26.

The SEOG program provides targeted, need-based grant aid of up to $4,000 per student for more than one million students. Participating colleges match federal dollars to make grant aid available to eligible students. Over 99 percent of all SEOG recipients are also Pell Grant recipients, and most SEOG recipients have a higher need on average than students that are receiving only Pell Grants. Additional financial assistance helps students to access, afford and achieve a postsecondary degree.

Federal Work Study (FWS)
SBU recommends $1.306 billion for the Department of Education's FWS programs for FY26.

Federal Work Study has proven to have a positive impact on a student's ability to afford college and to improve their chances of graduating. Federal and institutional funding for Work Study helps about 600,000 students work part-time to help pay their college expenses. Studies show that students who work on campus have higher graduation rates.

Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need (GAANN) - Graduate Education
SBU recommends $28.6 million for the Department of Education's GAANN programs for FY26.

The program provides fellowships, through academic departments and programs at institutions of higher education, to assist promising graduate students with demonstrated financial need who plan to pursue the highest degrees available in their course of study in a field designated as an area of national need. Increased funding for the GAANN program would provide support for additional students in disciplines critical to our nation's continuing national security and prosperity and allow for more regular grant awarding competitions to ensure these programs continue. The GAANN program helps ensure a strong pipeline of talented experts and educators who will help to meet the demands of our 21st century workforce.

Institute of Education Sciences (IES) - Education Research
SBU recommends at least $853.9 million for the Department of Education's IES programs for FY26.

IES supports high-quality education research that results in teaching and learning innovations that offer tremendous returns for our society. Funding would help build upon the essential research and data infrastructure on which state and local education leaders depend. Our

education system will be stronger in the long term if we provide meaningful, sustained support for rigorous education research and evaluation today.

International Education
SBU recommends $91 million for the Department of Education's Title VI International Education and Foreign Language programs in FY26.

Title VI international education programs play an integral role in developing the talent our nation needs to compete on the global stage and strengthen national security by creating deep expertise in world regions and languages of strategic interest to the U.S. Graduates who have benefited from Title VI programs go on to successful careers in government, business, academia, and the military. The program educates thousands of students, teachers, policymakers, military and diplomatic officials, faculty, and the general public.

Department of Energy (DOE)
Office of Science
SBU recommends $9.5 billion for the DOE Office of Science in FY26.

The Office of Science is the largest funder of the basic physical sciences in the world, advancing the frontiers of discovery through Nobel-worthy science and laying the groundwork for U.S. competitiveness in emerging technology. Consistent with the authorized funding level in the CHIPS and Science Act for FY24, $9.5 billion for the DOE Office of Science is necessary to maintain a trajectory of growth to support the United States' position as the global innovation leader. This request aligns with the recommendation of the Energy Sciences Coalition.

ARPA-E
SBU recommends at least $500 million to fund the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy in FY26.

AAU requests at least $500 million in FY26 for ARPA-E. ARPA-E is a key source for transformational energy research on AAU campuses, in areas like advanced batteries, power electronics, and novel materials. It tackles high-risk R&D projects that are too early for venture capital (VC) investment, as GAO has found, but ARPA-E project teams have drawn nearly $10 billion in follow-on investment in the past four years alone. It thus plays a key role as a bridge between basic science and the commercial market, boosting innovation, dynamism, and abundance in the U.S. energy sector. $500 million is consistent with ARPA-E's authorization for FY22, as adopted by Congress via amendments to the FY21 appropriations omnibus.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)
Science Mission Directorate (SMD)
SBU recommends $9 billion for NASA SMD in FY26.

NASA Science plays a key role in not only advancing our understanding of space and earth, but also inspiring future innovators. This amount for SMD would also allow robust funding for individual investigator grant programs, new competitive mission opportunities, and address needs that remained unmet in past years. Additional funding is required to ensure the

Directorate can carry out Decadal Survey priorities like Mars Sample Return and Habitable Worlds Observatory while still supporting ongoing work and a steady cadence of opportunities for scientists.

National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)
SBU recommends at least $225 million for the National Endowment for the Humanities in FY26.

A robust humanities education is critical to cultivating a broadly educated workforce ready to compete in the knowledge-based, global 21st-century economy. The NEH is the only federal agency that funds the entire range of academic fields in the humanities. For a nominal cost per American, NEH grants support the humanities nationwide—including history, English, and civics—which are fundamental to building a well-rounded citizenry capable of addressing complex issues and participating in a modern democracy. AAU recommends this level of funding, which would allow the agency to continue rebuilding its capacity to support peer-reviewed humanities research, education, and community programs and preserve our rich cultural heritage and history across the United States.

National Institutes of Health (NIH)
SBU urges Congress to support at least $51.3 billion for NIH's foundational work in FY26.

This level of support will allow NIH's base budget to keep pace with the biomedical research and development price index (BRDPI) and allow meaningful growth of 5%. As the world's premier public funder of medical research, the NIH plays an important role in our nation's international leadership, and robust annual growth in support for NIH is vital not only to improving people's health but also to maintaining our competitiveness in the global economy. Investments in NIH research provided the foundation for critical advances such as COVID vaccines, improvements in cancer detection and treatment, and revolutionary advances in genomic medicine. AAU's FY26 recommendation is consistent with the recommendation of the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research. AAU also recommends continued support for ARPA-H with funding that does not supplant essential foundational investment in the NIH.

National Science Foundation (NSF)
SBU recommends at least $9.9 billion for the NSF in FY26.

NSF funding is critical to ensure our innovation ecosystem is prepared to lead the world in the emerging technologies that are key to our national defense. As other nations invest deeply in state- sponsored research and development, we need to remain at the forefront of scientific and technological innovation. NSF is the only agency dedicated to supporting research across all fields of science and engineering and a key pillar in winning the ongoing technology race with China. Recognizing this challenge, bipartisan majorities authorized $17.8 billion for NSF in FY26. In FY24, NSF was cut by over 8%. The FY26 request of at least $9.9 billion aligns with the amount of funding NSF was appropriated in FY23. NSF needs additional funding to bolster fledgling programs such as the Regional Innovation Engines and the National AI Research Resource (NAIRR) pilot. $9.9 billion is the minimum amount necessary to avoid significant reductions to programs advancing our national artificial intelligence, quantum information sciences, manufacturing, and biotechnology, as well as supporting the infrastructure necessary

to advance fusion energy, exploration of the universe, and maintaining our research presence in the Arctic and Antarctic. The $9.9 billion request aligns with the recommendation of the Coalition for National Science Funding (CNSF). NSF FY24 State Fact Sheets for NY.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR)
SBU recommends $721 million for OAR in FY26.

The NOAA Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) office funds research to enable better forecasts, earlier warnings for natural disasters, and a greater understanding of Earth systems. OAR offers intramural and extramural grants through its national network of laboratories and programs to collect and study vital data from the ocean's depths to the highest reaches of space. With a focus on science in the service of society, OAR research helps states manage their infrastructure, agricultural resources, fisheries, water resources, and natural disaster planning and response. SBU urges support for OAR at $721 million for FY26; this request represents three percent growth over three years from OAR's highwater mark of FY23 enacted levels.

National Sea Grant College Program
SBU recommends funding $116 million for the Sea Grant Program in FY26.

The National Sea Grant College Program enhances the practical use and conservation of coastal, marine, and Great Lakes resources through research, extension, and education. SBU requests $116 million for the National Sea Grant College Program in FY26 to meet growing demand for services of the program following its proven success. The National Sea Grant Program is a known job creator that is highly leveraged to maximize the effectiveness of federal investment. Sea Grant also supports the Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship which matches highly qualified graduate students with hosts in the legislative and executive branches of government bolstering career pathways for recent graduates into federal service. Robust funding for Sea Grant will help grow the program's nationwide impact on coastal communities at the state and local level through research, training, technical assistance, and coordination.