Science Societies

Congress moves forward in annual funding process, protects federal research

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Both the House and Senate spending bills for agriculture and the Food and Drug Administration provided flat funding for USDA research programs including ARS and NIFA competitive and capacity programs. National Science Foundation (NSF) funding is flat-funded in the Senate, but the House provided a cut of $2 billion. A compromise funding amount will need to be determined as the process moves forward, but even the cut proposed in the House is far less than the $5 billion cut put forward in the

president's budget.

The House is farther along in the appropriations process than the Senate advancing the spending bills that fund Department of Energy-Office of Science (DOE), ARPA-E, USGS, Forest Service research, and USEPA research. The USEPA Science & Technology account saw major funding cuts with all other programs receiving mostly flat funding. See the chart below for specific funding amounts for all programs.

These funding amounts can be attributed to the bipartisan support that federal research programs historically enjoy. That support is due in large part to the advocacy of stakeholder organizations like ASA, CSSA, and SSSA. The Societies met with nearly 100 congressional offices in February to discuss the value of agriculture and natural resources research and advocate for funding.

			FY26 President's budget request			FY26 House spending bill			FY26 Senate spending bill		
Program	**FY24**	**FY25**	**FY26**	**Diff.**	**Change, %**	**FY26**	**Diff.**	**Change, %**	**FY26**	**Diff.**	**Change, %**
USDA–AGARDA	$500,000	$500,000	$0	–$500,000	–100%	$1 million	+$500,000	100%	$500,000	No change	No change
USDA–ARS Salaries	$1.78 billion	$1.78 billion	$1.70 billion	–$88 million	–5%	$1.79 billion	+$2 million	No change	$1.82 billion	+$39 million	+2%
USDA-NIFA	$1.68 billion	$1.68 billion	$1.0 billion	–$634 million	–38%	$1.65 billion	–$25 million	–1%	$1.692 billion	+$13 million	+1%
USDA–NIFA, Research	$1.08 billion	$1.08 billion	$671 million	–$405 million	–38%	$1.06 billion	–$18 million	–2%	$1.090 billion	+$14 million	+1%
USDA–NIFA, AFRI	$445 million	$445 million	$405 million	–$40 million	–9%	$445 million	No change	No change	$445 million	No change	No change
USDA–NIFA, Hatch	$265 million	$265 million	$0	–$265 million	–100%	$265 million	No change	No change	$265 million	No change	No change
USDA–NIFA, SARE	$48 million	$48 million	$40 million	–$8 million	–17%	$40 million	–$8 million	–17%	$48 million	No change	No change
USDA–NRCS, Conservation Operations	$915 million	$896 million	$112 million	–$784 million	–87%	$850 million	- $46 million	–5%	$896 million	No change	No change
NSF	$9.06 billion	$9.06 billion	$3.90 billion	- $5.15 billion	–57%	$7.00 billion	- $2 billion	–23%	$9.00 billion	–$60 million	–1%
DOE–Office of Science	$8.24 billion	$8.24 billion	$7.09 billion	–$1.15 billion	–14%	$8.40 billion	+$160 million	+2%			
ARPA-E	$460 million	$460 million	$200 million	–$260 million	–57%	$350 million	+$110 million	–24%			
USGS	$1.45 billion	$1.45 billion	$891 million	–$564 million	–39%	$1.37 billion	- $87 million	–6%			
USFS–Forest and Rangeland Research	$300 million	$300 million	$0	- $300 million	–100%	$302 million	+$2 million	+1%			
USEPA–Science & Technology	$783 million	$756 million	$501 million	–$255 million	–34%	$522 million	–$234 million	–31%			

Comparison of the fiscal year 2026 (FY26) appropriations among the Senate and House compared with the president's budget request and prior year funding.

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