Science Societies

Research funding bills released, next steps remain uncertain

November 19, 2026



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The Senate Appropriations Committee this week released the remaining spending bills for fiscal year 2027. See how the House and Senate compare with their proposed funding levels for food, agriculture, and natural resources research programs.

The Senate Appropriations Committee this week released the remaining spending bills for fiscal year (FY) 2027. Like USDA research programs, most other federal research agencies also saw small funding increases in the Senate bills. See Table 1 below to compare the House and Senate proposed funding levels for food, agriculture, and natural resources research programs.

Table 1. House and Senate proposed funding levels for food, agriculture, and natural resources research programs. Funding figures are in billions of dollars.

Agency–Programs[a]	FY26 final	FY27 Society request	FY27 House	Percent difference	FY27 Senate	Percent difference
USDA–AgARDA	$0.0005	$0.001	$0.0005	0%	$0.000	-100%
USDA–ARS	$1.793	$1.900	$1.796	0%	$1.832	2%
USDA–NIFA	$1.677		$1.643	-2%	$1.708	2%
USDA–AFRI	$0.435	$0.500	$0.435	0%	$0.440	1%

Agency–Programs[a]	FY26 final	FY27 Society request	FY27 House	Percent difference	FY27 Senate	Percent difference
USDA–Hatch	$0.265	$0.300	$0.265	0%	$0.268	1%
USDA–Smith-Lever	$0.325	$0.420	$0.325	0%	$0.328	1%
USDA–Equip	$0.003	$0.005	$0.000	-100%	$0.003	0%
USDA–SARE	$0.048	$0.060	$0.040	-17%	$0.048	0%
USDA–Genome to Phenome	$0.002	$0.010	$0.002	0%	$0.002	0%
USDA–ConOps	$0.850	$1.050	$0.800	-6%	$0.870	2%
USDA–Conservation TA	$0.698	$0.000	$0.636	-9%	$0.748	7%
NSF	$8.750	$9.900	$7.000	-20%	$8.830	1%
DoE–Office of Science	$8.400	$9.500	$8.525	1%	$8.520	1%
ARPA-E	$0.350		$0.300	-14%	$0.350	0%
USGS – (total discretionary)	$1.420		$1.368	-4%	$1.438	1%
EPA–S&T	$0.744		$0.528	-29%	$0.724	-3%
USFS–Forest and Rangeland Research	$0.309		$0.295	-4%	$0.303	-2%

Agency–Programs[a]	FY26 final	FY27 Society request	FY27 House	Percent difference	FY27 Senate	Percent difference

[a]AgARDA = Agriculture Advanced Research and Development Authority; ARPA-E = Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy; ConOps = Conservation Operations; Conservation TA = Conservation Technical Assistance; S&T = Science and Technology.

Despite the Senate movement, a path forward for FY2027 spending remains uncertain. While it's possible a few bills could move this calendar year, another stopgap funding bill into early next year is looking more likely. Congress must come to a spending agreement or move forward with another short-term spending bill before December 11. A government shutdown remains a possibility, with calls from some members to risk a shutdown over the Iran war.

Notably, none of the appropriations bills included language that would delay or prohibit the changes to the management of federal grants proposed by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in the spring. The Societies submitted comments outlining concerns with the proposed changes and have encouraged Society members to reach out to Congress to oppose implementing the changes. Please ask Congress to block the implementation of these changes in any FY27 spending bills that move forward.

Contact your lawmakers

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