

## Analysis of Final FY 2021 Appropriations for Federal Science Agencies | December 24, 2020

After weeks of tense negotiations, Congressional leaders and White House officials reached an agreement on a combined appropriations and coronavirus aid package, which will fund the government through the end of fiscal year (FY) 2021, which began on October 1, 2020. Despite recent veto threats, lawmakers remain hopeful that President Trump will sign the legislation by Christmas. However, anything is possible in these waning weeks of the Trump presidency.

The 5,000+ page bill ([H.R.133](#)) contains all 12 annual appropriations bills and a \$900 billion supplemental bill to support COVID-19 relief priorities. The appropriations agreement largely provides flat funding or modest increases to social science agencies, unsurprising given the strains placed on the federal budget by the pandemic.

The COVID relief section of the legislation includes direct payments for individuals meeting certain income thresholds, extension of unemployment benefits, support for small business through the Paycheck Protection Program, among many other priorities. Notable for the social science community is \$22.7 billion for the Higher Education Relief Emergency fund to help universities defray the costs associated with the pandemic and provide financial assistance to students. In addition, the bill includes another round of funding for several research agencies, including the Institute of Education Sciences (IES), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the National Institutes of Health (NIH), which is discussed in greater detail in the analysis below.

	FY 2020 Enacted	FY 2021 House	FY 2021 Senate	FY 2021 Enacted	FY 2021 vs. FY 2020
National Institutes of Health	41684	46959.0*	43684.0	<b>42934.0</b>	3.0%
National Science Foundation	8278.3	8548.3	8478.0	<b>8486.8</b>	2.5%
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention	7919.2	7870.9	7824.6	<b>6963.3</b>	1.8%
DOD Basic Research (6.1)	2603.3	2621.5	2407.1	<b>2671.5</b>	2.6%
Bureau of the Census	7558.3	1681.1	1799.7	<b>1664.7 †</b>	-78.0%
National Institute of Food and Agriculture	1527.4	1475.3	1538.9	<b>1570.1</b>	2.8%
Bureau of Labor Statistics	655.0	655.0	641.0	<b>655.0</b>	0.0%
Institute of Education Sciences	623.5	630.5	635.5	<b>642.5</b>	3.0%
Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality	338.0	343.0	256.7	<b>338.0</b>	0.0%
National Agricultural Statistics Service	180.3	183.4	184.4	<b>183.9</b>	2.0%
Bureau of Economic Analysis	108.0	111.9	111.9	<b>119.9</b>	3.6%
Economic Research Service	84.8	86.7	85.7	<b>85.5</b>	0.8%
International Education and Foreign Language Studies	76.2	80.3	76.2	<b>78.2</b>	2.6%
Bureau of Justice Statistics	43.0	45.0	45.0	<b>45.0</b>	4.7%
National Institute of Justice	36.0	43.5	36.0	<b>37.0</b>	2.8%

\* including \$5 billion in emergency funding  
† including previously appropriated funds

Passage of the funding legislation was expected to mark the final act of the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress, as lawmakers prepare to head home for the holiday recess. However, now that President Trump has vetoed the [National Defense Authorization Act](#), lawmakers plan to stick around for votes to override his veto.

The following pages include COSSA’s analysis of the final FY 2021 funding bills for federal agencies and programs important to the social and behavioral science research community. The analysis is organized by appropriation bill:

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Text of the final bills and explanatory statements are available on the [House Rules Committee website](#). For additional details on agency directives included in earlier House and Senate bills, check out COSSA’s coverage at: <https://www.cossa.org/policy>.

# I. Labor, Health and Human Services, Education Appropriations Bill

The Labor, HHS, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations (LHHS) bill contains annual funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Department of Education (ED), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), and Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), among other federal departments and agencies.

The [bill text](#) and accompanying [explanatory statement](#) are available on the House Rules Committee [website](#).

## National Institutes of Health

The omnibus agreement includes \$42.9 billion for NIH in FY 2021, an increase of \$1.25 billion or 3 percent over the FY 2020 enacted level. The appropriation is below both the House and Senate marks for the agency, but still a significant feat given the constraints on discretionary spending in the final package. In addition, the agreement includes \$1.25 billion in emergency NIH funding for “research and clinical trials related to long-term COVID-19 studies.”

Increases for individual institutes and centers in the final agreement vary widely, with most receiving much less than 3 percent. In addition, similar to previous years, the final omnibus rejects attempts by the Trump Administration to create a new NIH institute by transferring the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) into NIH.

Bill language and the accompanying report provide specific funding allocations for several of NIH’s major programs and initiatives, including:

- \$560 million for the **Brain Research through Application of Innovative Neuro-technologies (BRAIN) initiative**.
- No less than \$270 million for the **HEAL Initiative** to address the opioid crisis.
- \$500 million for the **All of Us Precision Medicine Initiative**.
- \$180 million for the **Environmental Influences on Child health Outcomes (ECHO)** program.

Below are details of notable provisions and language within the omnibus bill and accompanying report.

### *Office of the NIH Director*

**Foreign Threats to Research.** In light of ongoing concern about foreign threats to U.S. research infrastructure especially those related to recruitment programs sponsored by the Chinese government, the omnibus reiterates language from the FY 2020 bills directing NIH to notify Congress quarterly on the progress of their investigation into these matters.

**Firearm Injury and Mortality Prevention Research.** Following up on last year’s inclusion of first-time funding for firearm injury research at NIH, the FY 2021 agreement once again includes \$12.5 million for research on firearm injury and mortality prevention (in addition to another \$12.5 million for related research at the CDC). The report recommends NIH “take a comprehensive approach to studying [the] underlying causes and evidence-based methods of prevention of injury, including crime prevention.”

**Harassment Policies.** The omnibus report includes expansive language calling out NIH for not following a directive in last year's appropriations bill to require institutions to report when NIH grantees have been removed because of sexual harassment concerns. While NIH took initial steps to implement the directive, it did not make reporting a requirement. NIH is directed to clarify to institutions that "any changes to key personnel on an award that are related to concerns about harassment" must be reported to the agency. The language also calls for NIH to produce several other reports throughout the year regarding its plans for sexual harassment prevention and intervention.

#### ***Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD)***

**Impact of Technology and Digital Media on Children and Teens.** The omnibus repeats language from last year's NIH appropriations bill encouraging the agency to prioritize research into the "cognitive, physical, and socio-economic repercussions of young people's use of technologies including mobile devices, computers, and virtual reality tools, as well as their consumption of social-media content, video games, and television programming."

#### ***National Institute on Minority health and Health Disparities (NIMHD)***

**Chronic Diseases and Health Disparities.** The omnibus bill appropriates a significant increase for NICHD in FY 2021 to establish a new comprehensive center initiative on chronic diseases and their links to health disparities. As the explanatory statement reads, "A more comprehensive and holistic effort is needed to ensure that efforts to better address health disparities and co-morbidity encapsulate the full continuum of chronic diseases and their lethality in disparate communities."

	FY 2020 Enacted	FY 2021 Request	FY 2021 House*	FY 2021 Senate	FY 2021 Enacted	FY 2021 vs. FY 2020
<b>National Institutes of Health</b>	<b>41684</b>	<b>38693.6</b>	<b>46959.0</b>	<b>43684.0</b>	<b>42934.0</b>	<b>3.0%</b>
National Cancer Institute	6440.4	5881.2	6908.6	6722.7	6559.9	1.9%
National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute	3625.3	3298.0	3888.7	3728.3	3664.8	1.1%
National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research	477.7	434.6	512.3	493.2	484.9	1.5%
National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases	2114.3	1924.2	2268.6	2169.0	2132.0	0.8%
National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke	2446.6	2245.1	2622.4	2526.2	2463.4	0.7%
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases	5876.2	5445.9	6391.8	6142.5	6069.6	3.3%
National Institute of General Medical Sciences	2937.2	2672.1	3161.5	3047.0	2991.4	1.8%
<i>Eunice Kennedy Shriver</i> National Institute of Child Health and Human Development	1556.9	1416.4	1670.5	1657.6	1590.3	2.1%
National Eye Institute	823.3	749.0	884.2	850.1	835.7	1.5%
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences	802.6	730.1	861.1	828.7	814.7	1.5%
National Institute on Aging	3545.9	3225.8	3837.2	4015.3	3899.2	10.0%
National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases	624.9	568.5	670.5	645.2	634.3	1.5%
National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders	490.7	446.4	526.5	506.7	498.1	1.5%
National Institute of Mental Health	2043.0	1844.9	2186.5	2139.5	2103.7	3.0%
National Institute on Drug Abuse	1457.7	1431.8	1568.7	1505.2	1479.7	1.5%
National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism	546.7	497.3	585.2	564.5	554.9	1.5%
National Institute of Nursing Research	169.1	156.8	181.5	178.0	175.0	3.5%
National Human Genome Research Institute	604.1	550.1	650.6	623.9	615.8	1.9%
National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering	404.6	368.1	433.1	417.8	410.7	1.5%
National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities	335.8	305.5	365.3	391.7	390.9	16.4%
National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health	151.9	138.2	162.8	156.8	154.2	1.5%
National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences	832.9	787.7	893.6	890.0	855.4	2.7%
John E. Fogarty International Center for Advanced Study in the Health Sciences	80.8	73.5	91.7	83.5	84.0	4.0%
National Library of Medicine	456.9	415.7	490.2	471.8	463.8	1.5%

\* House funding levels include \$5 billion in emergency funding.

## Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

The final omnibus agreement again provides \$338 million for the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), flat funding compared to FY 2020 and FY 2019. The agreement also rejects the Administration’s proposal to incorporate AHRQ into the National Institutes of Health (NIH) as the National Institute for Research on Safety and Quality (NIRSQ) for the fourth year in a row. This total does not include an expected \$98.4 million in mandatory transfers from the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research (PCOR) Trust Fund which is used to translate and disseminate findings from the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI).

The explanatory statement includes language allocating \$2 million for the Partners Enabling Diagnostic Excellence program and \$500,000 for research on the risks and benefits of kratom and cannabidiol (CBD) as alternatives to opioids. In addition, AHRQ is also directed to evaluate approaches to increase organ availability for transplantation and to support research on access to prenatal care for expectant mothers.

	FY 2020 Enacted	FY 2021 Request	FY 2021 House	FY 2021 Senate	FY 2021 Enacted	FY 2021 vs. FY 2020
<b>Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality</b>	<b>338.0</b>	<b>256.7</b>	<b>343.0</b>	<b>256.7</b>	<b>338.0</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
Research on Health Costs, Quality, and Outcomes	196.7	131.3	199.9	131.2	196.7	0.0%
Patient Safety	72.3	59.9	74.3	65.9	71.6	-0.9%
Health Services Research, Data, and Dissemination	96.3	56.6	97.5	57.9	95.4	-0.9%
Health Information Technology	16.5	0.0	16.5	0.0	16.3	-0.9%
U.S. Preventive Services Task Force	11.6	7.4	11.6	7.4	11.5	-0.9%
Medical Expenditure Panel Surveys	70.0	71.8	71.8	70.0	70.0	0.0%

## Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

The agreement includes a total of \$7.819 billion for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for FY 2021, which includes \$6.963 billion in discretionary spending and \$856.2 billion in Prevention and Public Health Fund transfers. This total does not include \$8.75 billion in supplemental COVID relief funding for the CDC for use through FY 2024 to “plan, prepare for, promote, distribute, administer, monitor, and track coronavirus vaccines to ensure broad-based distribution, access, and vaccine coverage.”

The omnibus includes a total of \$175.4 million for the National Center for Health Statistics, a \$1 million or 0.6% increase over FY 2020. This amount includes \$14 million within the NCHS base budget that had previously been an annual transfer from the Surveillance, Epidemiology, and Informatics line. The bill also provides flat funding for the CDC’s larger data modernization initiative (\$50 million), on top of the \$500 million already provided in the CARES Act earlier this year.

The bill includes \$12.5 million for research on firearm injury and mortality prevention (in addition to another \$12.5 million in funding for complementary research at NIH), matching the FY 2020 appropriation. Projects funded under this activity “will be required to fulfill requirements around open

data, open code, pre-registration of research projects, and open access to research articles consistent with the National Science Foundation's open science principles.”

Other notable provisions include \$3 million for a new pilot program to develop “Social Determinants of Health Accelerator Plans” with the engagement of research experts and an increase in funding for the National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS) to collect data on suicide among public safety officers.

	FY 2020 Enacted	FY 2021 Request	FY 2021 House	FY 2021 Senate	FY 2021 Enacted	FY 2021 vs. FY 2020
<b>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention</b>	<b>7694.2</b>	<b>7000.9</b>	<b>7926.3</b>	<b>7824.6</b>	<b>1819.0</b>	<b>-76.4%</b>
HIV, Viral Hepatitis, STI, and TB Prevention	1273.6	1552.6	1287.6	1278.6	1314.1	3.2%
Chronic Disease Prevention, Health Promotion	1239.9	813.3	1306.4	1249.7	1276.7	3.0%
National Center for Health Statistics	174.4	169.0	174.4	176.4	175.4	0.6%
Environmental Health	213.9	182.0	236.9	203.9	222.9	4.2%
Injury Prevention and Control	677.4	730.2	694.9	678.4	682.9	0.8%
Occupational Safety and Health	342.8	190.0	344.7	343.8	345.3	0.7%
Global Health	570.8	532.2	572.8	615.8	592.8	3.9%

## Department of Education

Within the Department of Education, the omnibus provides \$642.5 million for the **Institute of Education Sciences (IES)**, a \$19 million or 3 percent increase for the agency. The final IES number is higher than either the House or Senate proposal and significantly higher than the amount in the President’s budget request. Most of this increase is allocated to support the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), although every other IES account receives a modest increase as well. The explanatory report includes language directing the IES director to submit an operating plan detailing how IES will allocate its available funding for research activities.

On top of the funding allocated in the regular appropriations bill, IES received \$28 million as part of the COVID-19 relief supplemental bill. This funding is included to cover pandemic-related costs of implementing the congressionally mandated NAEP assessment.

The omnibus bill proposes \$78.2 million for the **International Education and Foreign Language Studies** programs, which include Domestic Programs (also known as Title VI) and Overseas Programs (also known as Fulbright-Hays). This constitutes a 2.6 percent increase for the programs, which have been consistently slated for elimination in the Trump Administration’s annual budget requests.

	FY 2020 Enacted	FY 2021 Request	FY 2021 House	FY 2021 Senate	FY 2021 Enacted	FY 2021 vs. FY 2020
<b>Institute of Education Sciences</b>	<b>623.5</b>	<b>565.4</b>	<b>630.5</b>	<b>635.5</b>	<b>642.5</b>	<b>3.0%</b>
Research, Development, and Dissemination	195.9	195.9	197.9	195.9	197.9	1.0%
Statistics	110.5	113.5	111.5	110.5	111.5	0.9%
Regional Educational Laboratories	56.0	0.0	57.0	56.0	57.0	1.8%
Research in Special Education	56.5	56.5	58.5	56.5	58.5	3.5%
Special Education Studies and Evaluations	10.8	10.8	11.3	10.8	11.3	4.6%
Assessment	160.7	188.7	160.7	172.7	172.7	7.5%
Statewide Data Systems	33.0	0.0	33.5	33.0	33.5	1.5%
<b>International Education and Foreign Language Studies</b>	<b>76.2</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>80.3</b>	<b>76.2</b>	<b>78.2</b>	<b>2.6%</b>
Domestic Programs (Title VI)	68.1	0.0	70.8	68.1	69.4	1.8%
Overseas Programs (Fulbright-Hays)	8.1	0.0	9.6	8.1	8.8	9.3%

## Bureau of Labor Statistics

The omnibus agreement provides the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) with \$655 million, flat with FY 2020. However, the agreement redirects funding within BLS away from the Executive Direction and Staff Services and Productivity and Technology accounts to BLS’s programmatic accounts. The bill includes \$13 million within Executive Direction and Staff Services to complete the relocation of the BLS headquarters, initiated in FY 2020.

	FY 2020 Enacted	FY 2021 Request	FY 2021 House	FY 2021 Senate	FY 2021 Enacted	FY 2021 vs. FY 2020
<b>Bureau of Labor Statistics</b>	<b>655.0</b>	<b>658.3</b>	<b>655.0</b>	<b>641.0</b>	<b>655.0</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
Labor Force Statistics	288.3	296.3	289.0	289.0	296.3	2.8%
Prices and Cost of Living	210.0	218.5	210.0	210.0	216.2	3.0%
Compensation and Working Conditions	83.5	84.0	83.5	83.5	84.0	0.6%
Productivity and Technology	11.2	11.3	10.5	10.5	10.5	-6.2%
Executive Direction and Staff Services	62.0	48.2	62.0	48.0	48.0	-22.6%

## II. Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations Bill

The Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations (CJS) bill contains annual funding for the National Science Foundation, Department of Justice (DOJ), and Census Bureau, among other federal departments and agencies.

The [bill text](#) and accompanying [explanatory statement](#) are available on the House Rules Committee [website](#).



## National Science Foundation

The omnibus agreement includes \$8.49 billion for NSF in FY 2021, which is \$208 million or 2.5 percent over the FY 2020 enacted level. Negotiators settled on an amount closer to the Senate’s proposal (see table for details).

Under the agreement, both the Research and Related Activities (R&RA) account, which funds NSF’s six research directorates and integrative activities, and the Directorate for Education and Human Resources (EHR) will see increases of 2.6 percent and 3 percent, respectively.

The accompanying explanatory statement includes several sections of relevant report language:

**Support for Core Programs.** Similar to previous years, the report reaffirms Congress’s support for NSF’s core research programs, stating that core activities should be funded “at levels not less than those provided in fiscal year 2020.” This language is intended to prevent NSF’s core research programs from becoming a bank for investments in newer, cross-NSF initiatives.

**Online Influence.** The agreement includes language originally appearing in the Senate bill encouraging NSF to support research to “help counter influence from foreign adversaries on social media platforms designed to influence U.S. perspectives and undermine confidence in U.S. elections and institutions.” NSF is directed to partner with other federal agencies as appropriate.

**Diversity and Inclusion.** The report also includes Senate language encouraging NSF to review and promote racial and cultural acceptance and diversity within its own workforce. The agency is directed to provide a report to Congress “analyzing the current racial and cultural makeup of the [agency]; planned efforts to recruit, retain, and advance applicants and employees critical to promoting greater racial and cultural diversity, and the outcomes of these efforts; and any additional steps and recommendations planned to promote greater racial and cultural acceptance and diversity throughout the NSF workforce, including the development and analysis of metrics to evaluate success.”

	FY 2020 Enacted	FY 2021 Request	FY 2021 House	FY 2021 Senate	FY 2021 Enacted	FY 2021 vs. FY 2020
<b>National Science Foundation</b>	<b>8278.3</b>	<b>7741.4</b>	<b>8548.3</b>	<b>8478.0</b>	<b>8486.8</b>	<b>2.5%</b>
Research and Related Activities	6737.2	6213.0	6967.1	6907.4	6909.8	2.6%
Education and Human Resources	940.0	930.9	970.0	963.5	968.0	3.0%
Major Research Equipment and Facilities Construction	243.2	229.8	243.2	239.8	241.0	-0.9%
Agency Operations and Award Management	336.9	345.6	345.6	345.0	345.6	2.6%
National Science Board	4.5	4.2	4.5	4.5	4.5	0.0%
Office of the Inspector General	16.5	17.9	17.9	17.9	17.9	8.2%

## National Institute of Justice and Bureau of Justice Statistics

The agreement will provide the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) with \$45 million, an increase of \$2 million above FY 2020. The explanatory statement includes several provisions that comment on missing and delayed data and reporting at BJS, an issue COSSA [continues to follow closely](#). These include direction to produce data from the Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics (LEMAS) Survey on a more regular schedule, publish data required by the Deaths in Custody Reporting Act (DCRA), and produce a data set and report on police suicide as required in the FY 2020 appropriations bill. In addition, BJS is directed to produce more detailed information on individuals in pretrial detention and to conduct a comprehensive review and analysis of incidence of prison suicide.

The bill will provide the National Institute of Justice Statistics (NIJ) with \$37 million, a \$1 million increase. NIJ is directed to support research on a number of specific issues of interest, including domestic radicalization (\$6 million), school safety (\$1 million), reducing trauma for child pornography victims (\$1.5 million), identifying a national model for reducing incarceration rates for minor parole violations (\$4 million), unauthorized unmanned aircraft systems (\$2 million). In addition the bill instructs NIJ to fund research on policy solutions to reduce racial and ethnic disparities in the criminal justice system, human trafficking, interruption of health care coverage in pre-trial settings, data-driving policing and courts, correctional education evaluation, and to update existing research on gunshot detection technology.

	FY 2020 Enacted	FY 2021 Request	FY 2021 House	FY 2021 Senate	FY 2021 Enacted	FY 2021 vs. FY 2020
<b>Bureau of Justice Statistics</b>	<b>43.0</b>	<b>43.0</b>	<b>45.0</b>	<b>45.0</b>	<b>45.0</b>	<b>4.7%</b>
<b>National Institute of Justice</b>	<b>36.0</b>	<b>43.5</b>	<b>43.5</b>	<b>36.0</b>	<b>37.0</b>	<b>2.8%</b>

## Census Bureau & Bureau of Economic Analysis

The agreement will provide the Census Bureau with a total of \$1.107 billion in FY 2021 funding as it ramps down from the 2020 Census. In addition to this funding, the bill authorizes the Bureau to draw on contingency funds and funds appropriated in previous fiscal years. The combination of these two funding sources will total \$1.665 billion, which is comparable to the amounts included in the House and Senate bills.

Of the FY 2021 appropriated funds, the agreement includes \$288.4 million for the Bureau's Current Surveys and Programs, a \$14.4 million increase above FY 2020. The Periodic Censuses and Programs account, which includes the decennial census and the American Community Survey, will receive \$818.2 million.

The explanatory statement includes provisions instructing the Census Bureau to establish the Data Ingest and Collection for the Enterprise (DICE) program, which is the Bureau-wide evolution of the massive data system created for the 2020 Census. The Bureau is also directed to ensure the availability and accuracy of 2020 Census data products to the public and to continue to collect feedback on and evaluate privacy protection strategies.

Missing from the agreement is any provision extending the statutory reporting deadlines for apportionment and redistricting data, which are currently being produced in a compressed timeframe

[raising concerns about the accuracy of the resulting data](#). Census stakeholders will continue to press Congress to extend the deadlines as soon as the 117th Congress convenes in January.

The bill also includes \$111.9 million for the **Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA)**, an increase of \$3.4 million above FY 2020. The explanatory statement directs BEA to continue its work on developing income growth indicators.

	FY 2020 Enacted	FY 2021 Request	FY 2021 House	FY 2021 Senate	FY 2021 Enacted	FY 2021 vs. FY 2020
<b>Bureau of Economic Analysis</b>	<b>108.0</b>	<b>111.9</b>	<b>111.9</b>	<b>111.9</b>	<b>111.9</b>	<b>3.6%</b>
<b>Bureau of the Census</b>	<b>7558.3</b>	<b>1672.0</b>	<b>1681.1</b>	<b>1799.7</b>	<b>1664.7*</b>	<b>-78.0%</b>
Current Surveys and Programs	274.0	279.3	288.4	285.0	288.4	5.3%
Periodic Censuses and Programs	7284.3	1392.7	1392.7	1514.7	818.2	-88.8%

\*includes previously appropriated funding

### III. Agriculture Appropriations Bill

The Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill contains annual funding proposals for Department of Agriculture’s two statistical agencies, the Economic Research Service (ERS) and National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), as well as the Department’s primary extramural research agency, the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), among other federal departments and agencies.

The [bill text](#) and accompanying [explanatory statement](#) are available on the House Rules Committee [website](#).

#### Economic Research Service

The agreement provides \$85.5 million for the Economic Research Service (ERS), a \$700,000 increase above FY 2020. Notable language in the explanatory statement instructs ERS to produce more detailed data on commodity imports and exports and identify data-driven methods for accurately defining rural areas.

#### National Agricultural Statistics Service

The omnibus agreement will provide the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) with \$183.9 million, an increase of \$3.6 million above its FY 2020 appropriation. This amount includes \$46.3 million for the Census of Agriculture. The explanatory statement notes that the Committee does not accept the Administration’s proposed elimination or reduction of NASS’s ongoing activities and instructs NASS to resume any stalled activities.

#### National Institute of Food and Agriculture

The agreement includes \$1.57 billion in discretionary funding for the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), an increase of \$42.7 million from FY 2020. The bill provides flat funding of \$259 million

for Hatch Act State Agricultural Experiment Stations. It also includes \$435 million for the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI), NIFA’s competitive research grant program, a \$10 million increase from FY 2020.

	FY 2020 Enacted	FY 2021 Request	FY 2021 House	FY 2021 Senate	FY 2021 Enacted	FY 2021 vs. FY 2020
<b>Economic Research Service</b>	<b>84.8</b>	<b>62.1</b>	<b>86.7</b>	<b>85.7</b>	<b>85.5</b>	<b>0.8%</b>
<b>National Agricultural Statistics Service</b>	<b>180.3</b>	<b>177.5</b>	<b>183.4</b>	<b>184.4</b>	<b>183.9</b>	<b>2.0%</b>
Census of Agriculture	45.3	46.3	46.3	46.3	46.3	2.2%
<b>National Institute of Food and Agriculture</b>	<b>1527.4</b>	<b>1590.8</b>	<b>1475.3</b>	<b>1538.9</b>	<b>1570.1</b>	<b>2.8%</b>
Hatch Act	259.0	243.2	259.0	259.0	259.0	0.0%
Agriculture and Food Research Initiative	425.0	600.0	435.0	435.0	435.0	2.4%

## IV. Defense Appropriations Bill

The Defense Appropriations Bill proposes annual funding levels for some of the federal government’s largest research accounts, including the Department of Defense’s Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation (RDT&E) budget and the Defense Health Program, and funds the Defense-Wide and armed services research accounts responsible for the Department’s social science research program, the Minerva Research Initiative.

The [bill text](#) and accompanying [explanatory statement](#) are available on the House Rules Committee [website](#).

### Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation

Within the Department of Defense (DOD), the final bill provides \$107.1 billion to the Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation (RDT&E) account in FY 2021, a significant increase of \$2.7 billion over the FY 2020 appropriation. Within RDT&E research activities, Basic Research (6.1) receives \$2.67 billion, Applied Research (6.2) receives \$6.45 billion, and Advanced Technology Development (6.3) receives \$7.76 billion. All these figures indicate increases higher than requested by the House bill, the Senate bill, and the President’s budget request.

The explanatory statement includes \$1 million within the Basic Research account for a joint study with the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) on Confucius Centers, the university-based Chinese cultural centers currently facing allegations of espionage and illegal tech transfer on behalf of the Chinese government.

### Defense Health Program

Outside of the RDT&E account, the Defense Health Program is provided \$33.7 billion by the final bill, a level higher than requested by either chamber of Congress or the President’s budget request; however, it still constitutes a \$385 million cut compared to the FY 2020 level.

## Minerva Research Initiative

The explanatory statement accompanying the final bill shows funding levels for a few key programs relevant to the social science community. Most importantly, \$17 million is allocated within the Basic Research account to restore the Minerva Research Initiative, DOD’s signature social science research program that was slated for elimination as a result of the FY 2021 Defense-Wide Review.

	FY 2020 Enacted	FY 2021 Request	FY 2021 House	FY 2021 Senate	FY 2021 Enacted	FY 2021 vs. FY 2020
<b>Research, Development, Test &amp; Evaluation (RDT&amp;E)</b>	<b>104431.2</b>	<b>106224.8</b>	<b>104348.1</b>	<b>104080.1</b>	<b>107135.2</b>	<b>2.6%</b>
Basic Research (6.1)	2603.3	2319.1	2621.5	2407.1	2671.5	2.6%
Applied Research (6.2)	6069.8	5391.1	5921.0	5997.7	6446.1	6.2%
Advanced Technology Development (6.3)	7400.8	6331.4	7077.8	6753.9	7755.6	4.8%
<b>Defense Health Program</b>	<b>34074.1</b>	<b>32690.4</b>	<b>33297.9</b>	<b>33187.1</b>	<b>33684.6</b>	<b>-1.1%</b>

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