

UC Federal Governmental Relations Summary: President Biden’s Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Request (April 9, 2021)

On April 9, 2021, President Biden released a “skinny” budget request for fiscal year 2022. The \$1.5 trillion package provides non-defense discretionary programs with a total of \$769 billion and \$753 billion for national defense programs. University of California Federal Governmental Relations (UC FGR) expects that a more detailed budget request will be released later in the Spring (late May/ early June). Congressional hearings are expected to begin on the FY 2022 budget shortly with committee markups in the June/ July timeframe.

As more specific information about the proposal becomes available, FGR will update the budget documents.

The proposed budget request, approximately 40-pages in length, provided limited programmatic detail. Below is a high-level summary of budget provisions of importance to the University of California.

Department of Agriculture

- \$27.8 billion, which is a 16% increase over FY 2021 enacted.
 - \$4 billion, or \$647 million above the FY 2021 enacted level for USDA’s research, education, and outreach programs to support investments in critical research and development capacity to assist farmers. Investments are prioritized for research that advances innovation and science-based approaches to put technologies into the hands of farmers.
 - \$161 million above the FY 2021 enacted level is provided to support a multi-agency initiative to integrate science-based tools into conservation planning, related to carbon sequestration, greenhouse gas reduction, wildlife stewardship and other activities.
 - \$1.7 billion is provided to address threats from wildfires, including funding to address issues related to hazardous fuels and forest resilience projects.
 - Funding is provided to expand broadband access in rural areas; to provide safe drinking water and waste-water infrastructure in rural communities; to improve voluntary public and private land conservation efforts; to help rural communities to use clean energy; to help with rural economic development issues; and to advance equity.
 - The USDA is directed to establish an Equity Commission to review how current farm programs work and how they may have contributed to racial and geographic inequities for farmers.
 - Funding is also provided to foster the development of regional food systems and to support the nutrition safety net. \$6.7 billion, more than \$1

billion above the FY 2021 enacted level, is provided for nutrition programs, including SNAP and WIC.

Department of Commerce

- \$11.4 billion, which is a 27.7% increase above FY2021 enacted.
 - \$6.9 billion, an increase of more than \$1.4 billion over the 2021 enacted level, for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.
 - \$2 billion, an approximately \$500 million increase over the 2021 enacted level, for the next generation of satellites.
 - \$442 million for National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and \$275 million for the Manufacturing Extension Partnership program.
 - \$916 million, an increase of \$128 million over the 2021 enacted level, to expand scientific and technological research at NIST.
 - \$39 million for advanced communications research at the National Telecommunications and Information Administration.
 - \$70 million to elevate the Minority Business Development Administration's (MBDA) stature within the Department of Commerce, an increase of \$22 million above the 2021 enacted level, and to support a dedicated Assistant Secretary.
 - \$300 million to support locally-driven economic development projects.

Department of Defense

- \$715.0 billion, which is a 1.6% increase over FY 2021 enacted.
 - No specific funding is identified for research, but the budget request stresses the importance of innovation and the need for investments in breakthrough technologies.

Department of Education

- \$102.8 billion, which is a 40.8% increase over FY 2021 enacted.
 - \$400 increase for the maximum Pell Grant, a first step to meeting the president's commitment to double the maximum grant. This only accounts for discretionary spending on the Pell Grant program, which is primarily funded through mandatory spending.
 - Makes DREAMers who are DACA recipients eligible for Pell Grants.
 - Increases institutional capacity and student supports at Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs) by more than \$600 million.
 - Increases the funding level for programming intended to support historically underserved students in science and engineering fields by \$100 million (approximately 50 percent).
 - The proposal does not provide details on funding levels for Federal Work Study, TRIO, SEOG and other important education programs.

Department of Energy:

- \$46.1 billion, which is a 10.2% increase over FY 2021 enacted.
 - Proposes \$7.44 billion for the Office of Science, which is a \$400M increase above FY 2021 enacted.

- Proposes \$1 billion for the creation of an ARPA-Climate (ARPA-C) to invest in high-risk, high-reward research to address the climate crisis.
- Seeks to enhance research opportunities and investments in infrastructure at minority-serving institutions, including the creation of a new research center focused on climate.
- Proposes \$8 billion, which is a 27% increase above FY 2021 enacted, for technology, such as nuclear energy technologies, electric vehicles, green hydrogen and innovative approaches to air conditioning and refrigeration.

Department of Health and Human Services

- \$131.7 billion, which is a 23.5% increase over FY21 enacted.
 - \$51 billion for National Institutes of Health (NIH), which includes \$6.5 billion to launch the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H) -- an initiative that will have an initial focus on cancer and other diseases such as diabetes and Alzheimer's with the goal of driving transformational innovation in health research and speed application and implementation of health breakthroughs.
 - \$670 million to help aggressively reduce new HIV cases while increasing access to treatment, expanding the use of pre-exposure prophylaxis (also known as PrEP).
 - \$8.7 billion for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to support core public health capacity improvements in States and Territories, modernize public health data collection nationwide and train a cadre of epidemiologists and other public health experts who can deploy and support state and local public health efforts.
 - \$153 million for CDC's Social Determinants of Health program, an increase of \$150 million over the FY 2021 enacted level, to support all states and territories in improving health equity and data collection for racial and ethnic populations.
 - \$100 million for CDC to start a new Community Based Violence Intervention initiative—in collaboration with the Department of Justice—to implement evidence-based community violence interventions locally.
 - \$1.6 billion, more than double the 2021 enacted level, for the Community Mental Health Services Block Grant, to support the particular needs of those who are involved in the criminal justice system, provides funding for partnerships between mental health providers and law enforcement, and expands suicide prevention activities.
 - \$1 billion to increase the number of counselors, nurses, and mental health professionals in schools.
 - \$905 million for ASPR and FDA to maintain replenishment of critical medical supplies and restructuring efforts initiated during the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - \$10.7 billion to help end the opioid crisis, including funding for states and Tribes, medication-assisted treatment, research, and expanding the behavioral health provider workforce.

Department of Homeland Security

- \$52 billion, which is a 0.2% increase over FY 2021 enacted.
 - Proposes \$599 million for research and development with new investments in climate resilience, cybersecurity data analytics and transportation security technologies.

Department of the Interior

- \$17.4 billion, which is a 16.3% increase over FY 2021 enacted.
 - \$550 million increase over FY 2021 enacted for efforts to decrease climate pollution, accelerate clean energy deployment and expand efforts around climate adaptation and ecosystem resilience.
 - \$200 million increase over FY 2021 enacted for the United States Geological Survey to provide information about the impacts of climate change and how best to implement mitigation, adaptation and resilience efforts. The funds would help ensure that coastal, fire-prone and other particularly vulnerable communities have accurate and accessible information and tools to address the climate crisis.
 - \$340 million for hazardous fuels management and burned area rehabilitation projects. Funding would support Department of Interior efforts to reduce the intensity, severity and negative effects of wildfire.
 - \$200 million in new funding for science-driven conservation to align management of the nation's natural resources with climate, biodiversity and clean energy needs. Funding would also support the creation of a Civilian Climate Corps to develop the next generation of conservation workers.

State Department, USAID and Treasury International Program

- \$63.5 billion, which is a 11.9% increase over FY 2021 enacted.
 - The budget prioritizes funding to ensure the nation is better prepared to prevent, detect and respond to future biological threats and pandemics.
 - \$10 billion is provided for global health programs; an increase of over \$800 million above the FY 2021 enacted level.
 - \$2.5 billion is provided for international climate programs to support re-establishing the U.S. as a leader in addressing climate change around the world.
 - \$1.2 billion is provided for the Green Climate Fund, which supports climate mitigation in emerging countries.

Department of Transportation

- \$25.6 billion, which is a 14.3% increase over FY 2021 enacted.
 - The budget incorporates language suggesting that the President is committed to making a "once-in-a-lifetime," generational investment to significantly improve America's transportation infrastructure.
 - \$2.5 billion is provided for the Capital Investment Grant Program to assist with transit projects.

- \$250 million is provided to assist transit agencies with procuring low and no emission buses.
- \$1 billion is provided for the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant program, which funds surface transportation infrastructure projects.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

- \$11.2 billion which is a 21.3% increase over FY 2021 enacted.
 - \$110 million is provided to restore EPA's critical staff capacity and to focus on rebuilding capabilities related to addressing clean air, land and water needs.
 - \$1.8 billion is provided to tackle climate change with urgency. Funding would support programs that would help to address climate change, including for greenhouse gas emissions, environmental justice, and other areas.
 - \$936 million is provided for a new Accelerating Environmental and Economic Justice initiative to support environmental justice issues for low-income and marginalized communities, including for community air quality monitoring and other areas.
 - \$3.6 billion is provided for water infrastructure, an increase of \$625 million over FY 2021 enacted levels.
 - Additional funding is provided related to protecting communities from hazardous waste and environmental damage, including for cleaning up environmentally damaged areas.
 - Funding is also provided to assist with addressing Per and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) pollution, and to overhaul and strengthen the EPA's Civil Rights Compliance Office.

NASA

- \$24.7 billion, which is a 6.3% increase over FY 2021 enacted.
 - \$6.9 billion for the Artemis program, a series of crewed exploration missions to the lunar surface and 35 beyond.
 - \$1.4 billion to enhance the capabilities and reduce the costs of the full range of NASA missions and provide new technologies to help the commercial space industry grow.
 - \$915 million to enhance U.S. competitiveness in the global aviation industry that employs hundreds of thousands of Americans.
 - \$20 million for the Office of STEM Engagement to expand initiatives to attract and retain underserved and underrepresented students in engineering and other STEM fields, in partnership with minority serving institutions and other higher education institutions.
 - \$3 billion to operate the International Space Station and use it as a research laboratory in space.

National Science Foundation

- \$10.2 billion, which is a 19.8% increase over FY 2021 enacted.

- \$1.2 billion for climate and clean energy research, which is \$500 million above FY 2021 enacted
- \$100 million, which is a \$50 million increase over FY2021 enacted, for funding for programs that aim to increase participation in science and engineering of individuals from racial and ethnic groups who are traditionally underrepresented in these fields.
- Proposes the creation of a new Technology Directorate at the agency focused on funding for emerging technologies areas, such as artificial intelligence, disaster response and resilience, quantum information sciences, advanced communications and biotechnology.
- Proposes funding (but does not provide a funding level) for continued construction of major NSF research facilities, including the Vera C. Rubin Observatory to support astronomy research.

Tackling the Climate Crisis

- Proposes \$14 billion increase, compared to FY 2021 enacted, for new climate change investments in resilience and clean energy to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050, including the following:
 - \$4 billion increase to fund research across multiple agencies, including the Department of Interior, NASA, NSF and other agencies to improve understanding of the changing climate and inform adaption and resilience measures.
 - \$10 billion, which is a 35% increase over FY 2021 enacted, for clean energy innovations across non-defense agencies.
 - \$1 billion to create a new ARPA for Climate (ARPA-C), which would invest in high-risk, high-reward solutions for adaption and resilience against the climate crisis.
 - \$1.4 billion increase for NOAA to allow the agency to expand the climate observation and forecasting work and provide better data and information to decisionmakers.
 - \$110 million for NIH's Climate Change and Human Health program, a \$100 million increase over the 2021 enacted level, to support research aimed at understanding the health impacts of climate change.
 - \$110 million for CDC's Climate and Health program, a \$100 million increase over the 2021 enacted level, to identify potential health effects associated with climate change and implement health adaptation plans.
 - \$2.3 billion for NASA Earth Science programs, an increase of \$250 million above the FY 2021 enacted level, to initiate the next generation of Earth observing satellites to study pressing climate science questions.
 - Out of the \$6.9 billion for NOAA, \$800 million will be used to expand investments in climate research, support regional and local decision-making with climate data and tools, and improve community resilience to climate change.