

Request Talking Points

The poor state of agricultural facilities at public colleges of agriculture put research priorities related to adaptation to and mitigation of climate change, food safety, zoonotic disease preparedness, nutrition, biosecurity, new biobased packaging, energy innovations, and advanced market analysis at risk.

The APLU requests that Congress and the Biden Administration support an agricultural research infrastructure investment of \$11.5 billion at U.S. colleges of agriculture in any future federal infrastructure initiatives.¹

APLU urges funding over a five year period for the [Research Facilities Act](#) (Act), administered by the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA).

The Act, which was amended and reauthorized in Section 7503 of the 2018 Farm Bill, authorizes an account to be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture. The program aligns with the Federal priorities outlined in section 1402 of the NARETP Act of 1977² as well as national or multistate needs. The eligibility of the program would extend across³:

- 1862 Land-grant University
- 1862 Insular Institutions
- 1890 Land-grant University
- 1994 Tribal Colleges
- Non-land grant colleges of agriculture as designated by USDA

The Act authorizes an agriculture and food⁴ focused research infrastructure program for facility construction, alteration, acquisition, modernization, renovation, or remodeling.

Modern facilities will allow the agricultural, food, and biobased sciences to recruit a diversity of talent into the agricultural innovation enterprise. It would also allow the United States to reclaim its global positioning as the leader in agricultural science, worldwide.

Infrastructure investments at 1862, 1890, 1994, and insular land-grant and non-land-grant colleges of agriculture will enable the recruitment of diverse talent into the agricultural innovation enterprise, yield at least 200,000 new jobs nationwide, and allow the U.S. to rebuild its global position as the agricultural science research and education leader.

APLU seeks to ensure the Secretary of Agriculture has the authority to waive matching requirements, as well as consider geographic and equity in program administration.

¹ With the 4% federal administrative costs, the total request is \$11.96 B.

² <https://nifa.usda.gov/sites/default/files/resource/nar77.pdf> (pg 5/63)

³ The Research Facilities Act grants may be provided to entities eligible to receive funds as defined in [Section 251 \(f\) \(1\) \(C\)](#) (pg. 36/61) of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994.

⁴ “Food and agricultural sciences” has the meaning given that term in section 1404 of the [National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 \(7 U.S.C. 3103\)](#) – see page 7/63.