

Call to Action – Support for COVID-19 Relief and Recovery

As Congress begins to consider the next COVID-19 supplemental appropriations package, we are working to include support for agriculture research and extension. APLU and several national associations coordinated a [letter](#) that was sent to Congress requesting \$380 million for the National Institute of Food and Agriculture’s capacity and competitive research programs.ⁱ

The Board on Agricultural Assembly’s request includes \$300 million for capacity and competitive research to support salary, benefits, ramp down and ramp up expenses, as well as other factors affiliated with COVID-19 disruptions of research. This request is consistent with a broader request for extramural research relief ([see letter](#)). The BAA recommend the following allocation: \$85 million to Hatch (State Agricultural Experiment Stations), \$36.2 million to Evans-Allen (1890s Research), \$11.8 million to McIntire-Stennis (Forestry), \$5 million to Tribal Research, \$150 to Agricultural and Food Research Initiative (AFRI), and \$12 million to the Federal Administration account. The BAA’s \$80 million for Cooperative Extension COVID-19 response and recovery will be allocated at a level of \$63 million for Smith-Lever, \$11.5 million for 1890’s Extension, and \$5.5 million through an ongoing contract with the New Technologies for Ag Extension (NTAE) line which will also provide support and assistance for 1994 tribal colleges.

You may wish to consider engaging with your institution’s congressional affairs representative with this call to action. Please undertake any activities in a manner consistent with your institution’s standard procedures for making congressional contacts. As such, we encourage you to contact your state’s delegation, articulate the impact of COVID-19, and justify the need for supplemental funding for the agricultural research and extension programs at your university.

To assist you in doing so, we have provided a sample email for your use. Please fill in the blanks and provide any additional information you may have to support our ask.

Dear _____,

As consideration of the next COVID-19 supplemental appropriations package begins, I would like to highlight the need for support of our land-grant universities and ask that you consider providing additional resources for the agricultural research and extension programs that UNIVERSITY X uses to positively impact the lives of STATE X’s farmers, ranchers and consumers. UNIVERSITY X, with the support of the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) Board on Agricultural Assembly and in coordination with a large coalition of supporters (see letter), is requesting that Congress provide an additional \$380 million for USDA’s National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA).

This request includes \$300 million for capacity and competitive research programs to ensure vital research that supports our agriculture and food systems is not lost due to pandemic-related delays and disruptions. In addition, the request includes an additional \$80 million for the Cooperative Extension System. Additional funding will ensure Extension educators and agents can collaborate with emergency responders, connect families to information on telemedicine, food, financial health and methods of socialization, support farmers and businesses, and help our state through the upcoming recovery period.

This request reflects a commitment to agriculture, families, businesses, and communities across our states. I am asking SENATOR/REPRESENTATIVE X to support UNIVERSITY X with additional funding to support our community and state through these uncertain times.

APLU and the associations mentioned above sent a letter to Congress outlining our request. I have provided a copy of the letter [HERE](#). In addition, you can find a detailed breakdown of our research and extension request with our line-specific allocation proposal [HERE](#).

Thank you in advance for supporting our Land-grant university. Please let me know if I can provide additional information.

Sincerely,

THE CORNERSTONE TEAM

ⁱ APLU is supportive of and has been engaged throughout the process on both the research and extension request. Please note that \$300M research request (which includes capacity and competitive) is a part of the \$26B request for research relief from APLU and other associations. The \$80M request for the Cooperative Extension System related to COVID-19 response and relief is not a part of the research proposal, but is a part of APLU's Phase 4 request, so all bases are covered.