

FY 2015 NIEA Budget Analysis

The Annual Presidential Budget Request

Earlier this week, the Obama Administration submitted its annual [budget request](#) to Congress and provided a [Fact Sheet](#) for Native communities. The \$3.9 trillion Fiscal Year 2015 budget request is a \$250 billion increase over the estimated levels enacted in FY 2014, but continues to adhere to the spending caps authorized by Congress in the bipartisan budget deal (Public Law 113-67) passed in December 2013.

Few of the proposed budget requests are expected to move in the form of legislation due to opposition within the House of Representatives. However, the budget does provide a guide as the Democratic-controlled Senate moves forward on fiscal negotiations. NIEA continues to work directly with the Administration and Congress to ensure Native students have equal opportunities and access within federal education programs. In early February, NIEA provided the federal government NIEA FY 2015 Budget Requests to illustrate educational need in Native communities.

Education Initiatives

In addition to agency budget proposals, the budget also includes a separate \$56 billion request for *The Opportunity, Growth, and Security Initiative* that would provide additional funds to other Administration priorities. NIEA worked closely with Congress, the Administration, and Native education partners to reinstate funding or provide some programmatic increases.

Of the budget recommendations, a few notable requests include:

- \$300 million for a new Race to the Top grant program for strengthening equity among disadvantaged school districts as well as renewed calls for early learning funding for increased access to high-quality preschool.
- \$500,000 increase for Johnson O'Malley education grants to support a new student count in 2015 and to provide funding for a projected increase in the number of eligible students.
- \$1 million to support ongoing evaluation of the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) school system to enable improvements in educational outcomes, organizational management, and program performance.
- \$2.3 million increase to fund construction site development at the BIE contracted Beatrice Rafferty School, for which design funding was provided in the FY 2014 budget to reinstate some school replacement funding.
- \$12 million for Supporting Strong and Resilient Families through the Tiwahe (Family) Initiative. The budget proposes the increase to provide a comprehensive and integrated approach to addressing the interrelated problems of poverty, violence, and substance abuse in Native communities.

- Providing access to high-quality early learning opportunities to more than 100,000 children through Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships.
- Accelerating Improvements to K-12 Education—providing 100,000 teachers in 500 districts with access to professional development to take greater advantage of the universal broadband provided through the ConnectED initiative.
- Funding 100,000 new public school teachers and creating 40 new *Promise Zones*, similar to the initiative that recently provided economic and educational incentives for the Choctaw Nation located in Oklahoma.
- \$1.7 million for fellowship and training opportunities for post-graduate study in science fields and \$250,000 for summer pre-law preparatory program scholarships.

NIEA continues to work to ensure the federal government upholds its trust responsibility to Native education as the appropriations process moves forward.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

The Administration’s FY 2015 education budget request is \$68.6 billion—an increase of \$1.3 billion or nearly 2 percent over the FY 2014 enacted level. The majority of the discretionary funding would go to formula funds that address the needs of disadvantaged, minority, and Native students.

The budget request for the Education Department focuses on six priorities:

1. Increasing equity and opportunity for all students;
2. Strengthening support for teachers and school leaders;
3. Expanding high-quality preschool programs;
4. Ensuring affordability and quality in postsecondary education;
5. Promoting educational innovation and improvement; and
6. Improving school safety and climate.

As the Department works with states to promote these six priorities, it is critical that the Administration ensures that Native students and communities are equitably included and eligible to participate in all initiatives.

Specific Proposals and Native Education Initiatives

The Department of Education has requested some funding increases for Native education programs as well as requests a decrease in Impact Aid funds. It is important to note the requested funding levels in the 2015 budget are compared to enacted FY 2014 spending levels.

Department Education (Dollars in Millions)	FY 2014 (Enacted)	FY 2015 Request	Change from FY14 to FY15
Impact Aid	1288.6	1221.8	(-67)
Indian Student Education (Title VII)	124	124	-
<i>Grants to Local Education Agencies</i>	101	101	-
<i>Special Programs for Indian Children</i>	18	18	-
<i>National Activities</i>	6	6	-
Native Hawaiian Student Education	32.4	32.4	-
Alaska Native Education Equity Assistance Program	30	30	-
Strengthening Alaska Native/Native Hawaiian-Serving Institutions (mandatory)	13.9	15	1.1
Strengthening Alaska Native/Native Hawaiian-Serving Institutions	12.6	12.6	-
Strengthening Tribal Colleges and Universities (mandatory)	27.8	30	2.2
Strengthening Tribal Colleges and Universities	25.2	25.2	-
Tribally Controlled Postsecondary and Technical Institutions	7.7	7.7	-
Strengthening Native American-Serving Non-tribal Institutions (mandatory)	4.6	5	.4
Strengthening Native American-Serving Non-tribal Institutions	3.1	3.1	-
Pell Grant Program	23	23	-
Vocational Rehabilitation State Grants (Set Aside)	37	40	3

- **Impact Aid** -The \$67 million cut in Impact Aid eliminates the line item for Payments for Federal Property. This is a reoccurring request and similar to past years as the Department of Education’s justification for this elimination is that the line item payments are made to local education agencies without regard to the presence of federally connected children and do not necessarily provide educational services. This cut would likely not have an effect on Native students.
- **National Activities** - The nearly \$6 million for national activities supports Native-serving schools by funding research for effective practices, data collection, and providing technical assistance. The request also includes \$2 million to strengthen the role of tribal educational agencies (TEAs) through the State Tribal Education Partnership (STEP) program. In 2012, the new program funded four TEAs that, in partnership with states, allowed tribal partners to build capacity for administering select ESEA programs in public schools on tribal lands. The FY 2015 request would enable a new round of STEP awards to be granted.

Increasing Equity and Opportunity for All Students

- \$300 million for a New Race to the Top – Equity and Opportunity (RTT-Opportunity) competition for improving the academic performance of students in the Nation’s highest poverty schools. Tribes and the BIE have historically been excluded from the list of eligible entities within RTT. NIEA will provide comments and work with the Administration if this proposal moves forward.
- \$5 million for Language Acquisition Grants to schools predominantly serving Native children to help English Language Learners increase their English-speaking capacity and reach high academic standards. In FY 2015, the budget (with a combination of FY 2014 and FY 2015 funds) would make 25 continuation awards for grants in previous years.
- \$14.4 billion for Title I College- and Career-Ready Students and \$11.6 billion for Special Education Grants to States to maintain support for students from low-income families attending high-poverty schools and students with disabilities. The FY 2015 request also continues to protect other key formula programs that target high-need populations, including \$124 million for Indian Student Education, \$32 million for Native Hawaiian Student Education, \$31 million for Alaska Native Student Education.
- \$1.1 billion for a reauthorized 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program to support competitive grants to states, local education agencies (LEAs), nonprofit organizations, or local governmental entities for projects that provide the additional time, support, and enrichment activities needed to improve student achievement by increasing the number of hours in a regular school schedule and by comprehensively redesigning the school schedule for all students in a school.
- \$505.8 million for School Turnaround Grants (STG) to maintain strong support for state and local efforts to implement rigorous, locally selected interventions in the lowest-performing schools, including Priority Schools identified through ESEA Flexibility. Funds would support new grants serving an estimated 170 schools across the country under the reauthorized program.
- \$100 million for Promise Neighborhoods, an increase of \$43 million, for awards to a new cohort of high-need communities that develop plans combining effective, cradle-to-career services for children and families with comprehensive reforms centered on high-quality schools.

Strengthening Support for Teachers and School Leaders

- \$200 million for a new ConnectEDucators initiative that would help educators transition to using technology and data to personalize learning and improve instruction and assessment to ensure teachers have access to high-speed Internet and devices for students.

- \$2.3 billion for the new Excellent Instructional Teams program, which would provide both formula grants and competitive awards to help states and Local Education Agencies increase the effectiveness of teachers and principals.
- \$35 million for a transformed School Leadership Program to expand the Department's focus on evidence-based professional development for current school leaders aimed at strengthening essential leadership skills.
- \$5 billion in one-time 2015 mandatory funds for the Recognizing Educational Success, Professional Excellence, and Collaborative Teaching grants to provide targeted support for teachers and school leaders by improving preparation and early career assistance.

Expanding High-Quality Preschool Programs

- \$1.3 billion in 2015 and \$75 billion over 10 years in mandatory funding for Preschool for All to renew last year's request to support the implementation of high-quality preschool programs that are aligned with elementary and secondary education systems and help ensure that all children arrive in kindergarten ready to learn.
- \$500 million for competitively awarded Preschool Development Grants to build state and local capacity to implement high-quality preschool programs and to enhance or expand existing programs.
- \$441.8 million to Grants for Infants and Families program under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), an increase of \$3.3 million to help states implement statewide systems of early intervention services for all eligible children with disabilities from birth through age two and their families.

Ensuring Affordability and Quality in Postsecondary Education

- \$7 billion in mandatory budget authority for Pell grant outcomes over 10 years for new College Opportunity and Graduation Bonus grants to reward colleges that successfully enroll and graduate a significant number of low- and moderate-income students on time and encourage all institutions to improve their performance.
- \$4 billion for the State Higher Education Performance Fund would provide mandatory funding through 4-year competitive grants to states to support the successful implementation of performance-based policy and funding reforms that encourage and reward college attainment and affordability and maintain a strong record of investment or state support in low-investment states. States would be required to match these resources dollar-for-dollar.
- \$75 million for College Success Grants for Minority-Serving Institutions that would provide competitive awards to minority-serving institutions including Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCU) designated under Title III and Title V of the Higher Education Act.

Promoting Educational Innovation and Improvement

- \$165 million for Investing in Innovation (i3), an increase of \$23.4 million, to maintain strong support for using an evidence-based approach to test new ideas, validate what works, and scale up the most effective approaches in high-need areas, including identifying and supporting effective teachers and leaders, improving low-performing schools, and encouraging parent engagement.
- \$150 million for a new High School Redesign program to support the transformation of the high school experience by funding competitive grants to school districts and their partners to redesign high schools in innovative ways that better prepare students for college and career success so all students graduate with college credit and career-related experiences or competencies.
- \$20 million for a new Adult Skills Challenge program to support partnerships—among states, adult education providers, institutions of higher education, and private organizations—that build evidence of effectiveness and demonstrate innovative models for transforming our adult education system.
- \$1.1 billion for a reauthorized Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education (CTE) program, which would strengthen alignment among secondary and postsecondary CTE programs and business and industry while also improving accountability for academic and employability outcomes and the acquisition of technical skills.

Improving School Safety and Climate

- \$50 million for School Climate Transformation Grants to help create positive school climates that support effective education for all students. Funds would support the use of multi-tiered decision-making frameworks to reduce problem behaviors, bullying, and peer victimization.
- \$25 million for Project Prevent grants to help schools with pervasive violence break the cycle by supporting access to school-based counseling services, referral to community-based services for students suffering from trauma or anxiety (including posttraumatic stress disorder), and conflict resolution programs.

Additional Department of Education Budget Resources

- [FY 2015 Department of Education Budget Overview](#)
- [FY 2015 Department of Education Budget Summary and Background Information](#)
- [FY 2015 Justifications of Education Appropriations Estimates to Congress](#)
- [FY 2015 Department of Education Commitment to Native Education](#)

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

The Administration’s total FY 2015 Department of the Interior (DOI) budget request is set at \$11.5 billion – which is level with FY 2014 enacted and \$600 million over 2013 sequestration levels. The President requested the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) budget, a \$2.6 billion or \$33.6 million increase above the FY 2014 enacted levels, and the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) is set at \$794.4 million – an increase of \$5.6 million above FY 2014 enacted levels.

In the FY 2014 request, the Administration eliminated funding for BIE school replacement. As a result of NIEA discussions before Congress and with the Administration, the FY 2015 budget proposes an increase to education construction funds based on the bipartisan budget agreement passed earlier this year that authorized construction planning for the next school on the BIA School Replacement Index. DOI has also requested funding increases to hold a new Johnson-O’Malley (JOM) student count, which is needed to survey and address present need among Native students.

Specific Proposals and Native Education Initiatives

The Department of the Interior has requested several line item increases within the Bureau of Indian Education.

Bureau of Indian Education (Dollars in Millions)	FY 2014 (Enacted)	FY 2015 Request	Change from FY14 to FY15
Elementary and Secondary Programs (forward funded)	518.3	520.7	2.4
Elementary and Secondary Programs	118.4	119.2	.8
Post-Secondary Programs (forward funded)	69.7	69.7	--
Post-Secondary Programs	61.8	64.1	2.2
Education Management	788.7	794.3	5.6
Education Construction	55.2	55.5	.3
Indian Child Welfare Act	10.7	15.4	4.7

- \$500,000 increase for JOM education grants to support a new student count in FY 2015 and to provide funding for a projected increase in the number of eligible students.
- \$1 million to support ongoing evaluation of the BIE school system to enable improvements in educational outcomes, organizational management, and program performance.
- \$2.3 million increase to fund construction site development at the Beatrice Rafferty School, a BIE-funded K-8 contract day school operated by the Passamaquoddy Tribe-Pleasant Point in Perry, ME, for which design funding was provided in the FY 2014 budget to begin school replacement funding.

- \$2.3 million increase for BIE-funded post-secondary programs including an increase of \$300,000 to meet the needs of growing enrollment at BIE-funded tribal technical colleges.
- \$1.7 million increase for fellowship and training opportunities for post-graduate study in the sciences and \$250,000 for summer pre-law preparatory program scholarships.
- \$12 million for Supporting Strong and Resilient Families through the Tiwahe (Family) Initiative. The budget proposes the increase to provide a comprehensive and integrated approach to addressing the interrelated problems of poverty, violence, and substance abuse in Native communities. Through this initiative, social services and job training programs would be integrated and expanded to address child and family welfare, job training, and incarceration issues, with the a goal of promoting family stability and strengthening tribal communities.
- \$251 million for tribes to administer BIA programs – a \$4 million increase – under self-determination and self-governance by fully funding Contract Support Costs (CSC). However, Public Law 100-297 grant or Public Law 93-638 self-determination contracted BIE schools are exempt from full funding and therefore must divert much-needed funds to cover shortfalls. NIEA continues to work with the Department to ensure all tribal entities receive payment for the services provided as they administer federal programs and functions.

Additional Department of the Interior Budget Resources

- [FY 2015 Bureau of Indian Affairs Budget New Release](#)
- [FY 2015 Department of the Interior Budget - In Brief](#)
- [FY 2015 Department of the Interior Budget Summary](#)

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

The President's total FY 2015 Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) budget request is \$77.1 billion – a reduction of \$1.3 billion from the FY 2014 enacted level. Funding would support and expand the availability of high quality early learning programs, such as Head Start and Early Head Start, and create competitive grants to new and existing Early Head Start programs that partner with child care providers, especially those receiving federal child care subsidies.

Specific Proposals and Native Education Initiatives

HSS has requested several line item increases to provide services to more children and families, including Native.

Health and Human Services (Dollars in Millions)	FY 2014 (Enacted)	FY 2015 Request	Change from FY14 to FY15
Head Start	8,598	8,868	270
Child Care and Development Block Grant	2,360	2,417	57
Child Welfare Programs	345	345	--
Chafee Education & Training: Foster Youths	43	43	--
Family Violence Prevention	138	140	2
Adoption Incentives	38	38	--
Runaway & Homeless Youth Programs	114	116	2
Child Abuse Prevention	94	94	--
Promoting Safe and Stable Families	60	60	--
Administration for Native Americans	47	47	--

- \$1.4 billion for new Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships to support states and communities in expanding the availability of high-quality learning opportunities for the youngest children. Funds would be competitively awarded to new and existing Early Head Start providers. This includes \$650 million – an increase of \$150 million – in the base budget and \$800 million in the *Opportunity, Growth, and Security Initiative* for Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships to provide access to high-quality infant and toddler care for more than 100,000 children.
- \$8.9 billion for the Head Start program, a \$2 billion increase compared to FY 2014 levels. Head Start has been and continues to play an instrumental role in Native education. This vital program, for which tribes have a three percent set-aside, combines education, health, and family services to model traditional Native education, which accounts for its success rate.
- \$17.4 billion for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) to provide states, territories, and eligible tribes to assist low-income families and improve employment opportunities and other outcomes.
- \$6.1 billion for Child Care and Development, which includes \$3.7 billion for the Child Care Entitlement and \$2.4 billion for the Child Care and Development Block Grant. The total funding level represents an increase of \$807 million over FY 2014 in combined discretionary and mandatory funds.
- \$140 million and availability extension through FY 2015 for the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) for grants and a national campaign to improve outreach and enrollment. 10 percent is set aside for a national enrollment campaign and an additional 10 percent is set aside to increase enrollment of American Indians and Alaska Natives.

- \$47 million for Administration for Native Americans, which is level-funded with FY 2014, primarily to strengthen community economic development by providing job training and supporting business expansion, financial literacy, and home ownership. Funds also support the preservation of Native languages and the protection of natural and cultural resources for current and future generations under Esther Martinez Language Preservation Program Grants.

Additional Department of Health and Human Services Budget Resources

- [FY 2015 Department of Health and Human Services Budget - In Brief](#)
- [FY 2015 Department of Health and Human Services Budget Press Conference](#)

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

The President’s total FY 2015 Department of Agriculture (USDA) budget request is set at \$140 billion – a decrease of \$6 billion from the FY 2014 enacted level – with \$23.2 billion in discretionary programs and \$116 billion in mandatory spending.

Specific Proposals and Native Education Initiatives

USDA has requested level funding for most programs but would decrease funds to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as Food Stamps, as a result of expiring funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

Department of Agriculture (Dollars in Millions)	FY 2014 (Enacted)	FY 2015 Request	Change from FY14 to FY15
Federally Recognized Tribes Ext. Program	3	3	--
1994 Institutions Research Program	1.8	1.8	--
1994 Institutions Educational Equity Grants	3.3	3.3	--
Native American Endowment Equity Grants	12	12	--
Essential Community Facilities Program	4	4	--
1194 Institutions Extension Program	4	4	--
Supplemental Nutrition Asst. Prog. (SNAP)	88,829	84,246	(-4,583)
Food Distribution Prog. on Indian Reserv. (FDPIR)	104	120	16
Purchase of Traditional and Local Food	--	5	5
Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)	6,716	6,823	107

- \$6.8 billion in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) to support nearly 9 million individuals estimated to participate in the program. WIC is critical to the health of low-income pregnant women, new mothers, and their infants and young children.

- \$35 million for the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 implementation by providing school equipment grants to aid in the provision of healthy meals and continued support for other school-based resources.
- \$5 million in additional funds to the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations to expand the purchasing of traditional and locally-grown food from tribes. These funds would allow USDA to create a region-specific vendor model that could provide specific foods, such as locally sourced bison, wild rice, and blue corn meal.
- \$5 billion for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Contingency Fund to support the program as well as provides an increase of \$3 million to support oversight and monitoring of the state administration of SNAP.
- National School Lunch Program (NSLP) supports School Breakfast, Summer Food Service, and Child and Adult Care Food Programs that assists state and local governments in ensuring children receive meals that meet their nutritional needs. The budget requests funds at a level that supports anticipated participation, food cost inflation, and the six-percent performance-based reimbursement rate authorized for lunches.
- Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs) funding levels operated through the USDA were maintained at level funding for all TCU programs.

Additional Department of Agriculture Budget Resources

- [FY 2015 Department of Agriculture Services Budget - In Brief](#)
- [FY 2015 Department of Agriculture Services Budget Press Statement](#)

For more information, please contact Clint J. Bowers, NIEA Policy Associate, at cbowers@niea.org.