



INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION: TITLE VI AND FULBRIGHT-HAYS

ACTION NEEDED

We urge Congress to reject the President's proposed cuts and fund Title VI and Fulbright-Hays at a minimum of \$76 million. NEH is funded under the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.

FUNDING OVERVIEW

Recent cuts in funding to the Title VI and Fulbright-Hays programs have severely eroded our international education and foreign language infrastructure. Severe cuts implemented in FY 2011 resulted in 25% fewer resource centers, 18% fewer undergraduate and doctoral fellowships, fewer training opportunities for students and teachers, and fewer outreach activities to government and business.

Title VI & Fulbright Hays Annual Appropriations, FY 10 to Present (in millions of dollars)

Table with 8 columns: Category, FY 2010, FY 2011, FY 2012, FY 2013, FY 2014, FY 2015, FY 2016. Rows include Title VI, Fulbright-Hays, and Total.

For FY 2017, President Obama requested level funding for Title VI programs and only \$2.17 million for Fulbright-Hays. This proposed cut to Fulbright-Hays would amount to a 69% reduction to programs that fund scholars, students, and teachers to develop deep cultural knowledge.

ABOUT TITLE VI AND FULBRIGHT-HAYS

Title VI funding supports:

- National Resource Centers, which are centers on college and university campuses that serve as resources for teaching over 130 foreign languages and deepening understanding of all areas and regions of the world.
▪ Foreign-Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowships, which enable undergraduate and graduate students to undergo training in critical foreign languages and area or international studies.
▪ Language Resource Centers, which improve the nation's capacity for teaching and learning foreign languages through teacher training, research, and materials development.
▪ Centers for International Business Education, which promote U.S. global economic competitiveness by improving international business education and research and serving as national and regional resources for businesses, government, and other U.S. educational institutions.

- American Overseas Research Centers, which promote international scholarly exchange, primarily through sponsorship of fellowship programs, foreign language study, and collaborative research projects.
- The Undergraduate International Studies and Foreign Language Program, which funds efforts to establish and strengthen undergraduate programs in foreign languages and international and area studies.

Fulbright-Hays includes four programs providing overseas support for Title VI. Due to funding reductions since FY 2011, only two programs are currently funded. They support:

- Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad (DDRA), which supports individual doctoral students to conduct research in other countries in critical foreign languages and area and international studies, especially in areas of the world not generally included in U.S. curricula.
- Group Projects Abroad (GPA), which supports overseas projects in training, research, and curriculum development in foreign languages and area studies for teachers, students, and faculty, including advanced intensive language programs to increase proficiency levels.

TITLE VI AND FULBRIGHT-HAYS SERVE NATIONAL NEEDS

- The ability of our nation to engage with diverse cultures at home and abroad through deep language and international expertise is crucial to our economic competitiveness and national security.
- In 2011, only 28% of the Department of Defense's foreign language positions were filled with personnel at the required proficiency level.
- 70% of U.S. corporate firms reported in a recent Association for International Business Education and Research survey that foreign language skills and an appreciation for cross-cultural differences are the most important requirements for entry-level positions.
- Other federal programs with more targeted priorities, such as those at the Departments of Defense, Commerce, and State, depend on the Title VI and Fulbright-Hays to support students and scholars in area studies and foreign languages in order to further their respective strategic goals.

TITLE VI AND FULBRIGHT-HAYS ARE EFFECTIVE

- In 2007, a National Research Council study found that HEA-Title VI and Fulbright-Hays "have served as the foundation for internationalization in higher education at modest cost, while stimulating substantial additional investment by universities themselves."
- Students who received a FLAS or DDRA fellowship were more likely to finish their degree and did so in less time than their peers according to the same 2008 longitudinal study.
- A 2008 Department of Education funded study concluded that 90% of Fulbright-Hays dissertation research abroad fellowship recipients and 71% of Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) fellowship recipients worked in careers that directly utilized their foreign language and area studies expertise.