



## Statement on the President's 2015 Budget

March 18, 2014

The Joint National Committee for Languages and the National Council for Languages and International Studies welcomes President Obama's Fiscal Year 2015 Budget, as it continues modest re-investments in language and international education. However, JNCL-NCLIS and its 91 member organizations reiterate our call for sustained, meaningful investment in language and international education, and we remain concerned about the lack of coordination across the federal government in the area of language and global expertise. This lack of coordination is acutely evidenced in the President's budget, as certain programs receive funding increases, while others undergo drastic cuts.

As the Secretaries of State, Defense, and Education have repeatedly noted, foreign languages and global competence are foundational skills for responsible 21<sup>st</sup> century citizenship, with vital consequences in the U.S. for national security, economic growth and employment, and social justice. The federal government's investments in these skills constitute a pipeline from elementary education through post-graduate study, and include investments in research and development, teacher training, and student mobility, all required to support the pipeline. However, this pipeline is susceptible to damage through uncoordinated actions among the Executive Branch departments and agencies, as cuts to one program necessarily impact other components of the system.

In sum, JNCL-NCLIS calls for careful coordination across all agencies, and ask the Congress to ensure that the programs listed below receive robust funding, to ensure the long-term national wealth.

### **US Department of Education:**

*Title VI and Fulbright-Hays:* President Obama's budget includes a \$4m increase to the domestic programs of Title VI of the Higher Education Act. The President's budget directs half of this increase to the Undergraduate International Studies and Foreign Language Program, in order to continue implementation of the Department of Education's International Strategy and to broaden access to Foreign Language and International Education. The other \$2m are directed to a new program to increase academic mobility and study abroad in South and Southeast Asia, part of the Administration's Shift to the Pacific.

Joint National Committee for Languages • National Council for Languages and International Studies

P.O. Box 386  
Garrett Park, MD 20896

202-580-8684

[www.languagepolicy.org](http://www.languagepolicy.org)



JNCL-NCLIS applauds this modest re-investment, but notes that, if enacted, it would bring the total funding to \$77m, still more than \$50m below the fiscal year 2011 levels. JNCL-NCLIS joins the Coalition for International Education in requesting an overall increase of \$10m, with \$9m for domestic programs and \$1m for international programs. Moreover, while we applaud the efforts of the Department to expand access to global skills, and to support the Administration's new focus on South and Southeast Asia, we would be remiss in not pointing out that other parts of the world – whether South America or the Former Soviet Union – remain as strategically challenging as ever. We therefore urge the Department to include all languages and world areas in its planning and budgeting.

*Foreign Language Assistance Program:* The Department requests \$25m for the Well-Rounded Education Program. This program replaces \$490m allocated in FY11 among six curricular areas, including the Foreign Language Assistance Program. JNCL-NCLIS continues its request for the restoration of the Foreign Language Assistance Program, and respectfully notes that the Well-Rounded Education Program has not been funded in the prior two appropriations, and that the Department's request has declined from \$490m (2012) to \$75m (2013) to \$25m. The Department has indicated that other funding might be used to support Foreign Language Education, such as Title I formula grants for disadvantaged schools, and Title III formula grants for English Language education, but these funds are not specifically allocated to foreign languages and they do not generally allow states or districts to make targeted investments. Finally, while FLAP had significant issues in program administration, as noted in 2009 by the Government Accounting Office, JNCL-NCLIS contends that such challenges were primarily the responsibility of the Department, and that the GAO report did not properly characterize the transformational impact of FLAP on socioeconomically and demographically diverse districts from Anchorage to Hattiesburg, Mississippi to Glastonbury, Connecticut, nor did it capture the revolution in FL curriculum enabled over the course of FLAP's existence.

Despite the development of the International Strategy and the work of the International Affairs Office and the International and Foreign Language Education Program, the stated goals of the Secretary and the Department continue to be undermined by the lack of investment in K-12 foreign language education. In addition to documenting the well-understood necessity of foreign languages to national security, economic growth and employment, and social justices and civil rights, JNCL-NCLIS has provided ample evidence to the public, Congress, and the administration on the



cognitive and educational affordances of foreign language education, and we note that many state education agencies and local education agencies – from Utah to Delaware to Washington, DC to Des Moines, and many others – have chosen to *add* foreign languages to their curricula, despite significant budgetary and curricular constraints.

We call on Secretary Duncan and President Obama to re-invest in K-12 foreign language education with specific programming and funding. We request that Congress allocate \$5m to the FLAP program.

**Department of Defense:**

*National Security Education Program's Boren, Flagship, and National Language Service Corps:* JNCL-NCLIS is discouraged by the 6.791m decrease in the request for the Defense Language and National Security Office. These programs are critical to the early training of high school and university students in foreign language and area studies who go on to become experts serving in the Defense Department and Intelligence Community. DLNSEO also leads the Department's strategic policy planning regarding foreign language, culture, and regional expertise for Department of Defense personnel. JNCL-NCLIS urges Congress to preserve funding at FY14 levels for these vital programs.

*The Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center* is the world's largest language school, educating some 5,000 American service members in 18 languages. DLIFLC has as its mission criteria the Interagency Language Roundtable levels of 2+/2+/2 in Listening, Reading, and Speaking, respectively. Graduates of the DLIFLC go on to serve as military language professionals in the NSA, DIA, SOCOM, and the Combatant Commands. Since 9/11, DLIFLC has expanded to serve diverse military missions beyond SIGINT and HUMINT, has expanded the number of languages taught, has revolutionized its curricula and testing. Moreover, DLIFLC has pioneered intensive language instruction, rapid development of curricula in newly emergent critical languages, blended learning technologies, aptitude testing, and many other significant practices in world language education, impacting the entire US language teaching system.

The President's FY15 Budget requests a decrease in the DLIFLC budget of \$26.4m, and will result in the loss of 385 jobs at DLIFLC. JNCL-NCLIS opposes this request and asks Congress to fund DLIFLC at the FY14 levels.



Related Training Activities: The President's FY15 Budget requests a decrease of \$27m in contracting for Specialized Skills Training, to include contracting by DLIFLC for satellite broadcasting services and research and development at DLIFLC. JNCL-NCLIS opposes this request and asks Congress to fund these at the FY14 levels.

The President's Budget includes a decrease of \$42.05m in Training Support for the US Army. This includes foreign language training product development. JNCL-NCLIS opposes this request and asks Congress to fund these at the FY14 levels.

The Defense Advanced Research Project Agency stands as one of three key funders of advanced research and development in language and linguistics, along with Title VI and the National Science Foundation. In the President's FY15 request, the DARPA Language Technology budget decreases from \$70.46m to \$39.33m, a cut of \$31.13m or 44.1%. This reflects the end of the Broad Operational Language Technology Program, which was appropriated at \$45.11m in FY14. One new program, Foreign Language Rapid Response, is planned at \$11m in FY15.

Given the continued and diversifying requirements for language in national security, and the increasingly complex intersection of STEM and FL, JNCL-NCLIS notes that this reduction in one of the three key R&D accounts for language and linguistics jeopardizes national security. JNCL-NCLIS calls on DARPA Language Technology to be funded at the full FY14 level of \$70.46m.

### **Department of State:**

The Department of State's budgets for Educational and Cultural Exchange fund a variety of programs, which impact our field and membership, including the National Security Language Initiative for Youth (NSLI-Y), the Critical Language Scholarship Program, and the Teachers of Critical Languages Program. The President's FY15 Budget requests \$577m for the overall budget for educational and cultural exchanges, an increase of \$17m over the \$560m in FY14. JNCL-NCLIS applauds the increase in exchange programs and requests that Congress support this increase.

Research and Training for Eastern Europe and the New Independent States of the Former Soviet Union (Title VIII): We call for the FY 2012 level of \$5.7m in the budget of the Bureau of Intelligence and Research for the Program for Research and Training for Eastern Europe and the New Independent States of the Former Soviet Union (Title VIII). The Department in 2014 eliminated Title VIII. Despite its minimal cost, Title VIII is a program that continues to have a significant impact on the



analytic and diplomatic capacities of the Department of State and on the research base in the academic sector. It has produced many of the most prominent American policymakers and specialists in the region, including former Secretaries of State Madeleine Albright and Condoleezza Rice, and US Ambassador to Russia, Michael McFaul. Given the turmoil in this vitally important region, JNCL-NCLIS calls for restoration of Title VIII.

**National Science Foundation:** The *Behavioral and Cognitive Sciences* program of the Directorate of Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences of the National Science Foundation serves as one of the three primary funders of basic research in language and linguistics, along with the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency's Language Technology Program and the US Department of Education's Title VI/Fulbright-Hays programs. In the President's FY15 request, the BCS programs receive \$94.47m, an increase of \$1.08m (1.2%) over the FY14 level of \$93.39m.

JNCL-NCLIS recognizes this limited investment, but notes that in the context of prior cuts due to sequestration and with planned cuts to the DARPA Language Technology budget, national security and economic competitiveness will be adversely impacted by the overall cuts in research and development for language and linguistics. JNCL-NCLIS calls on the Congress to fund BCS at the 2012 level of \$98m.

**National Endowment for the Humanities:** JNCL-NCLIS supports the position of the National Humanities Alliance. For FY 2015, we urge Congress to provide no less than \$154.5 million in funding for the National Endowment for the Humanities. The President's FY15 request is for level funding at **\$146m**. This level of funding would allow the agency to better exercise its critical role as a catalyst for educational, research, preservation, and programming initiatives in the humanities by meeting extensive demand for support, which routinely outstrips available funds. In FY 2013, NEH received 4,757 grant applications, which requested approximately \$480 million. Of these applications, NEH funded approximately 14.5%. Since FY 2008 applications to NEH have increased by more than 11%.

**Intelligence Community:** While detailed information is not publicly available for the Intelligence Community's language activities, JNCL-NCLIS calls for level funding of these programs, to include STARTALK as well as internal FL programs.