Fiscal Year 2026 Appropriations Requests

AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR MICROBIOLOGY

ASM is one of the oldest and largest professional life science organizations in the world, composed of more than 37,000 scientists and health professionals. Our vision is to proactively harness the power of microbes to solve humanity's most pressing challenges, and our mission is to promote and advance the microbial sciences, including programs and initiatives funded by the U.S. government. Basic, translational and clinical microbial research is funded by multiple federal science agencies, and public health funding is critical to the implementation of advances made against pathogens.

National Institutes of Health (NIH)

FY 2026 Request:
$51.3 billion

Current Funding Level:
$46.8 billion

The requested appropriation for the NIH budget of at least $51.3 billion would expand NIH's base discretionary resources to support promising biomedical research. This builds on Congress' recent investments in NIH that accelerate the development of new therapies and diagnostics, support current and future scientists nationwide, and advance the potential of medical research breakthroughs. Funding for the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H) is not included in our ask of $51.3 billion in base discretionary funding for NIH. For ARPA-H to be successful in targeted "high potential, high impact" research areas, we request at least $1.7 billion for ARPA-H in FY2026.

ASM requests $7.29 billion for the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), which funds basic, clinical and translational microbiology research on pressing threats to human health, such as Valley fever and antimicrobial resistance. Infections frequently complicate other types of medical care, including organ transplantation, cancer treatment, cesarean sections, hip and knee replacements and other surgeries, making infectious disease research essential to the foundation of health care.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

FY 2026 Request:
$11.6 billion

Current Funding Level:
$9.2 billion

ASM supports a funding level of $11.6 billion for the CDC in FY26. CDC provides the scientific expertise and infrastructure necessary to prevent disease, prepare for emerging threats and respond to public health emergencies. Through the CDC's Antimicrobial Resistance (AR) Solutions Initiative, the CDC leads the U.S. public health response and strategy to address AR by investing in national infrastructure to detect, respond, contain and prevent resistant infections across health care settings. We recommend $400 million in funding for the AR Laboratory Network.

Other examples of CDC's innovative work include the Advanced Molecular Detection (AMD) program and the National Wastewater Surveillance System (NWSS). The AMD program integrates the latest next-generation genomic sequencing techniques to help find, track and stop disease-causing pathogens more quickly. ASM supports increasing appropriations for the program to $50 million to build on AMD's innovation, modernize state and local health departments and collaborate with U.S. universities to strengthen the public health workforce. The NWSS program is a critical tool for tracking infectious diseases across the country and protecting Americans from outbreaks including seasonal influenza, H5N1 and mpox. ASM requests $120 million for the Emerging Infectious Diseases program at the National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases to support the infrastructure and expertise needed to conduct wastewater surveillance to detect, prevent and respond to outbreaks.

Questions? Contact ASM at advocacy@asmusa.org

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National Science Foundation (NSF)

FY 2026 Request:
$9.9 billion

Current Funding Level:
$9.06 billion

Research funded by NSF has proven vital to the nation's economic growth, national security and overall competitiveness in science, technology, engineering and mathematics development and education. ASM requests $9.9 billion for NSF to sustain curiosity-driven, high-impact research, strengthen STEM education and workforce programs and advance solutions to today's most pressing challenges, including the bioeconomy. The Directorate for Biological Sciences at NSF is a key supporter of microbiology research, including research supporting ecosystems and biodiversity, mapping the microbiome and discovering emerging pathogens. Research supported by the directorate and NSF drive discoveries and solutions to promote the bioeconomy, advancement in forecasting and mitigating the impacts of extreme weather events on essential ecosystem services and help predict and prevent the emergence and spread of infectious diseases.

U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI)

FY 2026 Request:
$500 million

Current Funding Level:
$445 million

ASM supports the USDA's Research, Education and Economics mission areas and urges Congress to provide $500 million for the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) in FY26. Investment in AFRI will help to spur new research innovations that fuel the economy, safeguard food security and conserve our nation's environmental resources. This includes research on the microbiomes of food animals, plants and soils, on food and nutrition security and on agricultural biosecurity to protect our nation's food supply.

Department of Energy, Office of Science

FY 2026 Request:
$9.5 billion

Current Funding Level:
$8.24 billion

ASM supports the allocation of $9.5 billion for DOE's Office of Science. This investment would allow DOE to prioritize funding for early-stage research and ensure that the U.S. remains a global leader in science and technology. The Office of Science funds pioneering research, trains the next generation of scientists, and operates the world's largest scientific user facilities to spur economic growth and ensure national security. The Biological and Environmental Research program supports scientific research to achieve a predictive understanding of complex biological, earth and environmental systems with the aim of advancing the nation's energy and infrastructure security. ASM strongly encourages support for the Joint Genome Institute (JGI), which provides essential sequencing, synthesis, metabolomics, and computational tools for studying complex biological and environmental systems. This includes support for the National Microbiome Data Collaborative within JGI to facilitate the discovery of new insights into fundamental biological processes and accelerate advancements in microbiome research. ASM also supports funding for the Bioenergy Research Centers to support research into viable and sustainable domestic biofuel and bioproducts industries.