



FISCAL YEAR 2012
**TERMINATIONS, REDUCTIONS,
AND SAVINGS**
BUDGET OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT

OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WWW.BUDGET.GOV

TERMINATION: AGRICULTURAL, FORESTRY, AND FISHING PROGRAM

Department of Health and Human Services

The Administration proposes no funding for the Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing Program (AFF) within the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) because these activities are not central to CDC's Mission and overlap with other Federal efforts. AFF Program activities are more aligned with the missions and activities of similar efforts at the Departments of Labor (DOL) and Agriculture (USDA).

Funding Summary (In millions of dollars)

	2010 Enacted	2012 Request	2012 Change from 2010
Budget Authority.....	23	0	-23

Justification

Recent program evaluations have emphasized the need for NIOSH to develop a more coordinated approach to its intramural and extramural programs. For example, the National Academies stated that the AFF Program lacked a single cohesive vision to drive the research agenda and that the lack of consistent leadership, long-term strategic planning, and periodic review of that course led to a piecemeal approach to the research that appeared disjointed more often than not. The National Academies also stated that the AFF Program has not always focused on the most appropriate cases and that workers have not accepted the majority of research contributions. Furthermore, the study also found that "there was little evidence that the research activities, outputs, and intermediate outcomes contributed to the stated end outcomes of reducing workplace injury and illness."¹

NIOSH does not have the direct responsibility to regulate Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing hazards, which has in some part led to the difficulty third parties had implementing NIOSH recommendations. This research is more aligned with the missions of DOL and USDA. DOL and USDA have more direct programs that address these issues and could be in a better place to achieve intended outcomes. For example, the DOL's website contains extensive information on how to improve farm safety and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration has approved more than 25 State and U.S. Territory plans to adopt standards and enforcement policies related to Agricultural farming.

Citations

¹Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing Research at NIOSH (2008) Board on Agriculture and Natural Resources (BANR) Institute of Medicine.

TERMINATION: EDUCATION RESEARCH CENTERS

Department of Health and Human Services

The 2012 Budget proposes to redirect funding for the Education and Research Centers (ERCs) Program within the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) since the intended goals of the program have been met. These Centers provide seed money for academic institutions to develop occupational health training programs, which has already been accomplished.

Funding Summary
(In millions of dollars)

	2010 Enacted	2012 Request	2012 Change from 2010
Budget Authority.....	25	0	-25

Justification

ERCs were created in the mid-1970s to provide seed money for academic institutions to develop or expand occupational health and safety training programs for specialists currently practicing in the field. NIOSH currently supports 120 academic program staff, including 87 ERC grantee level academic programs. The original programmatic plan was to provide money for five years for institutions to develop and/or expand existing occupational health and safety training programs and for the grantees to become self-sustaining over time.

NIOSH has met the goal as originally intended for this program. In 2000, the Institute of Medicine (IOM) estimated that there were 175 Occupational and Safety Health programs across the United States. The IOM also estimated that "U.S. schools graduate about 300 students annually and approximately 400 master's-level industrial hygienists graduate each year, a volume roughly equal to employer demand in the industrial sector that has most commonly used them."¹ According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, there is an estimated 55,800 total jobs available for occupational safety and health in 2008, also level with the number of existing graduates in the occupational and safety health field.

NIOSH does not have a means for tracking the location and employment of ERC graduates or the percentage of graduates who work at Health Departments and there is no data on the number of graduates that have entered the field. ERCs also overlap with activities offered by the Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Bureau through their Outreach Training Program, Resource Center Loan Program, and Training Institute Education Centers.

All of the ERC grants are jointly funded by both NIOSH and the Academic Center grantee. NIOSH contributions cannot exceed 50 percent of individual faculty and professional staff total salaries and fringe benefits. The Budget only eliminates the NIOSH portion. The non-Federal portion of the ERCs could still be continued albeit at a reduced level. The private sector could also increase funds for these activities.

Citations

¹ Safe Work in the 21st Century: Education and Training Needs for the Next Decade's Occupational Safety and Health Personnel (2000) Institute of Medicine.