

# Reduce High Energy Physics (HEP) Program Funding

SAVINGS IN MILLIONS OF DOLLARS

2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2016-2020	2016-2025
\$10	\$10	\$10	\$10	\$10	\$10	\$10	\$11	\$11	\$11	\$50	\$103

## Heritage Recommendation:

Reduce funding for the High Energy Physics (HEP) program. This proposal saves \$10 million in 2016, and \$102 million over 10 years.

## Rationale:

The HEP program has the mission of uncovering “how our universe works at its most fundamental level.” In effect, HEP exists to explore how space, matter, time, and energy interact with one another. Financial support from the HEP goes to 10 national laboratories and more than 100 public and private universities to study proton-accelerator-based physics, electron-accelerator-based physics, non-accelerator physics, theoretical physics, and advanced-technology research and development.

Understanding these issues is an area of research that the private sector would likely not undertake, so it is an appropriate endeavor for America’s research labs and universities—but it is certainly not a critical function of government, especially considering America’s fiscal situation. HEP is an area in which universities would strive to be the best and attract young talent and private funding.

## Additional Reading:

- Nicolas Loris, “Department of Energy Budget Cuts: Time to End the Hidden Green Stimulus,” Heritage Foundation *Backgrounder* No. 2668, March 23, 2012, <http://www.Heritage.org/research/reports/2012/03/departments-of-energy-budget-cuts-time-to-end-the-hidden-green-stimulus>.

## Calculations:

Savings are expressed as budget authority and were calculated by comparing current spending levels to estimated levels had FY 2008 spending increased only for inflation. The FY 2008 spending level of \$701.5 million is found on page 16 of Nicolas Loris, “Department of Energy Budget Cuts: Time to End the Hidden Green Stimulus,” Heritage Foundation *Backgrounder* No. 2668, March 26, 2012, [http://thf\\_media.s3.amazonaws.com/2012/pdf/bg2668.pdf](http://thf_media.s3.amazonaws.com/2012/pdf/bg2668.pdf). The FY 2014 funding level of \$797.5 million can be found on page 120 of House of Representatives, 113th Congress, 2nd Session, “Energy and Water Development Appropriations Bill, 2015,” <http://appropriations.house.gov/uploadedfiles/hrpt-113-hr-fy2015-energywater.pdf>. Estimated spending for 2014, if held constant at the 2008 spending level (plus CPI inflation as reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics), would have been \$788 million, as compared to the enacted level of \$797 million. The \$9 million difference between the two spending levels was increased at the same rate as discretionary spending in the CBO’s most recent August 2014 baseline discretionary spending projections.