

Number of People Involved in NSF Activities

Estimates are that in FY 2010 over 215,000 people will be directly involved in NSF programs and activities, receiving salaries, stipends, or participant support. Also, NSF programs indirectly impact millions of people. These programs reach K-12 students and teachers, the general public, and researchers through activities including workshops; informal science activities such as museums, television, videos, and journals; outreach efforts; and dissemination of improved curriculum and teaching methods.

	Number of People Involved in NSF Activities			
	FY 2008 Estimate	FY 2009 Estimate	FY 2009 ARRA ¹ Estimate	FY 2010 Estimate
Senior Researchers	43,019	45,290	12,910	48,850
Other Professionals	12,499	13,030	4,160	14,020
Postdoctoral Associates	6,013	6,480	1,990	7,190
Graduate Students	37,308	39,110	12,405	42,780
Undergraduate Students	24,407	25,210	6,275	27,000
K-12 Teachers	62,375	62,405	1,165	62,465
K-12 Students	12,801	12,760	570	12,790
Total, Number of People	198,422	204,285	39,475	215,095

¹ American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

Senior Researchers include scientists, mathematicians, engineers, and educators receiving funding through NSF awards. These include both researchers who are principal or co-principal investigators on research and education projects, and researchers working at NSF-supported centers and facilities.

Other Professionals are individuals who may or may not hold a doctoral degree or its equivalent, are considered professionals but are not reported as senior researchers, postdoctoral associates, or students. Examples are technicians, systems experts, etc.

Postdoctoral Associates are individuals who have received Ph.D., M.D., D.Sc., or equivalent and are not faculty members of the performing institution. About 98 percent are supported through funds included in research projects, centers, or facilities awards. Others are recipients of postdoctoral fellowships.

Graduate Students include those compensated from NSF grant funds. About 12 percent receive support through programs such as NSF Graduate Research Fellowships and NSF Graduate STEM Fellowships in K-12 Education. The balance assists senior researchers or postdoctoral associates in performing research and are supported through funds included in research projects, centers, or facilities awards. NSF provides support for about five percent of the science and engineering graduate students in the U.S.

Undergraduate Students include students enrolled in technical colleges or baccalaureate programs compensated from NSF grant funds. They may be assisting senior researchers or postdoctoral associates in performing research, or participating in NSF programs aimed at undergraduate students, such as Research Experiences for Undergraduates and the Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation.

K-12 Students are those attending elementary, middle, and secondary schools. They are supported through program components that directly engage students in science and mathematics experiences.

K-12 Teachers include teachers at elementary, middle, and secondary schools. These individuals actively participate in intensive professional development experiences in the sciences and mathematics.