



National Science Foundation  
WHERE DISCOVERIES BEGIN

# NSF Regional Grants Conference Introduction & NSF Overview

October 17-18, 2011

Hosted by: The University of Texas at Austin • Austin, TX



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# Panelist

## **Martha Rubenstein**

Director and Chief Financial Officer, Office of Budget, Finance & Award  
Management



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**Ask Early, Ask Often!**

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# Topics Covered

- **Origins of NSF**
  - **NSF Organization**
  - **NSF Budget in the Federal Context**
  - **NSF Fiscal Year 2012 Budget Request**
  - **Funding Trends**
  - **Interdisciplinary Research**
  - **Recovery Act Update**
  - **Federal Grants – On the Horizon**
  - **Research.gov**
  - **Key Documents**
  - **Questions**
-



# Origins of NSF



- **The Government should accept new responsibilities for promoting the flow of scientific knowledge and the development of scientific talent in our youth.”**
  - Science - The Endless Frontier, 1945
- **1947: Congress Approves, Truman Vetoes**
- **1950: Compromise Bill Approved & Signed by Truman**



# NSF Act of 1950

- **To promote the progress of science...”**
  - **NSB (24) and 1 Director, appointed by the President**
  - **Encourage & develop a national policy for the promotion of basic research and education in the math, physical, medical, biological, engineering and other sciences**
  - **Initiate & support basic scientific research in the sciences**
  - **Evaluate the science research programs undertaken by agencies of the Federal government**
  - **Provide information for S&E policy formation**
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# NSF Vision

**Advancing discovery, innovation,  
and education beyond the  
frontiers of current knowledge,  
and empowering future  
generations in science and  
engineering.**

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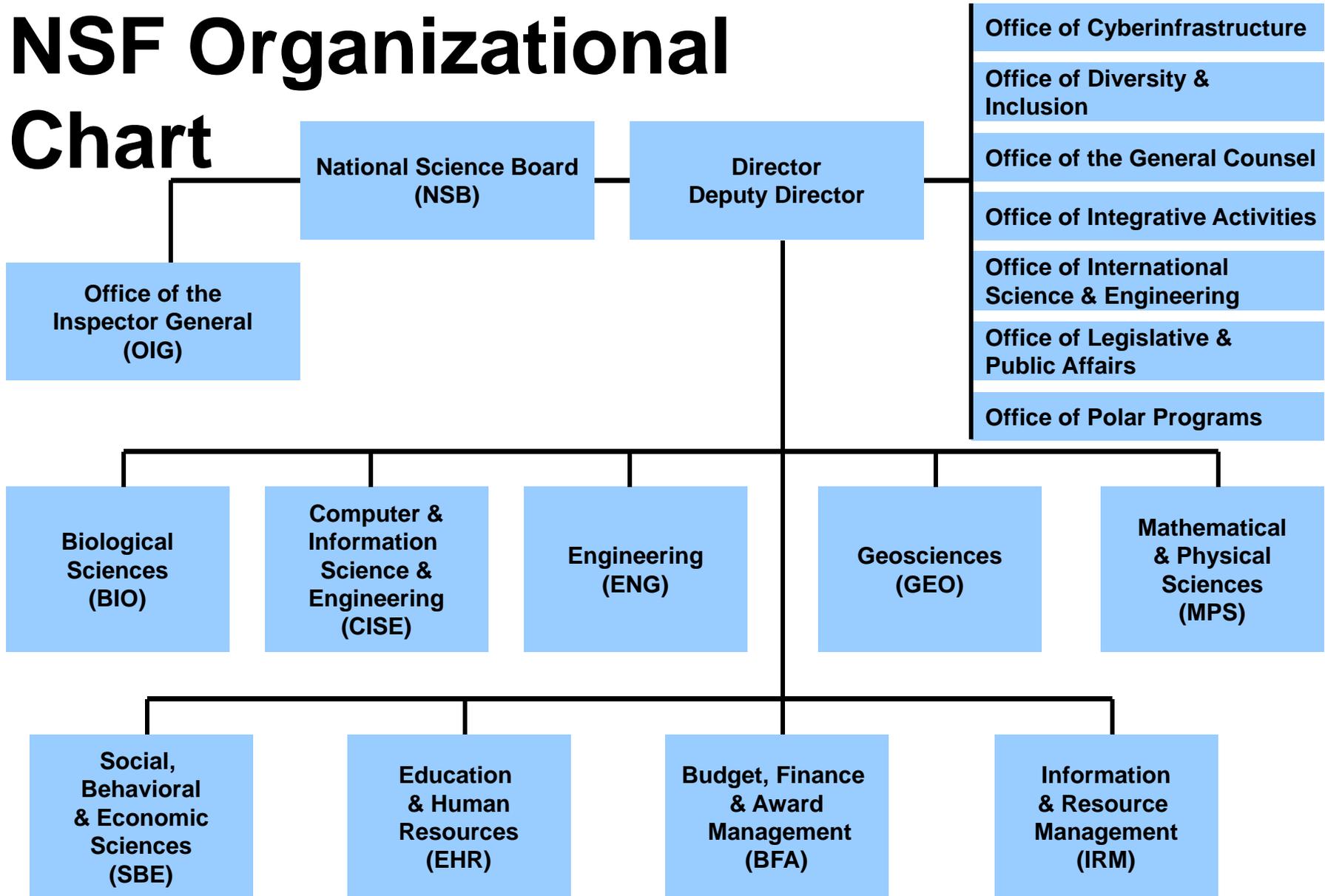


# NSF in a Nutshell

- **Independent Agency**
  - **Supports basic research & education**
  - **Uses grant mechanism**
  - **Low overhead; highly automated**
  - **Discipline-based structure**
  - **Cross-disciplinary mechanisms**
  - **Use of Rotators/IPAs**
  - **National Science Board**
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# NSF Organizational Chart





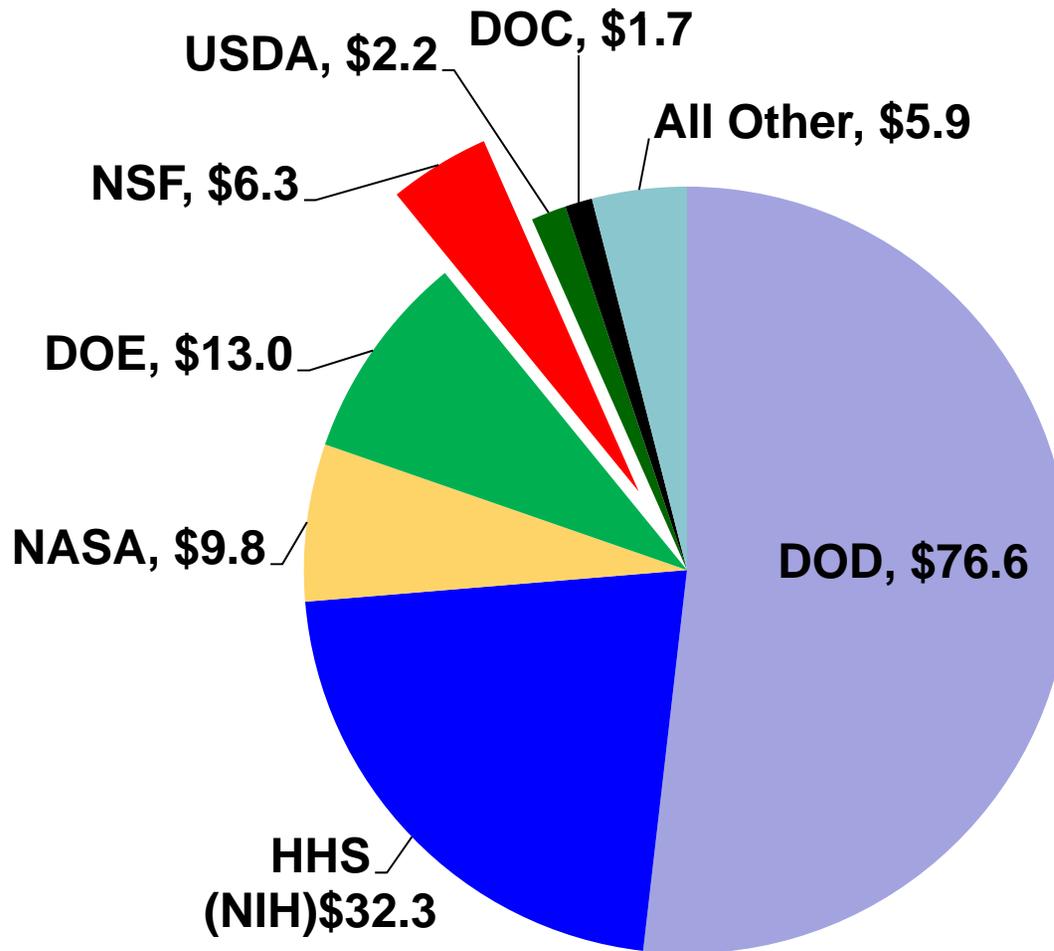
# Personnel Changes

- **Dr. Subra Suresh confirmed as NSF Director**
  - **Dr. Cora Marrett confirmed as NSF Deputy Director**
  - **John Wingfield appointed Assistant Director for Biological Sciences**
  - **Joan Ferrini-Mundy appointed Assistant Director for Education & Human Resources**
  - **Dr. Machi Dilworth appointed Head, Office of International Science & Engineering**
  - **Ms. Amy Northcutt appointed Acting Director of the Office of Information & Resource Management**
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# Total R&D by Agency: 2012 Budget

Budget Authority in billions of dollars

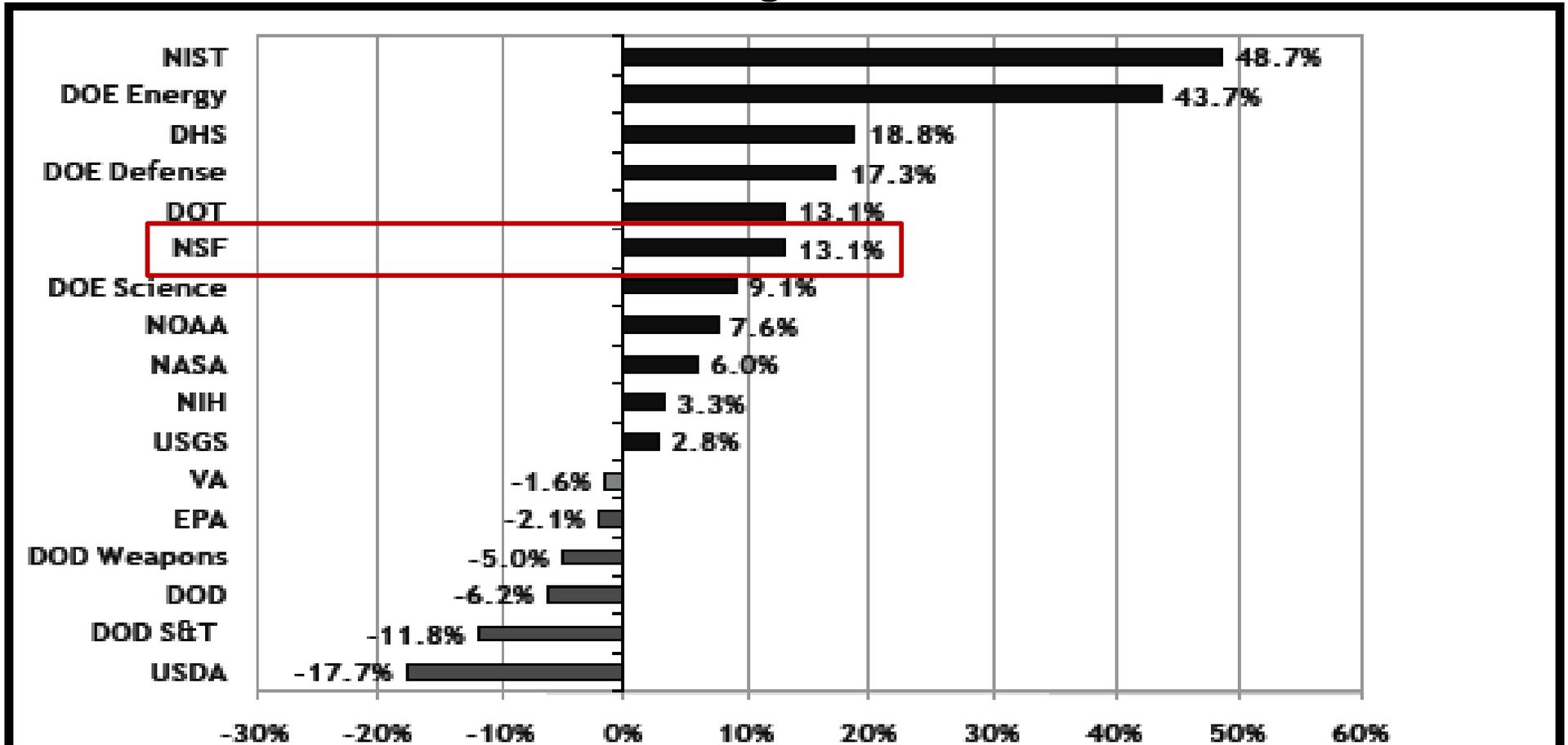


**Total R&D =  
\$147.9 billion**



# R&D in the FY 2012 Budget Request

## Percent Change from FY 2010





# FY 2012 Appropriations Status

- **July 13:** House Committee on Appropriations passed bill
  - **Sept 15:** Introduced to Senate Committee on Appropriations. Bill not yet passed.
  - **Oct 1:** FY 2012 began under Continuing Resolution
  - **Nov 18:** Continuing Resolution expires
-



# FY 2012 Budget Request

Account	FY 2011 Enacted	FY 2012 Request	FY 2012 House Mark	FY 2012 Senate Mark
R&RA	\$5,564	\$6,254	\$5,601	\$5,443
EHR	\$861	\$911	\$834	\$829
MREFC	\$117	\$225	\$100	\$117
AOAM	\$299	\$358	\$299	\$290
NSB	\$5	\$5	\$5	\$4
OIG	\$14	\$15	\$14	\$14
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,860</b>	<b>\$7,768</b>	<b>\$6,853</b>	<b>\$6,697</b>

Totals may not add due to rounding.

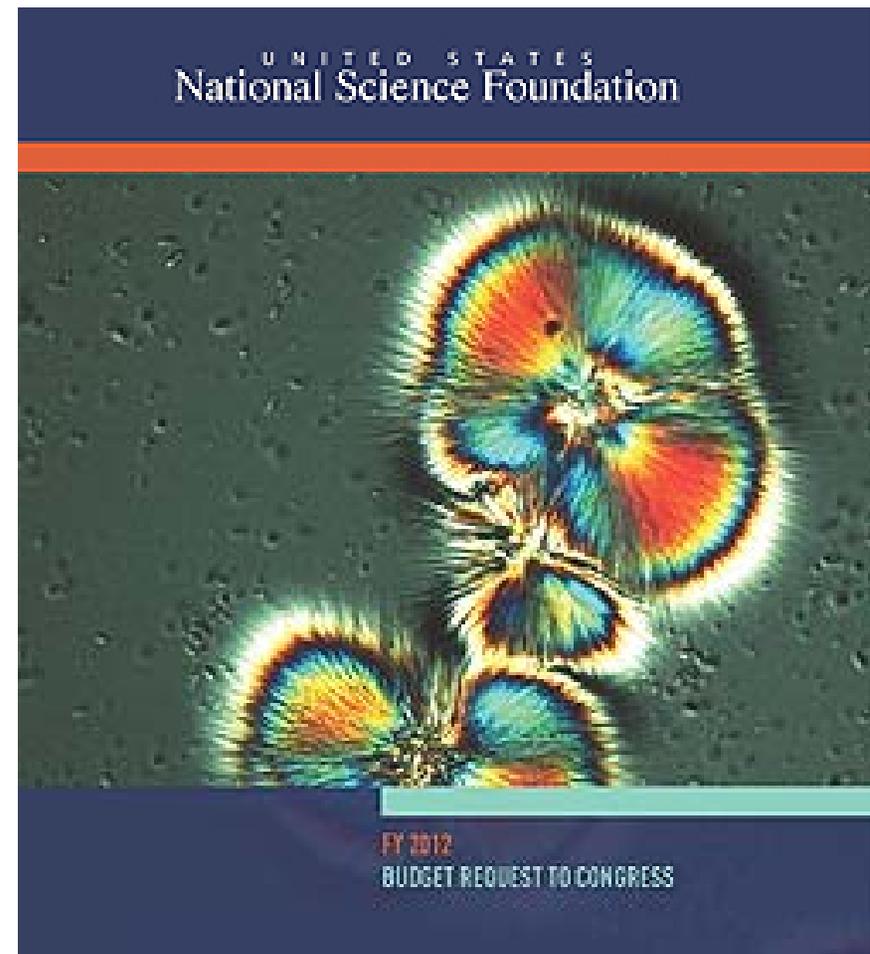


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# FY 2012 Budget Request

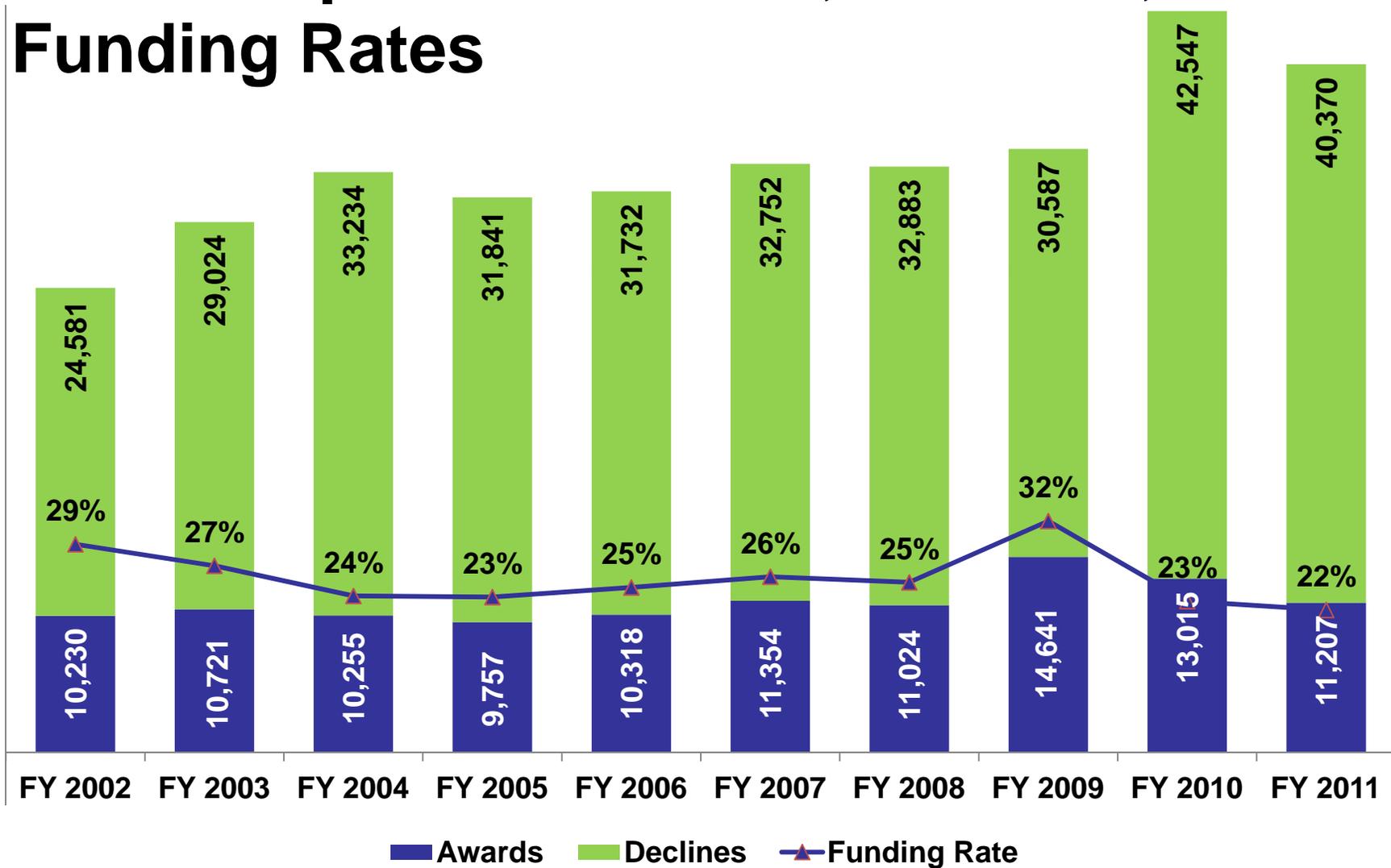
## The Three Pillars of Innovation

- Invest in the Building Blocks of American Innovation
- Promote Competitive Markets that Spur Productive Entrepreneurship
- Catalyze Breakthroughs for National Priorities



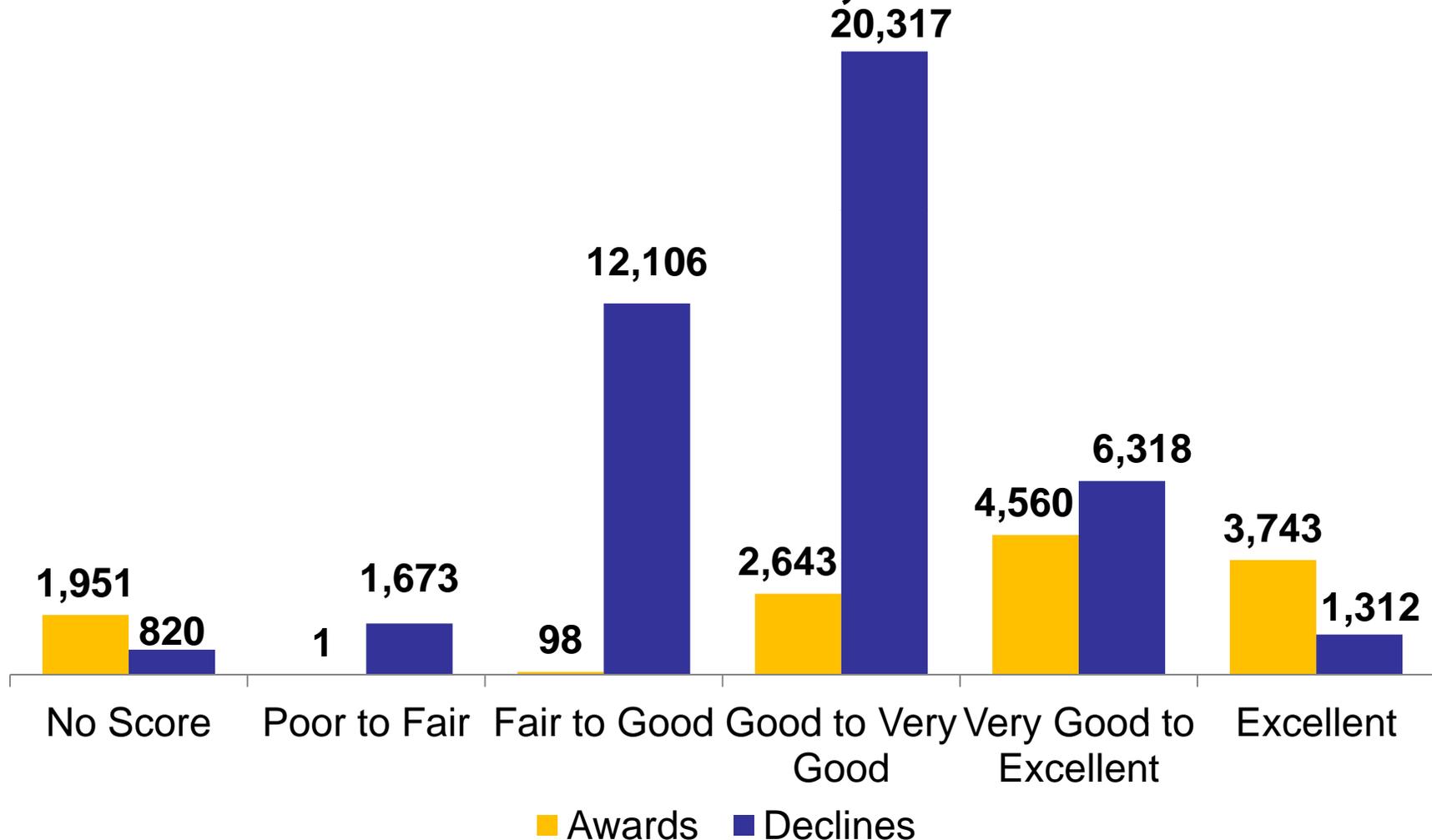


# NSF Competitive Awards, Declines, & Funding Rates





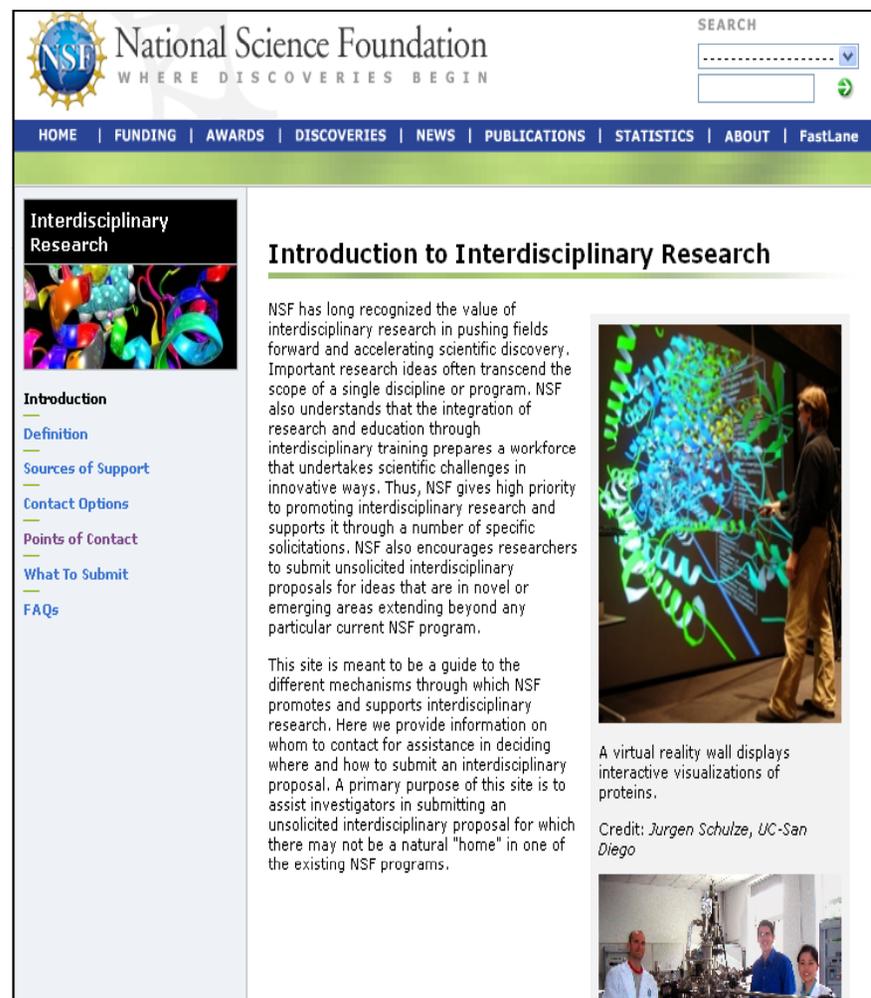
# Distribution by Average Reviewer Ratings for Awards and Declines, FY 2011





# Interdisciplinary Research (IDR)

- Important research ideas often transcend the scope of a single discipline or program.
- NSF gives high priority to promoting interdisciplinary research and supports it through a number of specific solicitations.
- NSF encourages submission of unsolicited interdisciplinary proposals for ideas that are in novel or emerging areas extending beyond any particular current NSF program.



The screenshot shows the NSF website page for Interdisciplinary Research. The header includes the NSF logo and the text "National Science Foundation WHERE DISCOVERIES BEGIN". A search bar is located in the top right corner. The navigation menu includes links for HOME, FUNDING, AWARDS, DISCOVERIES, NEWS, PUBLICATIONS, STATISTICS, ABOUT, and FastLane. The main content area is titled "Interdisciplinary Research" and features a colorful molecular model. Below the title is a list of links: Introduction, Definition, Sources of Support, Contact Options, Points of Contact, What To Submit, and FAQs. The main text is titled "Introduction to Interdisciplinary Research" and discusses the value of interdisciplinary research and the NSF's support for it. A photograph shows a person interacting with a large, colorful molecular model on a wall. The caption below the photo reads: "A virtual reality wall displays interactive visualizations of proteins. Credit: Jurgen Schulze, UC-San Diego". A small photograph at the bottom right shows three people in a laboratory setting.

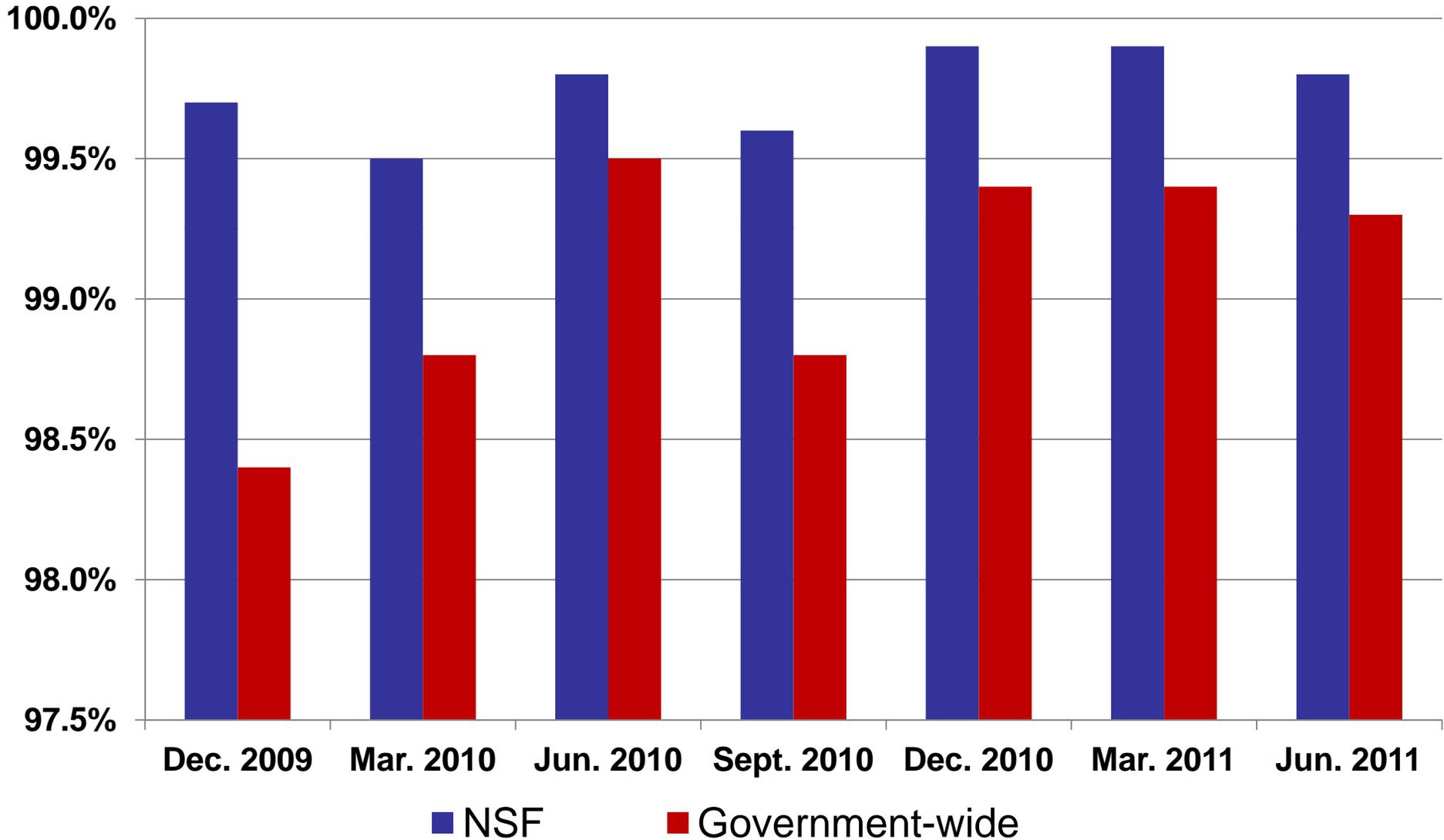


# ARRA: Reporting & Accountability Requirements

- The OMB expectation is for a high level of accountability and transparency from both agencies and recipients.
    - Higher scrutiny from:
      - Administration
      - Congress
      - Public
      - Recovery Act Accountability & Transparency Board
      - NSF Office of the Inspector General (OIG)
-



# ARRA Recipient Reporting Trends





# ARRA: Accelerating Spending

- OMB memo issued in September 2011 (M-11-34) instructing agencies to accelerate Recovery Act spending.
  - Eighty-five percent of Recovery Act funds have been spent, however, billions remain obligated yet unspent.
  - Funds still unspent by September 30, 2013, will be reclaimed by the agencies
  - Waivers will only be granted in exceptional cases.
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# Grants – What's on the Horizon

- Digital Accountability & Transparency Act (DATA Act)
    - Would require quarterly reporting on use of funds
  - STAR METRICS
    - Documenting results of federal S&T investments
  - Federal Grants Solicitations Improvement Act
    - Would require agencies to submit a forecast of grant solicitations by funding area for the coming fiscal year
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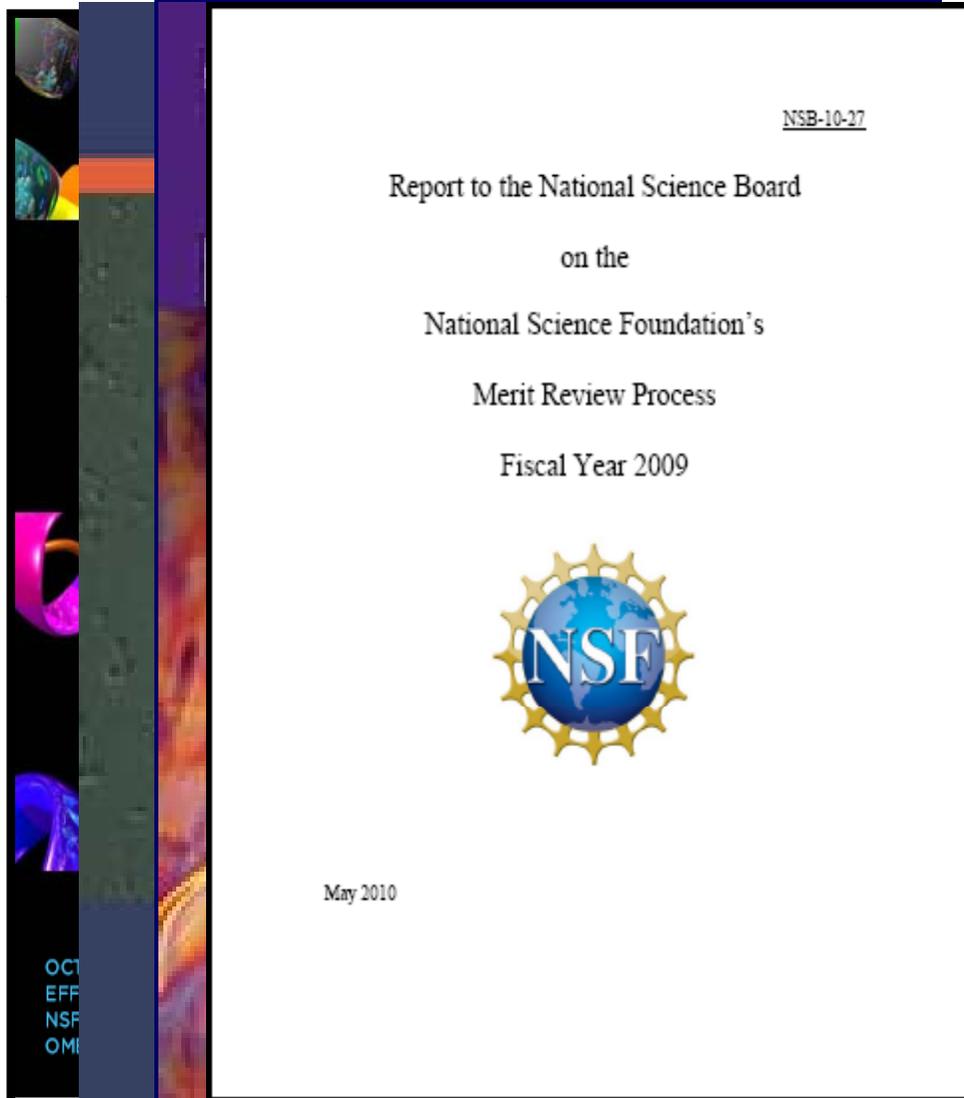
September 28, 2011

- Supports the needs of institutions and researchers
  - Increases transparency of Federal research spending and outcomes (Research Spending & Results/Project Outcomes Report)
  - Provides the public, scientific community, and Congress with easy access to information (SEE Innovation)
  - Leverages government-wide standards (RPPR/FFR)
-



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# Key Documents



- **Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide (PAPPG)**
- **FY 2012 Budget Request to Congress**
- **Science & Engineering Indicators**
- **Report to the NSB on NSF Merit Review Process**



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## For More Information

# Ask Early, Ask Often!

[nsf.gov/staff](https://www.nsf.gov/staff)

[nsf.gov/staff/orglist.jsp](https://www.nsf.gov/staff/orglist.jsp)

[nsf.gov/about/career\\_opps/rotators/index.jsp](https://www.nsf.gov/about/career_opps/rotators/index.jsp)

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