OFFICE OF MULTIDISCIPLINARY ACTIVITIES (OMA) $39,840,000
+$4,840,000 / 13.8%

OMA Funding

(Dollars in Millions)

	FY 2014 Actual	FY 2015 Estimate	FY 2016 Request	Change Over FY 2015 Estimate Amount	Change Over FY 2015 Estimate Percent
Total, OMA	**$35.17**	**$35.00**	**$39.84**	**$4.84**	**13.8%**
Research	**34.43**	**31.89**	**33.17**	**1.28**	**4.0%**
CAREER	0.92	-	-	-	N/A
Education	**0.74**	**3.11**	**6.67**	**3.56**	**114.5%**

Totals may not add due to rounding.

OMA enables and facilitates MPS support of novel, challenging, or complex projects of varying scale, in both research and education, which are not readily accommodated by traditional organizational structures and procedures. This is done primarily in partnership with MPS disciplinary divisions and is especially directed at activities by multi-investigator, multidisciplinary teams, as well as cross-NSF and interagency activities.

In general, approximately 62 percent of the OMA portfolio is available for new research grants and 38 percent is available for continuing grants.

In FY 2016, OMA will focus on multidisciplinary research that emphasizes the mathematical and physical scientific foundations of sustainability, including issues that affect food systems and the nexus of food, energy, and water; fundamental science critical to the discovery, understanding, and development of new materials; basic research at the interface between the mathematical and physical sciences and the life sciences that will lead to new insights into the molecular basis of life processes and to a better understanding of the healthy human brain and that of model animal species; computational and data-enabled science across the MPS divisions; multidisciplinary explorations in optics and photonics, including light-matter interaction at the nanoscale that encompass materials, devices, and systems; the understanding, control, and manipulation of the behavior of quantum matter and the limitations of quantum information processing; and team efforts aimed at the development of next-generation instrumentation to enable fundamental advances across a wide spectrum of disciplines. OMA also will provide leadership and support for INSPIRE and I-Corps™ activities within MPS.

MPS divisions have undertaken, or are engaged in, wide ranging reviews of their facilities portfolios. Of particular note is the portfolio analysis carried out by the MPS Advisory Committee, which is addressed further in the AST division narrative.

FY 2016 Summary

All funding decreases/increases represent change over the FY 2015 Estimate.

Research

- In FY 2016, OMA will focus on multidisciplinary research that addresses the key MPS and NSF-wide priority areas of optics and photonics, INFEWS, CIF21, CEMMSS, BioMaPS, clean energy, Understanding the Brain, INSPIRE, and I-Corps™.
- I-Corps™ (+$700,000 to a total of $1.70 million): This investment nearly doubles, primarily to support I-Corps™ teams. Investments are directed to an assessment of the commercial viability of the scientific discoveries in MPS disciplines through the individual investigator award program.
- INSPIRE: No change at $3.0 million.
- CIF21: OMA will continue to coordinate MPS' participation with BIO, CISE, and ENG.

Education

- OMA will contribute $400,000 to the Career-Life Balance supplements.
- OMA will provide the entire NRT contribution of $3.65 million (+$1.14 million) for the MPS directorate.

Facilities

- OMA will invest up to $7.0 million (no change) in FY 2016 to support responsible decisions regarding implementation of portfolio analysis recommendations. This investment will support studies of possible environmental issues, stewardship transition costs, or partnership start-up costs.