

OFFICE OF MULTIDISCIPLINARY ACTIVITIES (OMA)

\$31,280,000
-\$3,610,000 / -10.3%

OMA Funding
(Dollars in Millions)

	FY 2016 Actual	FY 2017 (TBD)	FY 2018 Request	Change Over FY 2016 Actual	
				Amount	Percent
Total	\$34.89	-	\$31.28	-\$3.61	-10.3%
Research	21.24	-	20.18	-1.06	-5.0%
CAREER	0.42	-	-	-0.42	-100.0%
Education	7.02	-	4.10	-2.92	-41.6%
Infrastructure	6.63	-	7.00	0.37	5.6%

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 undertaken by multi-investigator, multidisciplinary teams, as well as cross-NSF and interagency activities.

In FY 2018, OMA will focus on multidisciplinary research, chiefly through grant co-funding with MPS Divisions, that advance the basic foundations of mathematical and physical sciences. An important scientific focus for OMA investment in FY 2018 will be the area of quantum information science, where NSF participation in the form of sponsored projects could provide the impetus to advance both science and technology in a disruptive manner. This investment is expected to involve several divisions within MPS as well as within ENG and CISE. This investment also has the potential for significant societal benefit, as it offers approaches that move past the limitations of silicon technology. OMA also will provide leadership and support for I-Corps™, INCLUDES, and NSF Research Traineeships (NRT) activities within MPS. Beginning in FY 2016 and continuing through at least FY 2018, OMA purposefully invests, in partnership with the disciplinary programs that comprise the MPS Directorate, in grants to PIs at HBCUs to build capacity. Finally, in FY 2018, OMA will continue to invest generously in supplements that are designed to engage students from historically underrepresented racial and ethnic groups through graduate research supplements to projects at institutions that have active or legacy awards for the Alliances for Graduate Education and the Professoriate (AGEP-GRS) and Graduate Research Supplements to Veterans (GRSV).

In general, 39 percent of the OMA portfolio is available for new, multidisciplinary research grants within MPS, and 61 percent is available to support research and education activities that are of interest to MPS but that are led by NSF directorates other than MPS.

FY 2018 Summary

All funding decreases/increases represent changes over the FY 2016 Actual.

Research

- **Disciplinary and Interdisciplinary Research (+800,000 to a total of \$17.90 million):** Funding will focus on multidisciplinary research that addresses key MPS and NSF-wide investments such as Quantum Information Science, the Materials Genome Initiative through NSF’s CEMMSS program, Clean Energy, and UtB.

- I-Corps™ (+100,000 to total of \$1.70 million): Investments are directed to an assessment of the commercial viability of the scientific discoveries in MPS disciplines through the individual investigator award program.

Education

- In FY 2018, OMA will continue to invest on behalf of the entire MPS Directorate in the NRT program (-\$3.47 million to \$1.0 million).
- Career Life Balance (-\$200,000 to \$200,000): The decrease in the OMA investment is counterbalanced by a contribution from the sponsoring program or division, resulting in 1:1 funding with OMA.

Infrastructure

- Portfolio analysis (+\$370,000 to a total up to \$7.0 million): OMA will support responsible decision-making regarding implementation of portfolio analysis recommendations. This investment will support studies of possible environmental issues, stewardship transition costs, or partnership program start-up costs.