



NSF AT A GLANCE



FAST FACTS

1950

Year Congress created NSF

\$8.3B

NSF's approximate annual budget

93%

Percent of budget committed to research, education and related activities

11,000

Number of awards NSF funds each year

\$200M

Amount NSF awards annually to small business to move discoveries into the marketplace

\$1.2B

NSF spending each year on STEM education and workforce development

242

Number of Nobel Prize winners who received NSF funding

The National Science Foundation promotes the progress of science; advances the national health, prosperity, and welfare; and secures the national defense. It is the only federal agency that supports fundamental research in all fields of science and engineering, from mathematics and the geosciences to the biological, behavioral and computer sciences — and more. NSF also helps researchers and small businesses develop their discoveries into products and services through technology development, entrepreneurship training and industrial partnerships.

WHO WE ARE

The **NSF Director**, who is appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate, **leads a workforce** driven to improve the world through research, discovery and innovation. The workforce consists of 200 rotating scientists and engineers, 1,400 career employees and 450 contract employees.

In addition, a 24-member **National Science Board**, also presidentially appointed, establishes the overall policies of the foundation. Board members and the NSF director serve six-year terms.

WHAT WE DO

Discovery

NSF supports research and people that explore the unknown, seek to demystify nature and advance the frontiers of science and engineering. NSF funds researchers who generate new knowledge and discoveries that provide a greater understanding of the world around us. Situated at the intersection of all science and engineering disciplines, NSF is uniquely positioned to identify and guide investments toward new, cutting-edge research areas.

Research Infrastructure

NSF funds supercomputers, ground-based telescopes, the world's largest and highest-powered magnet lab, long-term ecological sites, engineering centers and other infrastructure and state-of-the-art tools to sustain the nation's scientific enterprise. NSF also supports research stations in the Arctic and other locales, and manages the nation's entire Antarctic program. These NSF-supported facilities drive discoveries and serve as training grounds for the next generation of scientists and engineers.

Learning

NSF programs support science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education and training that attract individuals from every sector and group in society, ensuring a pipeline of diverse people and ideas ready to solve pressing global challenges in STEM.

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FUELING THE U.S. ECONOMY



NSF's commitment to fund high-risk, high-reward ideas strengthens the U.S. economy by producing discoveries that lead to emerging industries and jobs. NSF programs like Innovation Corps and the Small Business Innovation Research program expand and sustain the nation's innovation ecosystem. NSF also upholds America's competitive edge by training and preparing a 21st century STEM workforce and funding research that leads to new technologies, from Google's page-ranking algorithm and the internet to Qualcomm and magnetic resonance imaging, also referred to as MRI.

ENHANCING THE NATION'S SECURITY



Within 24 hours of the September 11 terrorist attacks, rapid-response researchers funded by NSF arrived at ground zero to help locate survivors with shoebox-sized robots, study how building structures failed and collect other critical data. The nation's scientists and engineers have responded similarly to other catastrophes, from hurricanes and oil spills to cyberattacks in support of the nation's defense. In addition, NSF-funded researchers help support the U.S. military by developing everything from lighter, more flexible bulletproof vests to next generation prosthetics and new methods for treating post-traumatic stress disorder.

SUSTAINING GLOBAL LEADERSHIP



NSF's support for cutting-edge research has positioned the U.S. as a global leader in science and technology. We advance the frontiers of knowledge across the smallest and grandest of scales, from atoms and black holes to tissue engineering, artificial intelligence and quantum mechanics. NSF's long-term support for research conducted at U.S. colleges and universities has helped transform these institutions into global centers of discovery and innovation, able to attract talent from around the world.

NSF RESEARCH AREAS



BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES



MATHEMATICAL & PHYSICAL SCIENCES



**COMPUTER & INFORMATION SCIENCE
& ENGINEERING**



**SOCIAL, BEHAVIORAL &
ECONOMIC SCIENCES**



EDUCATION & HUMAN RESOURCES



OFFICE OF INTEGRATIVE ACTIVITIES



ENGINEERING



**OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL
SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING**



GEOSCIENCES

DID YOU KNOW?

With NSF support, future Google co-founders Sergey Brin and Larry Page created the page-ranking algorithm that would become the basis for their groundbreaking search engine.