Audit of the National Science Foundation’s Fiscal Years 2020 and 2019 Financial Statements

REPORT PREPARED BY KEARNEY & COMPANY, P.C.
AUDIT OBJECTIVE

The Chief Financial Officers Act of 1990, as amended, requires that NSF’s Inspector General or an independent external auditor, as determined by the Inspector General, audit NSF’s financial statements. Under a contract we monitored, Kearney & Company, P.C. (Kearney), an independent public accounting firm, performed the audit of NSF’s FY 2020 financial statements. Kearney is responsible for the attached auditor’s reports dated November 13, 2020, and the conclusions expressed therein. We do not express an opinion on NSF’s financial statements or on the conclusions expressed in Kearney’s reports on internal controls over financial reporting and on compliance with laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements.

AUDIT RESULTS


RECOMMENDATIONS

Kearney made no recommendations in its reports.

AGENCY RESPONSE

NSF’s response to Kearney’s draft reports is included in the AFR as Chapter 2, Attachment I.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT US AT OIGPUBLICAFFAIRS@NSF.GOV.
MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 13, 2020

TO: Dr. Ellen Ochoa
Chair
National Science Board

Dr. Sethuraman Panchanathan
Director
National Science Foundation

FROM: Allison C. Lerner
Inspector General
National Science Foundation

SUBJECT: Audit Report No. 21-2-001, Audit of the National Science Foundation’s Fiscal Years 2020 and 2019 Financial Statements

This memorandum transmits the Kearney & Company, P.C.’s reports on its financial statement audit of the National Science Foundation (NSF) for FY 2020, which includes FY 2019 comparative information.

Audit Reports on Financial Statements; Internal Control over Financial Reporting; and Compliance with Laws, Regulations, Contracts, and Grant Agreements

The Chief Financial Officers Act of 1990 (CFO Act, Pub. L. No. 101-576), as amended, requires that NSF’s Inspector General or an independent external auditor, as determined by the Inspector General, audit NSF’s financial statements in accordance with Government Auditing Standards (GAS) issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. We contracted with the independent certified public accounting firm Kearney & Company, P.C. (Kearney) to audit NSF’s financial statements as of September 30, 2020, and for the fiscal year then ended. The contract requires that the audit be performed in accordance with GAS; Office of Management and Budget Bulletin 19-03, Audit Requirements for Federal Financial Statements; and the U.S. Government Accountability Office/Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency Financial Audit Manual.

For FY 2020, Kearney provided: (1) its opinion on the financial statements, (2) a report on internal control over financial reporting, and (3) a report on compliance with laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements. In its audit of NSF, Kearney:

• Found that the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of NSF as of September 30, 2020 and 2019, and its net cost of operations,
changes in net position, and budgetary resources for the years then ended, in accordance with
accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.
• Identified no material weaknesses in internal control over financial reporting.¹
• Identified no instances in which NSF’s financial management systems did not substantially
  104-208).
• Identified no reportable instances of noncompliance with provisions of laws, regulations,
  contracts, and grant agreements tested or other matters.

NSF’s response to the draft reports, dated November 13, 2020, follows Kearney’s reports.

Kearney is responsible for the attached auditor’s reports dated November 13, 2020, and the conclusions
expressed therein. We do not express opinions on NSF’s financial statements or internal control over
financial reporting or on whether NSF’s financial management systems substantially complied with the
requirements of FFMIA, or conclusions on compliance and other matters.

Kearney’s Independent Auditor’s Report is meant only to be distributed and read as part of the Agency
Financial Report (AFR). Also, Kearney’s Independent Auditor’s Report is not a stand-alone document
because it refers to the AFR contents and should not be circulated to anyone other than those receiving
this transmittal.

We thank your staff for the assistance that was extended to the auditors during this audit. If you have
any questions regarding this report, please contact Mark Bell, Assistant Inspector General, Office of
Audits, at 703.292.7100 or OIGpublicaffairs@nsf.gov.

¹ A material weakness is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable
possibility that a material misstatement of the entity’s financial statements will not be prevented or detected and corrected on
a timely basis.
About NSF OIG

We promote effectiveness, efficiency, and economy in administering the Foundation’s programs; detect and prevent fraud, waste, and abuse within NSF or by individuals who receive NSF funding; and identify and help to resolve cases of research misconduct. NSF OIG was established in 1989, in compliance with the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended. Because the Inspector General reports directly to the National Science Board and Congress, the Office is organizationally independent from the Foundation.

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