



November 3rd, 2023

The Honorable Shalanda Young
Office of Management and Budget
Eisenhower Executive Office Building
1650 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20504

The Honorable Arati Prabhakar
Office of Science and Technology Policy
Eisenhower Executive Office Building
1650 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20504

Dear Directors Young and Prabhakar,

As you prepare the fiscal year 2025 (FY25) budget submission for the National Science Foundation (NSF), the Coalition for National Science Funding (CNSF) appreciates the opportunity to submit our funding priorities for the agency. CNSF is an alliance of more than 140 professional organizations, scientific societies, universities, and businesses united in our advocacy for the NSF.

NSF plays a critical role in advancing many of the FY25 research and development priorities articulated by the Biden-Harris Administration, including advancing trustworthy artificial intelligence (AI), promoting national security and stability, addressing climate change, supporting better healthcare outcomes, reducing barriers to participation in STEM education and its workforce, and bolstering our nation's future economic competitiveness.¹

CNSF urges the Administration to request \$16.7 billion for NSF in FY25, which is the level of funding for NSF research and education investments authorized in the CHIPS and Science Act (P.L. 117-167).

Although NSF funding has not yet reached the funding levels authorized in the CHIPS and Science Act for FY23 and FY24, we urge the Biden-Harris Administration not to give up on the important goals set forth in this law. The U.S. scientific enterprise must have long-term sustained funding increases if we are to maintain our strategic advantage and global leadership in research, new technologies, innovation, and economic competitiveness and national security.

We understand the difficult fiscal environment and the delays to ongoing FY24 appropriations. However, the current level of NSF funding and the proposed NSF funding in the House and Senate draft FY24 appropriations bills are far below what is needed for NSF to ensure the success of newly established transformational programs such as the Regional Innovation Engines (RIE) and Entrepreneurial Fellowships while protecting core research, education, and infrastructure investments that sustain our research and innovation ecosystem.

Spreading the benefits of basic research and technology-fueled innovation across America, and expanding participation in the research ecosystem, were key aims of the CHIPS and Science Act. NSF will be unable to expand the RIE program beyond the initial Engines, to be announced later this fall, without

¹ [FY2025-OMB-OSTP-RD-Budget-Priorities-Memo.pdf \(whitehouse.gov\)](#)

new investments. NSF also needs substantially more funding to expand and broaden participation in STEM and to enable increased research capacity at emerging institutions.

Inadequate funding also threatens NSF's success in AI and other areas. AI investments in NSF must be sustained, and further research is needed to tackle additional application areas and continue to advance AI transparency, reliability, and trustworthiness. AI is rapidly evolving, and we must not pull back our efforts to safely harness this technology for agriculture, education, national security, health, resilience, and other critical societal needs. The difficult fiscal climate is already leading to a problematic scaling back in investment in the NSF AI Institute program. Both the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Department of Education have scaled back their participation in the program. Flat funding additionally threatens the creation of needed infrastructure for AI research, such as the National AI Research Resource that was recently recommended by a congressionally-mandated interagency task force.²

As final FY24 NSF funding remains unresolved in Congress, we want to emphasize the importance of the Administration working with Congress to increase funding for NSF and renew its commitment to the funding goals of the CHIPS and Science Act in the Administration's FY25 budget submission.

The Nation can no longer wait to invest the NSF's critical research, education, and infrastructure programs that bolster our nation's competitiveness and security. We look forward to working with you to support NSF funding in FY25.

Sincerely,

The Coalition for National Science Funding

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| American Anthropological Association | Georgia Institute of Technology |
| American Association for the Advancement of Science | Harvard University |
| American Association for Dental, Oral, and Craniofacial Research (AADOCR) | Harvey Mudd College |
| American Association of Geographers | IEEE-USA |
| American Association of Physics Teachers | Indiana University |
| American Astronomical Society | Lehigh University |
| American Chemical Society | Lewis-Burke Associates, LLC |
| American Crystallographic Association | Materials Research Society |
| American Educational Research Association | Massachusetts Institute of Technology |
| American Economic Association | Michigan Technological University |
| American Geophysical Union | National Association of Marine Laboratories |
| American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering (AIMBE) | National Postdoctoral Association |
| American Institute of Biological Sciences | Natural Science Collections Alliance |
| American Mathematical Society | Northern Illinois University |
| American Physical Society | Northwestern University |
| American Physiological Society | The Ohio State University |
| American Political Science Association | Optica (formerly OSA) |
| | Oregon Institute of Technology |
| | Pennsylvania State University, Office of the Senior Vice President for Research |

² [Strengthening and Democratizing the U.S. Artificial Intelligence Innovation Ecosystem: An Implementation Plan for a National Artificial Intelligence Research Resource \(ai.gov\)](#)

American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
American Society for Microbiology
American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics
American Society of Agronomy, Crop Science Society of America, and Soil Science Society of America
American Society of Civil Engineers
American Society of Plant Biologists
American Sociological Association
American Statistical Association
American Society of Mechanical Engineers
Association of American Medical Colleges
Association of American Universities
Association for Psychological Science
Association for Women in Mathematics
Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities
Association of Research Libraries
Association of Science and Technology Centers
Atlanta University Center Consortium
Battelle Memorial Institute
Biophysical Society
Boise State University
Bose McKinney & Evans, LLP
Boston University
Brown University
Coalition for Academic Scientific Computation
Computing Research Association
Consortium of Social Science Associations
Cornell University
Council of Graduate Schools
Council of Scientific Society Presidents
Council on Undergraduate Research
Dartmouth College
Duke University
Ecological Society of America
Entomological Society of America
Eversole Associates
Federation of American Scientists
Federation of Associations in Behavioral & Brain Sciences
Forge Policy Solutions
Geological Society of America
George Mason University
George Washington University
Princeton University - Office of Government Affairs
Population Association of America/Association of Population Centers
Rochester Institute of Technology
Rutgers University
Sage Publishing, Inc.
Saint Louis University
Seismological Society of America
Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics
Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology
Society for Neuroscience
Society for Research in Child Development
SPIE
Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues
Stevens Institute of Technology
Strangeworks, Inc.
Swain Techs
Syracuse University
The Quider Group, LLC
Tufts University
University of California - Los Angeles
University of California System
University Corporation for Atmospheric Research
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University of Pennsylvania
University of Pittsburgh
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