SOCIETY for NEUROSCIENCE

Funding for the National Science Foundation

The **National Science Foundation (NSF)** supports fundamental, curiosity-driven science enabling researchers to advance groundbreaking discoveries. NSF investments are essential to probe scientific frontiers, improve health, and strengthen the nation's economy. We urge Congress to support at least **$11 billion** for NSF in FY 2023.

Health and Discovery

NSF provides a vital foundation for the nation's science and technology portfolio.

- NSF-funded research in fields such as chemistry, physics, and computer science lays the foundation for advances in neuroscience.
- Basic research also enables the **pursuit of treatments to prevent and delay** debilitating illnesses and improve preventive and public health practices worldwide.

Economic Growth and Prosperity

Federal investments in NSF secure economic benefits for generations to come.

- Economists agree about **50 percent of the country's economic growth** can be traced to investments in research and development.[1]
- One dollar of research money from NSF generates approximately **$2 in economic output**.[2]
- Scientific discovery leads to new business. Between 2015 and 2019, 53 university research spin-off companies contributed more than $700 million to the U.S. GDP and supported 9,300 jobs nationally.[3]

The Future of the Scientific Enterprise

NSF funding must be maintained to pursue undiscovered breakthroughs. No one knows what innovations will go unexplored without increased or level funds.

- NSF is the funding source for approximately **24 percent** of all federally supported basic research conducted by America's colleges and universities.
- NSF drives innovation by investing in **high-risk, cutting-edge science and engineering** at the frontiers of knowledge.
- Private industry alone can't support these programs—even as public funding for research and development has increased over the past several years, **industry investment has dropped**.[4]
- Scientists are able to build on foundations laid by others due to publicly funded research with methodology and results **open to the public**.
- Through graduate fellowships, research funding, and the Math and Science Partnership program, NSF trains the next generation of America's scientists. Since 1952, NSF has awarded more than **64,000** Graduate Research Fellowships.[5]
- The scientific enterprise depends on **consistent funding** to support America's scientific workforce. If the scientific pathway is disrupted, there will be enduring long-term consequences as our talented researchers move on to other fields.

NSF BY THE NUMBERS

$8.84 billion
NSF FY 2022 budget

92 percent
of the NSF budget invested through local research institutions [5]

11,300
FY 2021 awards supported by NSF[5]

318,000
personnel at NSF[5]

1,900
institutions are supported by NSF[5]

85 percent
of Americans agree that scientific research that advances the frontiers of knowledge should be supported by the federal government[6]

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Sources

[1] Jones, C.I. 2002. Sources of U.S. Economic Growth in a World of Ideas. American Economic Review, 92(1):220-239.

[2] Gundaya, D. and Inazu, J.K. *The Economic Impact of Federal Funds on a Local Community in Hawaii*. June 2011.

[3] *Sparking Economic Growth Volume IV*. The Science Coalition. April 2021.

[4] Chakma, J., Sun, G., Steinberg, J.D., Sammut, S.M., Jagsi, R. *Asia's Ascent — Global Trends in Biomedical R&D Expenditures*. The New England Journal of Medicine. 370:1. January 2014.

[5] *FY 2021 Agency Financial Report.* National Science Foundation. NSF-22-002. November 2021.

[6] *Science and Engineering Indicators 2016*. National Science Board. NSB-20-162. February 2016.

The Society for Neuroscience (SfN) is a nonprofit membership organization of around 30,000 scientists and physicians who study the brain and nervous system. Visit SfN.org or email advocacy@sfn.org to learn more.