



March 8, 2024

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen  
Chair  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,  
Science, and Related Agencies  
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jerry Moran  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,  
Science, and Related Agencies  
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair Shaheen and Ranking Member Moran,

As the Subcommittee considers the Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25) Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, the Coalition for National Science Funding (CNSF) writes to respectfully urge the Committee to appropriate at least \$11.9 billion for the National Science Foundation (NSF). CNSF is an alliance of over 140 professional organizations, universities, and businesses, who are united by a commitment to the future vitality of the science, mathematics, and engineering enterprise of the United States.

NSF funding is critical to ensure our innovation ecosystem continues to lead the world in the emerging technologies that are key to our national defense. In 2022, Congress reauthorized NSF for 5 years through the CHIPS and Science Act ([P.L. 117-167](#)), and targeted \$16.7 billion for the agency in FY25. We understand the difficult fiscal climate. However, the FY24 level of funding for NSF fell far below our competitiveness needs. In fact, the agency was cut by more than 5 percent or almost \$500 million from what NSF was provided in FY23. If you consider what was provided in FY23 through supplemental funding, the cut is even more significant. Below we outline these needs across the research, construction, and education accounts at NSF.

**Emerging Technology:** NSF is the leading federal agency advancing emerging technology through foundational science and engineering. Our nation's competitiveness depends on advancements in artificial intelligence, quantum information science, advanced wireless research, biotechnology, and other areas critical to national security. NSF is at the center of research and workforce development in these areas, which must be dramatically scaled up to address our competitiveness and security needs.

**Regional Innovation:** NSF is transforming regional economies and communities through signature programs such as the Regional Innovation Engines and the Directorate for Technology, Innovation, and Partnerships (TIP). After a lengthy competition, the first 10 Engines were recently awarded to teams around the country. The program needs growth to enable it to reach its full potential and impact these communities. NSF also supports communities through many other programs that focus on engaged research, impact, and research translation. Opportunities abound to expand these activities within TIP and NSF's other research directorates. For example, in 2023, NSF held a

planning competition for wildfire partnerships and is now poised for a full program that would build resilience and empower communities with new tools and approaches.

**Workforce:** Investments in NSF lead to the innovations and technologies that drive our economy and inspire and train the future STEM workforce. In FY22 alone, NSF supported more than 43,000 graduate students (representing more than 25% of all federally supported graduate students in STEM) and 6,000 postdoctoral associates to continue their high-skilled training while advancing NSF-funded research projects. Additionally, in FY22 NSF STEM education projects directly impacted 220,000 K-12 students, teachers, and undergraduate students, and indirectly inspired millions of future innovators through science educational resources. It is imperative that NSF's budget receives sustainable growth to address our national training and workforce needs.

**Life-changing Discoveries:** NSF also supports science and engineering research that underpins discoveries leading to new cures, drugs, and diagnostic tools to detect diseases and save lives. Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), DNA analysis, and organ donor matching are three medical advancements attributed to NSF. For more than 70 years, NSF work has improved health outcomes.

**Scientific Infrastructure:** NSF is responsible for maintaining research infrastructure and facilities critical for enabling cutting-edge scientific research. NSF has recently launched a pilot program to improve access to artificial intelligence computing resources (the National AI Research Resource), but it and other cutting-edge AI work will need additional funding to maintain U.S. leadership in AI. There is a major backlog in infrastructure projects that would transform science and engineering still waiting to be built, including the next generation of extremely large telescopes, research vessels including one to explore the Antarctic in a critical period for sea level rise, the next-generation supercomputer, and many worthy midscale research infrastructure.

**Science and Engineering Ecosystem Support:** Beyond all the needs outlined above, NSF is the only federal agency supporting foundational science and engineering across disciplines. Core programs power our scientific ecosystem, support early career scientists, and enable initial discoveries that feed translational programs. This ecosystem lies at the heart of our nation's competitiveness and must be protected. NSF's core programs also need resources to expand award sizes to address new research security, public access, and other directives that raise the cost of research.

For these reasons and more, NSF needs major growth in FY25 appropriations. We call on Congress to strongly support NSF, provide at least \$11.9 billion, and set NSF on a funding trajectory that will meet the major challenges our nation faces and ensure we have the research, people, and infrastructure to sustain our science and technology ecosystem.

Thank you for considering our input. Please do not hesitate to call on CNSF as a resource as you move forward with the appropriations process.

Sincerely,

The Coalition for National Science Funding

American Anthropological Association	Harvard University
American Association for the Advancement of Science	Harvey Mudd College
American Association for Dental, Oral, and Craniofacial Research (AADOCR)	IEEE-USA
American Association of Geographers	Indiana University
American Association of Physics Teachers	Lehigh University
American Astronomical Society	Lewis-Burke Associates, LLC
American Chemical Society	Materials Research Society
American Crystallographic Association	Massachusetts Institute of Technology
American Educational Research Association	Michigan Technological University
American Economic Association	National Association of Marine Laboratories
American Geophysical Union	National Postdoctoral Association
American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering (AIMBE)	Natural Science Collections Alliance
American Institute of Biological Sciences	Northern Illinois University
American Mathematical Society	Northwestern University
American Physical Society	The Ohio State University
American Political Science Association	Optica (formerly OSA)
American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology	Oregon Institute of Technology
American Society for Microbiology	Pennsylvania State University, Office of the Senior Vice President for Research
American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics	Princeton University - Office of Government Affairs
American Society of Agronomy, Crop Science Society of America, and Soil Science Society of America	Population Association of America/Association of Population Centers
American Society of Civil Engineers	Rochester Institute of Technology
American Society of Plant Biologists	Rutgers University
American Sociological Association	Sage Publishing, Inc.
American Statistical Association	Saint Louis University
American Society of Mechanical Engineers	Seismological Society of America
Association of American Medical Colleges	Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics
Association of American Universities	Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology
Association for Psychological Science	Society for Neuroscience
Association for Women in Mathematics	Society for Research in Child Development
Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities	SPIE
Association of Research Libraries	Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues
Association of Science and Technology Centers	Stevens Institute of Technology
Atlanta University Center Consortium	Strangeworks, Inc.
Battelle Memorial Institute	Swain Techs
Biophysical Society	Syracuse University
Boise State University	The Quider Group, LLC
Bose McKinney & Evans, LLP	Tufts University
Boston University	University of California - Los Angeles
Brown University	University of California System
Coalition for Academic Scientific Computation	University Corporation for Atmospheric Research
Computing Research Association	University of Cincinnati
	University of Colorado - Boulder
	University of Florida
	University of Illinois System

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