



Coalition for National Science Funding

The Coalition for National Science Funding (CNSF) strongly endorses a FY 2011 National Science Foundation (NSF) budget of at least \$7.424 billion.

CNSF appreciates the support that both the Congress and the Administration have provided for NSF over the past two years. NSF is critical to America's ability to compete globally in technological innovation. Faced with ever-increasing international competition, maintaining U.S. scientific leadership will require continued robust investments in the NSF.

NSF invests more than 90 percent of its budget directly in support of research at colleges and universities in all 50 states. The agency identifies the best ideas and people who, through their work, advance the frontiers of knowledge in all sciences, mathematics and engineering. These advancements can be transformative, initiating the development of new products and companies and the creation of jobs.

NSF recognizes that scientific advancement often requires knowledge and discoveries across many disciplines. Partnerships across academia, industry, and government are an integral part of NSF's strategy to aid scientific development. Its research portfolio includes the biological sciences, the mathematical and physical sciences, the geosciences, computer and information science, the social, behavioral, and economic sciences, and engineering. These areas of inquiry, along with the agency's funding of major state-of-the-art facilities and instrumentation, are essential for understanding our universe and for the continued development of cutting-edge science and technology necessary for sustaining U.S. competitiveness.

In addition to being a cornerstone of America's research enterprise, NSF also supports educational activities that ensure a diverse, competitive, and globally engaged science, technology, engineering, and mathematics workforce. These efforts encompass all educational levels, K-12 through post-doctoral.

Global competition increasingly requires that the U.S. make the necessary investments in science and engineering research and education. The NSF is well-suited for such investments since it supports science broadly and encourages interdisciplinary interactions and collaborations between universities and industry. These investments will help ensure our country's ability to compete at the highest levels.

Each year NSF has to decline over \$2 billion of highly-rated proposals because of a lack of funds. These declined proposals represent opportunities that could produce substantial benefits to the U.S. It is imperative that NSF receive a FY 2011 budget level that will increase the agency's ability to contribute to the nation's well-being. **We urge you to support a NSF FY 2011 budget of at least \$7.424 billion, the level requested by the Administration.**