EPSCoR Live! Webinar
NSF Updates and Priorities

October 29, 2026

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Resources

NSF Alerts: https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USNSF/subscriber/new

Disciplinary/Directorate newsletters: sign up on directorate websites

Golden Age of Science Report: https://www.whitehouse.gov/science/

OSTP/OMB Research & Development Priorities Memo – FY28: https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026/07/White-House-Fiscal-Year-2028-RD-Priorities-Memorandum.pdf

NSF Letter regarding the Golden Age of Science: https://nsf-gov-resources.nsf.gov/files/Statement-NSF-Leadership-Golden-Age-Science.pdf

Funding Opportunities search: https://www.nsf.gov/funding/opportunities

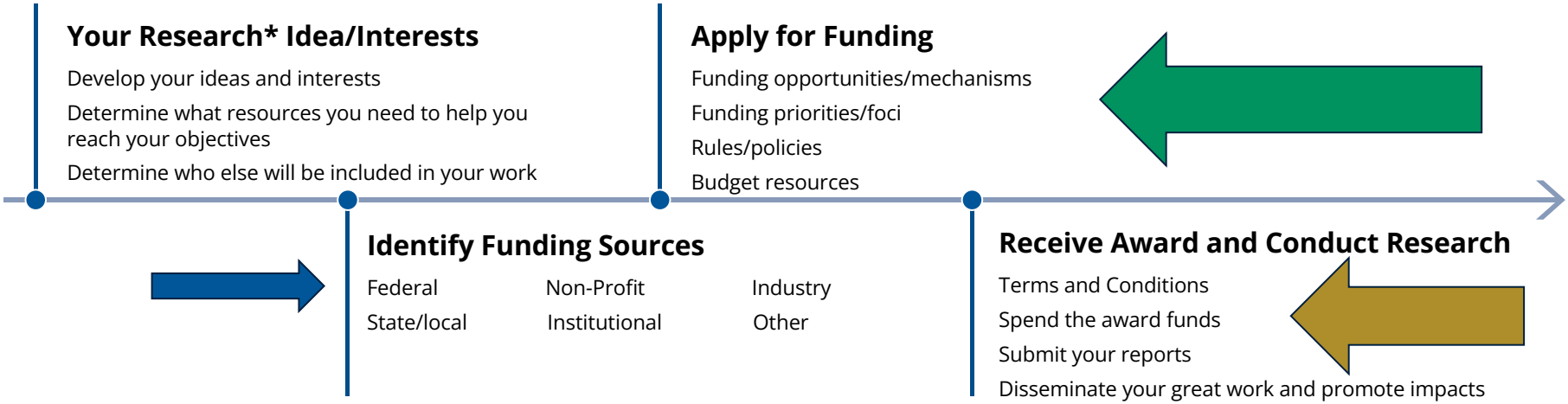
NSF Award Search: https://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/simple-search/

NSF Policies and Procedures: https://www.nsf.gov/policies/pappg (*Opportunity*: provide comments on new PAPPG, renamed Guidance for Financial Assistance: 30-day Open Comment period starting 10/28/26 via Federal Register)

NSF Strategic Plan - 2026-2030: https://www.nsf.gov/about/performance/strategic-plan/nsf-fy-2026-2030

President's Budget Request for NSF: https://www.nsf.gov/about/budget

Research* Funding Process



*Research is shorthand for funded work, which would include workforce development, projects involving research infrastructure, etc.

Timelines of Change

Administration direction

- January 20, 2025 → continues today through Executive Orders
- Gold Standard Science
- OSTP/OMB Fiscal Year (27 & 28) R&D Priorities Memos
- Golden Age of Science Report
- NSF Leadership in a New Golden Age of Science letter to the community

NSF organizational changes

- Went into effect: December 2025
- Structural and process changes

NSF budget

- FY26 appropriation = $8.75B
- FY27 budget request = $3.963B total discretionary funding – SBE Directorate implications
- FY27 appropriation = ? NSF is funded through a Continuing Resolution (CR) through December 11, 2026

NSF funding opportunities

- Funding opportunity search: https://www.nsf.gov/funding/opportunities
- New funding opportunities in core disciplines: many released August, 2026
- New funding opportunities continue to be published

NSF policies

- PAPPG conversion to the Guidance for Financial Assistance (GFA)
  - New public comment period – open for 30 days starting October 28, 2026
  - New guide will be available in FY27
- New strategic plan for NSF 2026-2030

Applying for Funding - A Portfolio-Based Approach to Supporting Science

NSF Funding Programs

Allocated Budget

Solicitation/Program Description/DCL

Directorate → Division → Program

Many funding opportunities (NOFOs) are under review and revision

Frontier Initiatives	Research Infrastructure
NOFOs Forthcoming	NOFOs Forthcoming
AI-Enabled Scientific Discovery	Foundational Funding Opportunities
Aligned with Genesis Mission	Announced August 2026
STEM Talent Development	Metascience
New supplement DCL	Seeking Office Head

All Directorates, disciplines, and cross disciplinary

NSF Funding Opportunities - Foundational Research



BIO: Biological Sciences Core Research

Supports foundational and interdisciplinary research projects that expand knowledge of biology at any level of organization, from the molecular to the biome scale.

CISE: Expeditions in Computing

Supports the pursuit of ambitious, foundational research agendas that promise to define the future of computing and information.

Prelim Proposals: due 12/2/26

ENG: Electrical, Communications, and Computing Systems (ECCS)

Supports foundational research for electrical, communications and computing systems.

ENG: Civil, Mechanical and Manufacturing Innovation (CMMI)

Supports foundational research projects for civil, mechanical, and manufacturing innovation.

ENG: Chemical, Bioengineering, Energy and Transport Systems (CBET)

Supports foundational engineering research for chemical, bioengineering, energy, and transport systems.

ENG: Emerging Frontiers in Research and Innovation: Wave-Based Computing

Supports foundational and transformative research to advance the development of computing approaches that harness the principles of wave dynamics.

Proposals due: 2/11/27

GEO: Geosciences Core Research: Atmospheric, Geospace, Earth and Ocean Sciences

Supports foundational research projects that advance the frontiers of knowledge across all areas of the geosciences.

MPS Mathematical Sciences Research Programs (MPS MathSci)

Supports multiple research programs at the frontiers of discovery in theoretical and applied mathematical sciences.

MPS Materials Research Programs (MPS Materials)

Supports multiple materials research programs that advance fundamental understanding of materials, their properties, and their potential applications.

MPS Physics Research Programs (MPS Physics)

Supports multiple research programs at the frontiers of discovery in physics.

MPS Chemistry Research Programs (MPS Chem)

Supports multiple disciplinary research programs in chemistry that connect molecular-level understanding to advances across different domains.

MPS Astronomical Sciences Research Programs (MPS Astro)

Supports foundational astronomical sciences research and instrumentation focused on exploring space and advancing fundamental understanding of the universe.

Target date: 11/16/26

These 12 new funding opportunities support a mix of **long-horizon** awards for ambitious, transformative research and **rapid short-term** grants to quickly test promising ideas to advance **NSF's core mission to support foundational research** that leads to scientific breakthroughs and opens new frontiers of knowledge.

Other Foundation Research Opportunities

NSF 22-586
Faculty Early Career Development Program (CAREER)
Supports early-career faculty who have the potential to serve as academic role models in research and education and to lead advances in the mission of their department or organization.

NSF 25-543
Computer and Information Science and Engineering: Future Computing Research (Future CoRe) – released before August, 2026

NSF Funding Opportunities – STEM Talent Development

NSF 26-503

CyberAICorps Scholarship for Service (CyberAI SFS)

Supports scholarships and educational innovations that integrate AI and cybersecurity training to prepare a skilled U.S. workforce for the AI and cybersecurity mission of government organizations.

NSF 25-545

NSF STEM K-12 (STEM K-12)

Supports research and development to advance STEM teaching and learning in K-12 formal and informal settings, leveraging emerging technologies to build knowledge, create tools and strengthen the U.S. STEM education and workforce.

NSF 25-514

NSF Scholarships in STEM (S-STEM)

Supports institutions of higher education to fund scholarships for academically talented low-income STEM majors and to study and implement a program of activities that support their recruitment, retention and graduation.

NSF 24-588

NSF EPSCoR Graduate Fellowship Program (EGFP)

Supports institutions in EPSCoR jurisdictions by providing funding for graduate fellowships for new or continuing students who received the distinction of NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP) Honorable Mention within the last three years.

NSF 23-584

IUSE: Innovation in Two-Year College STEM Education (ITYC)

Supports innovation in STEM education at two-year colleges and enhances institutions' capacity to harness student and faculty talent and potential through innovative disciplinary, multi-department, and college-wide efforts.

NSF 26-526

NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP)

Supports fellowships for outstanding graduate students who are pursuing full-time, research-based master's and doctoral degrees in STEM.

NSF 24-584

Advanced Technological Education (ATE)

Supports partnerships between two-year institutions of higher education, other academic institutions, industry and other entities to improve the education of technicians in science and engineering.

NSF 23-601

Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU)

Supports intensive research by undergraduate students in any NSF-funded area of research. REU Sites engage a cohort of students in research projects related to a theme. REU Supplements engage students in research related to a new or ongoing NSF research award.

NSF 23-510

Improving Undergraduate STEM Education: Directorate for STEM Education (IUSE: EDU)

Supports projects to improve STEM teaching and learning for undergraduate students, including studying what works and for whom and how to transform institutions to adopt successful practices in STEM education.

NSF 25-511

Experiential Learning for Emerging and Novel Technologies (ExLENT)

Supports hands-on learning opportunities for learners from nontraditional backgrounds, equipping them with skills for emerging technology fields and fostering workforce development through cross-sector partnerships.

NSF Funding Opportunities – STEM Talent Development

NEW This Week – October 27, 2026

Dear Colleague Letter

Supplemental Funding Requests to Support Super Intelligence (SI) Innovation in the Presidential SI Challenge

October 27, 2026

This document contains information about an active funding opportunity.

Publication number: NSF 27-011

Share



NSF Funding Opportunities

- What does it mean when a funding opportunity is archived?

- What does it mean when a funding opportunity is waiting for a new publication?

- What about funding opportunities with release dates from a few years ago? Are they still active?

- How to find out more about NOFOs or contact a program officer?

NSF Funding Opportunities – Technology, Innovation, and Partnerships (TIP)

- Small Business Innovation Research/Small Business Technology Transfer (SBIR/STTR): NSF 26-511, NSF 26-510
- Small Business Innovation Research/Small Business Technology Transfer (SBIR/STTR) Fast-Track pilot): NSF 26-511, NSF 26-510
- Ecosystem for Low-dimensional Electronics: Growth, Assembly, Nanoelectronics, and Translation (NSF ELEGANT): NSF-OTASO-FY26-ELEGANT
- NSF Innovation Corps (I-Corps™): NSF 25-549
- NSF X-Labs - NSF-OTASO-FY26-XLabsInitative
- NSF Translation to Practice (TTP): NSF 25-540
- NSF Pathways to Enable Secure Open-Source Ecosystems (PESOSE): NSF 26-506, NSF 26-015
- NSF INTERN: https://www.nsf.gov/tip/intern
- NSF I-Ph.D. Scholars powered by UIDP: https://uidp.org/initiatives/i-phd-scholars/
- NSF Entrepreneurial Fellowships: https://activate.org/the-fellowship

NSF Funding Opportunities Aligned to the Genesis Mission

Announcement on July 22, 2026

- Unleashing a new age of AI-enabled scientific discovery through the Genesis Mission | NSF 26-023

Funding Opportunities (to date)

- U.S. National Science Foundation State and Regional Artificial Intelligence Infrastructure Hubs: | NSF 26-513
- Unlocking Dataset Value for AI-Enabled Scientific Discovery (AI Datasets) | NSF 26-512
- Test Bed: Toward a Network of Programmable Cloud Laboratories (PCL Test Bed) | NSF 25-541
- TechAccess: AI-Ready America | NSF 26-508

Frontier Initiatives

Read Brian Stone's Letter to the Research Community from September, 2026, page 6

- Future of Intelligence
- Frontier of Quantum Phenomena
- Advanced Materials and Matter
- Foundations of Biological Design

Policy Updates

- NSF's primary policy guide – Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide (PAPPG) is changing to the Guidance for Financial Assistance (GFA)
- There is an OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD happening right now!
  - Opened October 28, 2026 for 30 days
  - Posted in the Federal Register
- https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2026/10/28/2026-21979/agency-information-collection-activities-comment-request-national-science-foundation-proposalaward
- Sends you to Regulations.gov to inspect the new GFA and provide comments
- https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAICList?ref_nbr=202610-3145-004

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!!!!

Funding Mechanisms in the GFA – Guide 7

- Planning Proposals
- Rapid Response Research (RAPID)
- EArly-concept Grants for Exploratory Research (EAGER)
- Research Advanced by Interdisciplinary Science and Engineering (RAISE)
- Ideas Lab
- Conference
- Equipment
- Travel
- Research Infrastructure

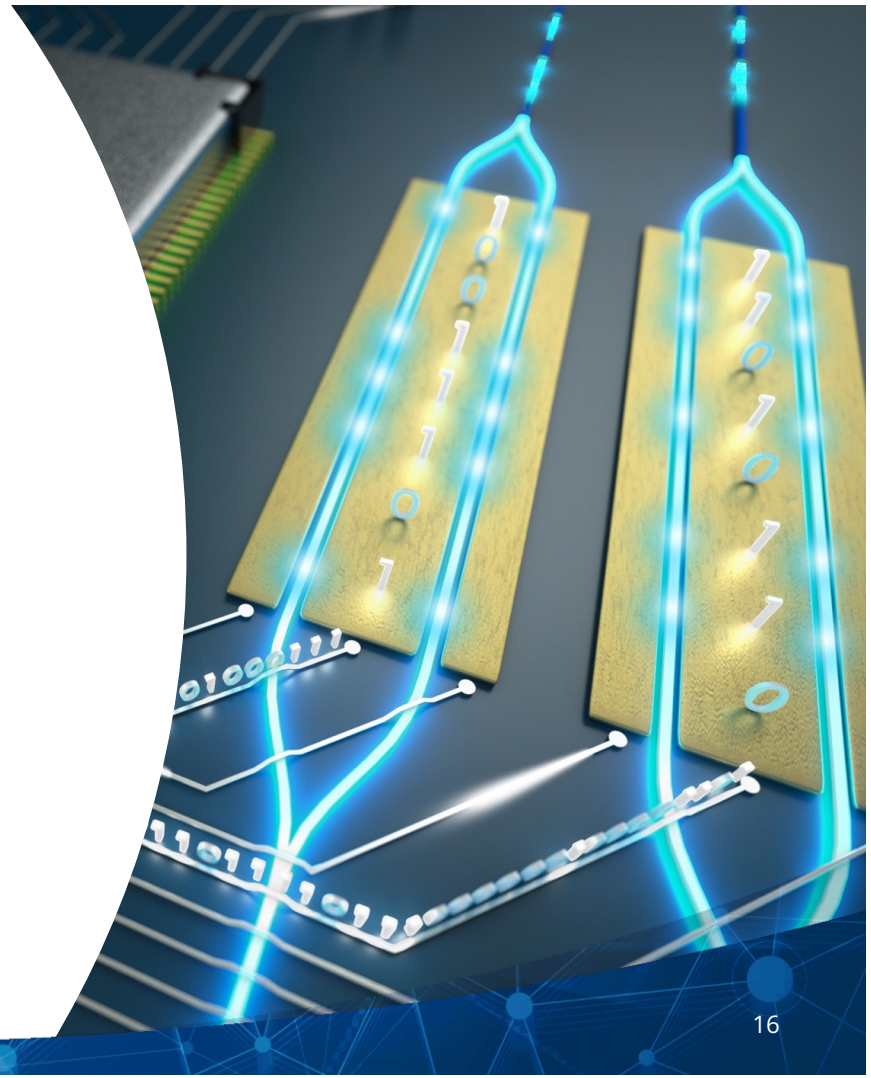
Once you receive an award from NSF

- Perform the research, training, programs, conferences, etc.
- Spend the funds awarded for the project
- Submit your reports on time, especially if you are seeking other funding from NSF
- Disseminate your outcomes and impacts

Thank you!

Questions?

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NSF