

NSF Funding Profile

The Funding Profile presents a high level, agency-wide estimate of proposal pressure, funding rates (or proposal "success"), and award statistics. These indicators are useful in gauging the relative efficacy of different funding levels.

Statistics for Competitive Awards: Competitive awards encompass the universe of NSF new activity in a given year. Examples include research grants, cooperative agreements, equipment, fellowships, and conferences. The Number of Proposals is based on several factors, including past actual activity, planned competitions, and research trends within the various disciplinary communities. External factors, such as the state of the national economy and other sources of funding, also play a part. The Number of Awards is also based on several factors, including estimated funding and expected proposal pool. The Funding Rate is the number of competitive awards made during a year as a percentage of total proposals competitively reviewed. This indicates the probability of receiving an award when submitting proposals to NSF.

Statistics for Research Grants: Research Grants are a sub-set of competitive awards. The Number of Proposals is based on several factors, including past actual activity, planned competitions, and research trends within the various disciplinary communities. External factors, such as the state of the national economy and other sources of funding, also play a part. The Number of Awards is also based on several factors, including estimated funding and expected proposal pool. Research Grants are grants limited to research projects and exclude other categories of awards such as those for cooperative agreements, equipment, fellowships, and conferences. Annualized Award Size shows the annual level of research grants provided to awardees by dividing the total dollars of each award by the number of years over which it extends. Both the average and the median annualized award size for competitively reviewed awards are shown. Average Duration is the length of awards in years.

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	FY 2012 Actual Estimate	FY 2012 Enacted/ Annualized FY 2013 CR Estimate ¹	FY 2014 Estimate
Statistics for Competitive Awards			
Number of Proposals	48,600	55,100	53,200
Number of Awards	11,500	11,700	12,600
Funding Rate	24%	21%	24%
Statistics for Research Grants			
Number of Research Grant Proposals	36,900	41,400	40,000
Number of Research Grant Awards	7,900	7,800	8,800
Funding Rate	21%	19%	22%
Median Annualized Award Size	\$131,200	\$128,500	\$133,950
Average Annualized Award Size	\$164,700	\$161,200	\$168,600
Average Duration (years)	2.9	3.0	2.9

¹ Award estimates for FY 2013, such as numbers of awards and size/duration, are based upon the FY 2012 enacted level.