

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 impact 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.

Statistics for Research Grant Awards: Research Grant Awards are a sub-set of competitive awards. They are limited to research projects and exclude other categories of awards such as those for 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 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. Annualized Award Size shows the annual level of research grant awards provided to awardees by dividing the total dollars of each award by the number of years over which it extends. Average Duration is the length of awards in years.

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	FY 2015 Actual Estimate	FY 2016 Estimate	FY 2017 Discretionary Estimate	FY 2017 Request Estimate
Statistics for Competitive Awards				
Number of Proposals	49,600	50,800	52,200	54,100
Number of Awards	12,000	12,100	12,200	13,100
Funding Rate	24%	24%	24%	24%
Statistics for Research Grant Awards				
Number of Research Grant Proposals	40,900	42,200	43,200	45,000
Number of Research Grant Awards	9,000	9,200	9,300	10,100
Funding Rate	22%	22%	22%	23%
Median Annualized Award Size	\$137,300	\$140,100	\$140,200	\$146,400
Average Annualized Award Size	\$173,200	\$176,700	\$178,200	\$179,000
Average Duration (years)	2.9	3.0	3.0	3.0