NUMBER OF PEOPLE INVOLVED IN NSF ACTIVITIES

NSF estimates that in FY 2019 approximately 354,850 people will be directly involved in NSF programs and activities, receiving salaries, stipends, participant support, and other types of direct involvement. Beyond these figures, NSF programs indirectly impact millions of people, reaching K-12 students and teachers, the general public, and researchers through activities including workshops; informal science activities such as museums, television, videos, and journals; outreach efforts; and dissemination of improved curriculum and teaching methods.

FY 2019 Request
Number of People Involved in NSF Activities

	FY 2017		
	Actual	FY 2018	FY 2019
	Estimate	(TBD)	Estimate
Senior Researchers	41,910	-	41,080
Other Professionals	13,832	-	13,430
Postdoctoral Associates	5,665	-	5,420
Graduate Students	41,038	-	40,320
Undergraduate Students	38,384	-	37,800
K-12 Teachers	40,436	-	40,400
K-12 Students	178,053	-	176,400
Total Number of People	359,318	-	354,850

Senior Researchers include scientists, mathematicians, engineers, and educators receiving funding through NSF awards. These include both researchers who are principal or co-principal investigators on research and education projects, and researchers working at NSF-supported centers and facilities.

Other Professionals are individuals who may or may not hold a doctoral degree or its equivalent, are considered professionals but are not reported as senior researchers, postdoctoral associates, or students. Examples are technicians, systems experts, etc.

Postdoctoral Associates are individuals who have received Ph.D., M.D., D.Sc., or equivalent and are not faculty members of the performing institution. These individuals are supported through funds included in research projects, centers, or facilities awards, as well as by postdoctoral fellowships.

Graduate Students include those compensated from NSF grant funds. Approximately 17 percent receive support through NSF's fellowship and traineeship programs. Other graduate students are supported through research assistantships and assist senior researchers or postdoctoral associates in performing research through awards for research projects, centers, or facilities. NSF provides support for approximately 30 percent of the U.S. science and engineering graduate students receiving federal funds and about five percent of the science and engineering graduate students in the U.S. overall.¹

Undergraduate Students include students compensated from NSF grant funds who are enrolled in technical colleges or baccalaureate programs. They may be assisting senior researchers or postdoctoral associates in performing research, or participating in NSF programs aimed at undergraduate students, such as Research Experiences for Undergraduates.

¹Science and Engineering Indicators 2016: Chapter 2 Higher Education in Science and Engineering, Appendix Tables 02-07 and 02-11. Retrieved from www.nsf.gov/statistics/2016/nsb20161/#/data

K-12 Teachers include teachers at elementary, middle, and secondary schools. These individuals actively participate in intensive professional development experiences in the sciences and mathematics.

K-12 Students are those attending elementary, middle, and secondary schools. They are supported through program components that directly engage students in science and mathematics experiences.