

NUMBER OF PEOPLE INVOLVED IN NSF ACTIVITIES

NSF estimates that in FY 2020 approximately 348,400 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 2020 Request
Number of People Involved in NSF Activities

	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
	Actual	(TBD)	Estimate
	Estimate		
Senior Researchers	44,136	-	39,850
Other Professionals	14,333	-	12,640
Postdoctoral Associates	5,979	-	5,270
Graduate Students	41,874	-	38,000
Undergraduate Students	37,669	-	35,040
K-12 Teachers	41,945	-	38,200
K-12 Students	199,931	-	179,400
Total Number of People	385,867	-	348,400

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 18 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 32 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.

¹ Science and Engineering Indicators 2018: Chapter 2 Higher Education in Science and Engineering, Appendix Tables 02-08 and 02-13. Retrieved from www.nsf.gov/statistics/2018/nsb20181/data/appendix?achapter561

Summary Tables

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.