

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 each year. Examples include research grants, cooperative agreements, equipment grants, 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 grants, 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.

NSF Funding Profile¹			
	FY 2023		FY 2025
	Base Plan	FY 2024	Request
	Estimate	(TBD)	Estimate
Statistics for Competitive Awards			
Number of Proposals ²	42,000		40,800
Number of Awards	11,200		10,900
Funding Rate	27%		27%
Statistics for Research Grant Awards			
Number of Research Grant Proposals	37,000		36,200
Number of Research Grant Awards	9,400		8,900
Funding Rate	25%		24%
Median Annualized Award Size	\$181,900		\$193,700
Average Annualized Award Size	\$239,700		\$207,900
Average Duration (years)	3.1		2.5

¹ Display excludes NSB, OIG, and staff offices.