NSF ENGINES FACT SHEET

State, local, and tribal government fact sheet on the NSF Engines program

Jump start your region's innovation ecosystem with up to $160 million over 10 years.

The U.S National Science Foundation's Regional Innovation Engines (NSF Engines) program supports the development of diverse regional coalitions to catalyze and foster innovation ecosystems across the U.S. Each NSF Engine focuses on use-inspired research and development that creates new technologies, jobs and economic opportunities for national, societal and geostrategic impact. The program was launched in May 2022 by NSF's Directorate for Technology, Innovation and Partnerships (TIP) and established in the "CHIPS and Science Act of 2022."

Pending congressional appropriations, the NSF Engines program aims to add additional regions to the 10 inaugural awardees announced earlier this year, expanding innovation potential across the U.S.

With this new funding opportunity, state and local governments and tribal nations are eligible to lead an NSF Engine. Higher education institutions, non-profit organizations and for-profits are also eligible to lead or participate in an NSF Engine.

NSF Engines funding amount:

Up to $160 million in funding for up to 10 years.

Funding eligibility:

New to this funding opportunity, state and local governments and tribal nations are eligible to apply for funding as lead organizations or core partners. Of the 10 inaugural NSF Engines, 57 state, local and tribal government entities are active participants. At least two NSF Engines and many more development awardees had meaningful partnerships with tribal nations and colleges and, 60% of the inaugural NSF Engines include partners that are new to NSF funding, demonstrating NSF's openness to novel, creative partnerships.

Take action

- Convene relevant sectors and organizational types within your region.
- Sign up for our upcoming events.
- Consider leading or joining your region's application.

Check out our website:

https://new.nsf.gov/funding/initiatives/regional-innovation-engines

U.S. National Science Foundation
Regional Innovation Engines

Email us questions:
engines@nsf.gov

Why should state, local, and tribal governments join or lead an NSF Engine?

- For regional innovation ecosystems to thrive and sustainably flourish, tribal, state, and local governments need to be meaningfully engaged. An NSF Engine thrives on robust government partnerships and support.

- NSF Engines program has the potential to be the largest regional innovation ecosystem building effort in the history of NSF and the federal government.

- NSF Engines program provides up to 10 years of funding and support to explicitly focus on regional innovation ecosystem building and economic growth.

- NSF Engines provides flexible funding to catalyze and foster regional job creation, workforce and startup development, startup company development, and translational scientific research and development.

How is NSF Engines different from other federal innovation programs?

- The amount and length of program funding per NSF Engine (up to $160 million per region for up to 10 years an order of magnitude greater than traditional NSF awards) demonstrates NSF's commitment to driving transformative economic growth throughout the U.S.

- Compared to other NSF innovation programs, NSF Engines support extends beyond basic and use-inspired and translational research, focusing on creating the research and translation spine of a regional innovation ecosystem. NSF Engines spans the translation of basic research to economic growth, including activities focused on startup firm creation, job creation and cultivating the talent pool to fill jobs in industries of the future.

- This program is being run in close collaboration with other federal agencies, most notably the Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration programs, including their Regional Technology and Innovation Hub and Build Back Better Regional Challenge. However, the NSF Engines program is unique in that NSF is willing to fund early-stage research and take on more technical and commercial risk to create the translational and research spine to move technologies from lab to society.

What are some examples of engagement pathways for state and local government entities?

- Lead an NSF Engines application.

- Convene relevant sectors and organizations within your region to drive equitable and inclusive discussion about regional priorities and economic growth strategies.

- Co-invest in economic and workforce development projects. In round 1, NSF saw hundreds of millions of dollars in state and local financial co-commitments across the portfolio.

- Integrate capital from federal, state, local, and philanthropic sources with NSF's funding opportunities.

- Partner on talent initiatives and integrate and co-design workforce development programs.

- Champion local innovators who are building future regional innovation industries.