

RESEARCH AND RELATED ACTIVITIES (R&RA)**\$3,276,150,000**

The FY 2026 Budget Request for the Research and Related Activities account is \$3,276.15 million. Funding within the R&RA Appropriation advances U.S. economic competitiveness and national security, invests in transformative early-stage discoveries, and complements private sector R&D where public investment can deliver the greatest value to the American people. Investments through R&RA also emphasize the development of a strategically prepared science and engineering workforce capable of sustaining long-term innovation in basic science and engineering research. These efforts focus on advancing capabilities across fields critical to U.S. leadership in science and technology, ensuring that the workforce can meaningfully enhance the Nation’s scientific and economic vitality.

R&RA Funding¹
(Dollars in Millions)

R&RA Organization	FY 2024		FY 2026 Request	Change over	
	Current Plan	FY 2025 (TBD)		FY 2024 Current Plan Amount	Percent
Biological Sciences	\$789.59		\$224.89	-\$564.70	-71.5%
Computer & Information Science & Engineering	989.35		346.27	-643.08	-65.0%
STEM Education	1,154.31		288.43	-865.88	-75.0%
Engineering	740.80		185.20	-555.60	-75.0%
Geosciences	1,577.08		873.57	-703.51	-44.6%
Geosciences: Office of Polar Programs	559.76		497.22	-62.54	-11.2%
<i>U.S. Antarctic Logistics Activities</i>	109.31		109.31	-	-
Mathematical & Physical Sciences	1,554.21		515.28	-1,038.93	-66.8%
Social, Behavioral & Economic Sciences	290.29		94.00	-196.29	-67.6%
<i>NCSES</i>	74.07		44.00	-30.07	-40.6%
Technology, Innovation, & Partnerships	617.90		350.00	-267.90	-43.4%
<i>SBIR/STTR, including Operations</i>	251.78		108.47	-143.31	-56.9%
Office of the Chief of Research Security Strategy & Policy	13.50		10.00	-3.50	-25.9%
Office of International Science & Engineering	63.70		12.74	-\$50.96	-80.0%
Integrative Activities	430.02		177.73	-252.29	-58.7%
U.S. Arctic Research Commission	1.75		1.15	-0.60	-34.3%
Mission Support Services	126.00		196.89	70.89	56.3%
Total	\$8,348.50		\$3,276.15	-\$5,308.27	-63.6%

¹ Restatements for comparability includes the consolidation of the Directorate for STEM Education (EDU) and Mission Support Services within R&RA, and the establishment of the Office of the Chief of Research Security, Strategy, and Policy (CRSP) as a standalone Program Activity.

Alignment and Operational Efficiency

Mission Support Services (MSS), formerly termed Program Related Administration (PRA), reflects the consolidation of two major budgetary components: 1) Program Related Technology (PRT) investments, and 2) Other Program Related Administration (Other PRA) investments. This funding, which was once managed under NSF’s programmatic directorates and offices, was organized into a centralized Budget Activity with direct funding allocated from the R&RA account in FY 2025. As part of the FY 2026 President’s Budget, NSF proposes consolidating remaining IT services and budget activities with an agency-wide benefit and previously funded under the AOAM account into the Mission Support

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Services portfolio under the R&RA account; this will align like functions, achieve scale efficiencies, centralize oversight, and support Administration priorities.

In FY 2026, funding for Mission Support Services is \$196.89 million. Consistent with NSF's approach, PRT and Other PRA will continue to be the major components of MSS and will be managed as separate investments. For additional details on these investments, please see the Organizational Excellence Chapter of this budget submission.

In FY 2026, NSF also proposes integrating the Directorate for STEM Education (EDU) into the R&RA Account, retiring the standalone STEM Education Account. The R&RA appropriation already supports STEM education. This consolidation brings these efforts into a single, cohesive structure. This change enhances administrative efficiency, reduces complexity, and improves NSF's ability to execute its mission while aligning with administration priorities, particularly during the year of execution.

Targeted Investments in Administration Priorities

- **Artificial Intelligence (AI):** The FY 2026 Budget increases FY 2024 funding levels in AI, reaffirming the administration's commitment to securing America's dominance in this critical field of science. Investments will advance foundational research in machine learning, computer vision, and natural language processing. These efforts are designed to bolster national security, drive economic growth, and ensure that the U.S. remains at the forefront of AI innovation. By bolstering collaborations between industry and government, NSF aims to translate AI research into practical applications that benefit the American people and reinforce the nation's global leadership.
- **Quantum Information Science (QIS):** The FY 2026 Budget increases FY 2024 funding levels in QIS, maintaining the administration's strong support for QIS. Investments will focus on foundational research in quantum computing to advance the Nation as a leader in Quantum technology. These initiatives are critical for developing next-generation technologies that can revolutionize industries and enhance national security. By prioritizing QIS investments, NSF will drive partnerships with federal agencies, industry, private foundations, and national laboratories to improve American innovation in quantum computing.
- **Technology, Innovation, and Partnerships (TIP):** The FY 2026 Budget allocates \$350.0 million for the TIP Directorate, including funds for SBIR/STTR, reinforcing this administration's commitment to supporting NSF in accelerating technological advancements and promoting industry partnerships. Funding will target critical and emerging technologies with the potential to yield tangible benefits for the American people. In line with administration priorities, emphasis will be placed on fostering partnerships that drive innovation, support domestic manufacturing, and enhance the Nation's competitive edge.
- **Strategic Industry Focus:** The FY 2026 Budget directs research investments toward sectors vital to U.S. economic and national security, including microelectronics and semiconductors, biotechnology, and advanced manufacturing. This aims to build the foundational science necessary to secure supply chains, bolster domestic production capacities, and enhance industrial competitiveness. In FY 2026, NSF will advance administration initiatives to guarantee that federal investments foster innovation, generate high-quality jobs, and strengthen America's industrial leadership in key technological domains.