

GEOSCIENCES: OFFICE OF POLAR PROGRAMS (OPP)

OPP Funding¹
(Dollars in Millions)

	FY 2024	FY 2025 (TBD)	FY 2026 Request	Change over	
	Current Plan			FY 2024 Amount	Current Plan
Total	\$559.76		\$497.22	-\$62.54	-11.2%
Research	86.00		25.00	-61.00	-70.9%
Education	3.92		-	-3.92	-100.0%
Infrastructure	469.84		472.22	2.38	0.5%
U.S. Antarctic Logistical Support (USALS) (054 Functional Classification)	109.31		109.31	-	-

¹ The Office of Polar Programs (OPP) is a division within the Geosciences Directorate. Due to the nature of the activities funded by OPP, this division is provided a separate writeup in NSF's Congressional Budget Submission.

OPP is the primary U.S. supporter of fundamental research in the polar regions. In the Arctic, NSF facilitates coordination of research planning as directed by the Arctic Research Policy Act of 1984, and the NSF Director chairs the Interagency Arctic Research Policy Committee (IARPC) created for this purpose. In the Antarctic, per Presidential Memorandum 6646, NSF manages all U.S. activities as a single, integrated program, making Antarctic research possible for scientists supported by NSF and other U.S. agencies. NSF's U.S. Antarctic Program (USAP) research activity also supports leadership by the U.S. Department of State in the governance of the continent and Southern Ocean under the aegis of the Antarctic Treaty System.

OPP's FY 2026 Request provides research support and logistics, including infrastructure, such as permanent stations and temporary field camps in the Antarctic and the Arctic. FY 2026 priorities include:

- **Antarctic Infrastructure:** Maintaining an active operational presence at three permanent year-round stations and field stations in Antarctica. These activities include critical infrastructure investments to ensure a continued world-leading presence on the continent through the Antarctic Infrastructure Recapitalization (AIR) program (discussed in more detail within the MREFC account narrative).
- **Arctic Infrastructure:** Operating research stations, vessels, and other infrastructure in Greenland, Alaska, and the Arctic Ocean. This includes continued development of modernization and recapitalization at Summit Station in Greenland as well as coordination with other government agencies and international partners to enhance U.S. presence in the Arctic.
- **Polar Research:** Targeting scientific research investments to activities that address National priorities in the polar regions.