

DIRECTORATE FOR SOCIAL, BEHAVIORAL, AND ECONOMIC SCIENCES (SBE), including the NATIONAL CENTER FOR SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING STATISTICS (NCSES)

SBE Funding					
(Dollars in Millions)					
	FY 2024			Change over	
	Current Plan	FY 2025 (TBD)	FY 2026 Request	FY 2024 Current Plan Amount	Percent
Total	\$290.29		\$94.00	-\$196.29	-67.6%
<i>SBE Programs</i>	216.22		50.00	-166.22	-76.9%
<i>NCSES</i>	74.07		44.00	-30.07	-40.6%
Research	193.77		41.11	-152.66	-78.8%
Education	7.00		2.89	-4.11	-58.7%
Infrastructure	89.52		50.00	-39.52	-44.1%

SBE supports fundamental research on people and society, including the study of human behavior, systems, and dynamics. SBE research advances Administration priorities by funding discoveries that fuel American productivity, empower America's industries, advance American entrepreneurialism, strengthen American safety, and reinforce America's global advantage. SBE researchers examine fundamental questions about the dynamic abilities of humans and human systems; human interactions with physical and built environments; the creation of jobs and industries; impacts of critical and emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI) and biotechnologies; national security; and finding new ways to improve quality of life for Americans. SBE research empowers America's private, philanthropic, and public sectors to grow the economy; secure the homeland; enhance the health and safety of American families; strengthen decision making; and increase the competitiveness of farms, factories, and offices across the Nation.

In FY 2026 SBE will:

- Support the sciences of AI, biotechnology, advanced manufacturing, and other critical and emerging industries. SBE-funded foundational research enables discoveries that inform and improve critical and emerging industries and technologies. SBE-funded researchers also measure the impacts of these on individuals, communities, and the workforce.
- Contribute to the science of national security, secure borders, and public safety. SBE-supported awards enable decision-makers to better understand and anticipate matters of security and safety, excellence and readiness of our military, and disaster response.
- Fund the sciences of economic prosperity and innovation. SBE-supported researchers contribute to our fundamental knowledge of economics and prosperity; of the human aspects of energy, technology, health, and other infrastructures; spectrum sciences; and the future of digital assets; among other topics.
- Enable and support the science of a 21st-Century American education. SBE sciences inform how students of all levels can enjoy better educational outcomes and emerge from their education prepared for modern demands of the 21st century workforce and jobs in critical and emerging industries.
- Contribute to the Nation's understanding of efficiency and oversight, freedoms and liberty, and other priorities of the Administration as indicated through the Administration's Presidential Actions.

National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES)

SBE is home to the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES) at NSF. NCSES is one of the Office of Management and Budget's 16 recognized statistical agencies and units in the Federal statistical system and has the statutory mandate to collect, acquire, analyze, report, and disseminate objective, policy-relevant information regarding the science and engineering enterprise in a global context. NCSES provides policymakers, researchers, and the public with high-quality data and analysis on research and development (R&D), innovation, the education of scientists and engineers, and the science and engineering workforce. NCSES supports research on statistical methodology and data quality improvement efforts, the education and training of researchers, and information compilation and dissemination to meet statistical and analytical needs. NCSES also plays a critical role in government-wide shared services for evidence building.

The FY 2026 request for SBE funds NCSES at \$44.0 million and supports the following activities:

- Data collection and analytic activities, which provide key evidence used widely in policy discussions and evidence-based decision making. The request will support nationally representative surveys: on U.S. investment in R&D and innovation from the private and public sectors; and surveys on the education and career pathways of scientists and engineers. The request will also fund rescoped information available for the science and engineering workforce that will ensure continued measurement of the nation's scientific talent and the businesses that support it.
- Investments to modernize surveys by assessing the feasibility of leveraging administrative data sources, data linkage opportunities, survey integration efforts, and new approaches to reduce costs and respondent burden while maintaining high-quality and objective data.
- Continued efforts to measure Administration priority topics, including the use and impact of critical and emerging technologies.
- Analysis and dissemination of data on scientific progress and technological innovation, including the statutorily mandated reports: Indicators of the State of Science and Engineering in the U.S. and Statistical Information on Individuals in Science and Engineering.
- Implementation of a data tool to improve access to and timeliness of statistical information for the National Science Board.
- Internationally comparable data to assess U.S. science and technology global competitiveness.
- Maintenance of IT infrastructure needs and security requirements including the NCSES data tools, website publication infrastructure, and other dissemination tools for continued data accessibility and stakeholder engagement.
- Continued leadership of government-wide evidence-building activities such as management of the Standard Application Process portal for applying to access restricted-use data from all OMB-recognized statistical agencies and units, including expansion of this portal in features, usability, agency participation, and datasets.
- The National Secure Data Service demonstration project and related statistical system-wide efforts with an emphasis on using AI techniques to create efficiencies and reduce administrative barriers in data discovery, acquisition, and use; testing of a secure computing space to promote innovative research and development; and establishing a comprehensive data concierge service to streamline data discovery and access for evidence building.