

# NSF Budget Update

## EPSCoR PI Meeting

January 28, 2025

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Office of the CFO  
National Science Foundation



# Topics

- Budget Primer
- Current Year Update, FY 2026
- CHIPS and Science Act Update
- Budget Request Update, FY 2027
- What's Next?



# Budget Primer

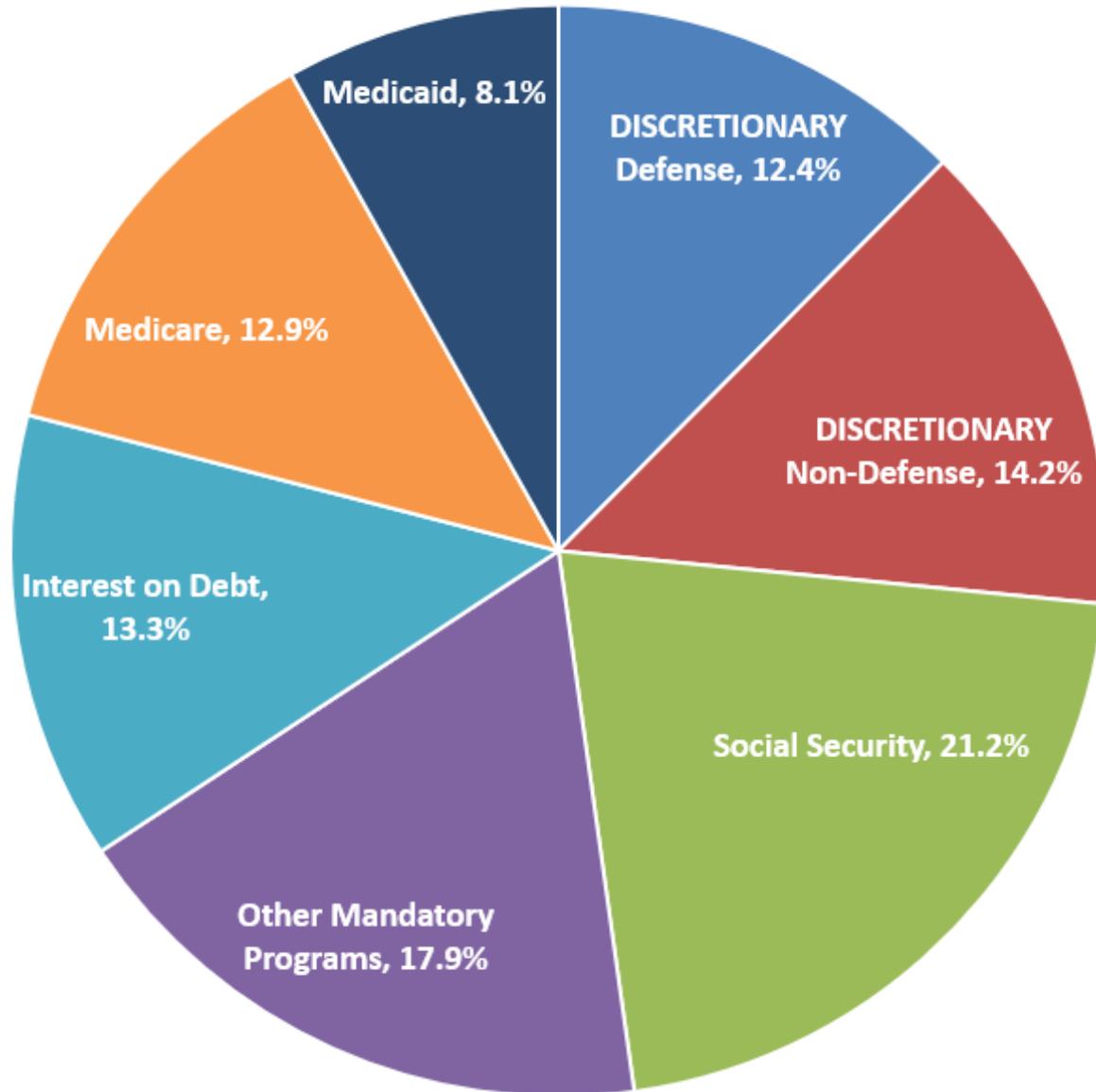


# What the we mean when we say “the budget.”

- Budget of the US Government (President’s Budget)
  - Justification of appropriations submitted to Congress
- NSF Request (Congressional Justification)
  - 2 pages of requested appropriations language
  - ~200 pages of “justification”
- Budgets are policy documents
- Know your pages
  - [www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget/](http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget/)
  - [NSF Budget and Performance](#)



# NSF is a small player in the federal landscape.



NSF's FY 2025 Budget Request is about 1.0% of total Non-Defense Discretionary Spending.

Outlays by Broad Category based on FY 2025 President's Budget



# NSF receives funding from Congress in six appropriation accounts to finance its mission.

## Programmatic Activities

- Research & Related Activities (R&RA) ← **EPSCOR Office**
- STEM Education (EDU) – *proposed to merge with R&RA*
- Major Res. Equipment & Facilities Construction (MREFC)

## Administrative & Management Activities

- Agency Operations & Award Management (AOAM)
- Office of Inspector General (OIG)
- Office of the National Science Board (NSB)



# NSF's FY 2026 appropriation is progressing.

## National Science Foundation

(Dollars in millions)

Account	FY 2025 Plan	FY 2026 Request <sup>1</sup>	FY 2026 House	FY 2026 Senate	FY 2026 Enacted
Research & Related Activities (R&RA)	\$7,153	\$2,988	\$6,373	\$7,177	\$7,177
STEM Education (EDU) <sup>1</sup>	1,172	288	0	1,000	938
Major Res. Equip. & Facilities Construction (MREFC)	23	251	251	350	251
Agency Operations & Award Management (AOAM)	448	355	355	444	355
Office of Inspector General (OIG)	24	18	18	24	24
Office of the National Science Board (ONSB)	5	3	3	5	5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$8,826</b>	<b>\$3,903</b>	<b>\$7,000</b>	<b>\$9,000</b>	<b>\$8,750</b>

Totals may not add due to rounding.

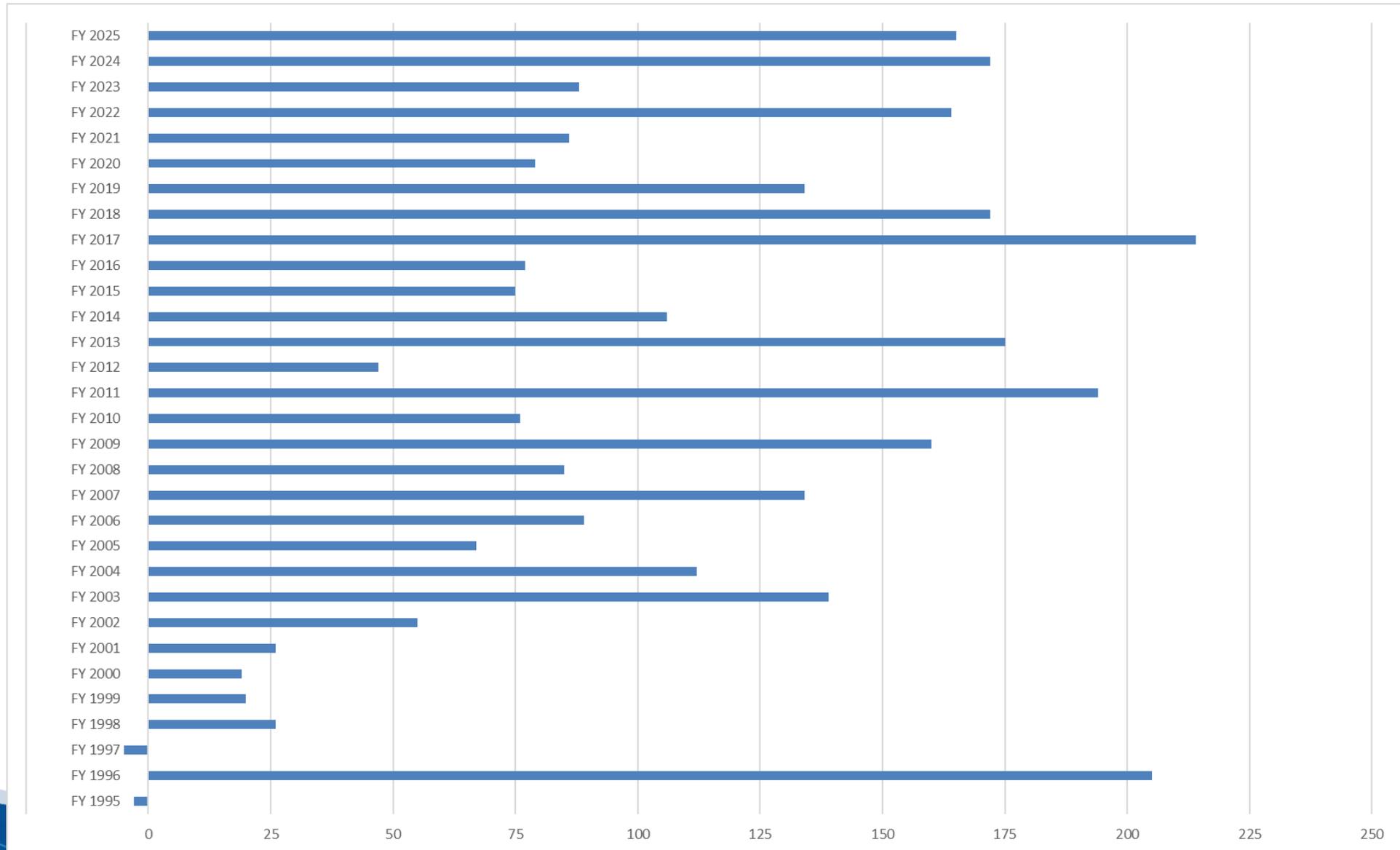
<sup>1</sup> For comparability with FY 2026 Enacted, the STEM Education Account is disaggregated from R&RA in the FY 2026 Request column.



# Current Year Update FY 2026



# Since 1995, enactment of an appropriation has occurred an average of 102 days after the start of the fiscal year



FY 2025 =  
165 days



# Receipt of the appropriation is just one step before funds are fully available.

- Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriation bill passed both the House and Senate conference in January; signed into law on January 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- EPSCoR is called out in joint conference language at \$250M.
- The Current Plan must be transmitted 45 days after the law is signed, or mid-March. Discussions will continue with OMB and then then Congressional appropriators on NSF's final "spend plan."



# Funding for the EPSCoR Program in FY 2026 is level with FY 2025.

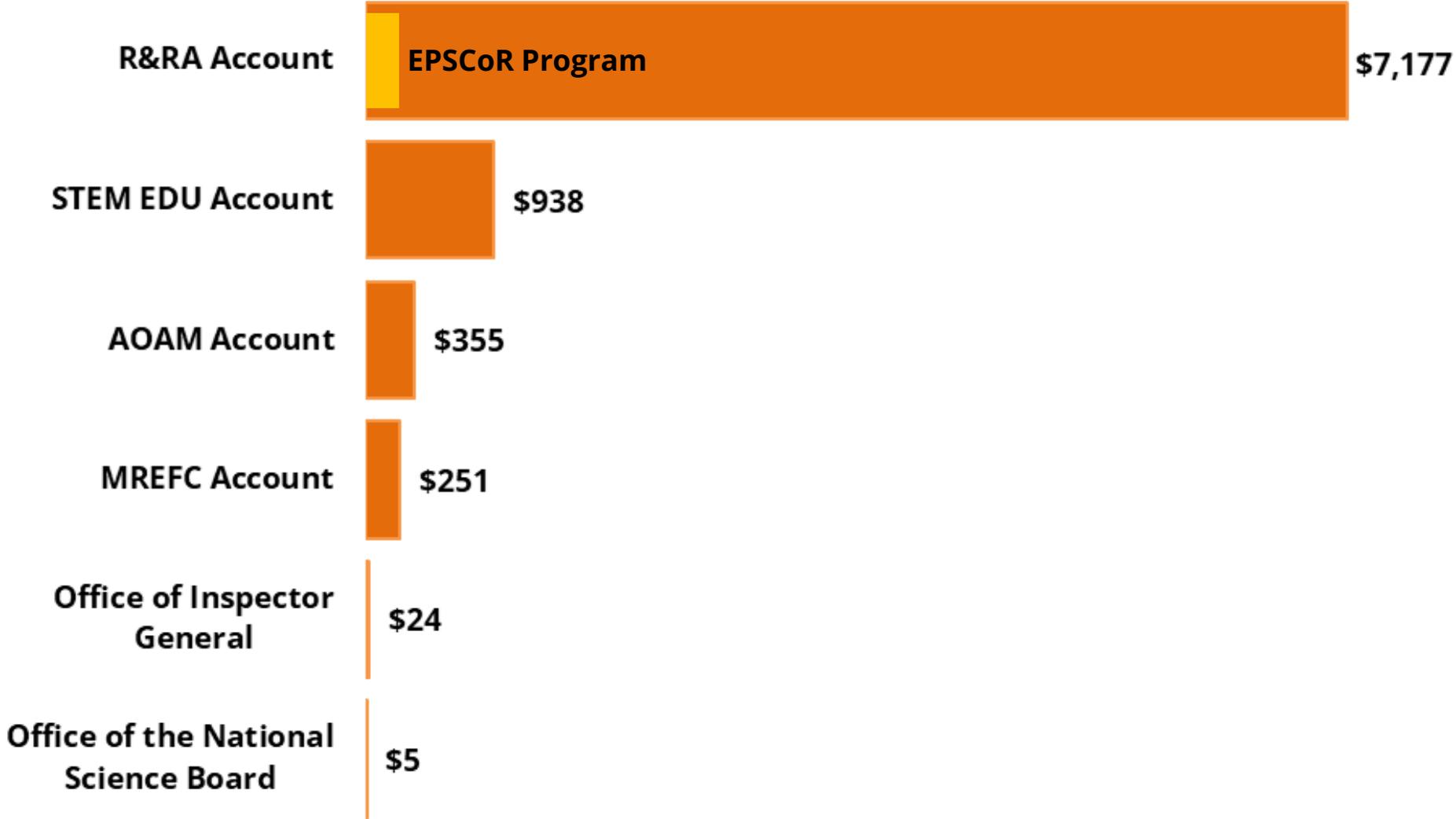
(Dollars in Millions)

Account	FY 2025 Current Plan	FY 2026 Enacted	FY26 over FY25	
			\$ change	% change
Research & Related Activities	\$7,153	\$7,177	\$24	0.3%
<i>EPSCoR Office</i>	<i>[250]</i>	<i>[250]</i>	<i>[\$0]</i>	<i>[0%]</i>
STEM Education	1,172	938	-\$234	-20.0%
Major Research Equip. & Facilities Construction	23	251	\$228	972.6%
Agency Operations & Award Management	448	355	-\$93	-20.8%
Office of Inspector General	24	24	-\$0	-1.7%
Office of the National Science Board	5	5	-\$0	-1.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$8,826</b>	<b>\$8,750</b>	<b>-\$76</b>	<b>-0.9%</b>



# Support for EPSCoR jurisdictions in FY 2026 can come from R&RA, EDU, and MREFC.

(dollars in millions)



# CHIPS and Science Act Update



# The CHIPS & Science Act passed in Summer 2022.

- *Creating Helpful Incentives to Produce Semiconductors (CHIPS) and Science Act*, signed into law in August 2022.
- Includes *authorizations* for historic investments in science across multiple agencies, creating opportunities to strengthen partnerships in the federal R&D landscape.
- Useful overviews:  
<https://new.nsf.gov/chips>  
[www.aaas.org/programs/office-government-relations/breaking-down-chips-and-science-act](http://www.aaas.org/programs/office-government-relations/breaking-down-chips-and-science-act)



# NSF has two EPSCoR spending targets in CHIPS.

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(3) *GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION.*—

(A) *IN GENERAL.*—*To the maximum extent practicable, not less than—*

(i) *15.5 percent in fiscal year 2023,*

(ii) *16 percent in fiscal year 2024,*

(iii) *16.5 percent in fiscal year 2025,*

(iv) *17 percent in fiscal year 2026,*

(v) *18 percent in fiscal year 2027,*

(vi) *19 percent in fiscal year 2028,*

*and*

(vii) *20 percent in fiscal year 2029,*

(B) *SCHOLARSHIPS.*—*To the maximum extent practicable, not less than—*

(i) *16 percent in fiscal year 2023,*

(ii) *18 percent in fiscal year 2024, and*

† 4346 EAS2

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458

(iii) *20 percent in each of fiscal years*

*2025 through 2029,*

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# NSF surpassed its EPSCoR spending targets in FY 2025.

## Target 1: Overall Spending

The FY 2025 actual amount obligated in EPSCoR jurisdictions, \$1.4 billion, are well above the Congressionally mandated target of 16.5% or \$1.1 billion.

## Target 2: Scholarships/Fellowships/Traineeships/Postdocs

The FY 2025 actual amount obligated in EPSCoR Scholarships, \$92.2 million, is also well above the Congressionally mandated target of 20% or \$50.1 million.



**The EPSCoR  
Annual  
Report  
provides  
results of  
CHIPS  
target  
spending.**

**NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION (NSF)  
ESTABLISHED PROGRAM TO STIMULATE COMPETITIVE RESEARCH (EPSCOR)  
REPORT TO CONGRESS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024**

This report summarizes fiscal year (FY) 2024 NSF funding to institutions and entities in EPSCoR jurisdictions, as required by the following enacted legislation:

- Public Law 111-358 – America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010 Sec. 517 (42 U.S.C. 1862p-9), as amended by:
- Public Law 114-329 - American Innovation and Competitiveness Act (AICA) Sec. 103(d)(1)(D) and
- Public Law 117-167 - Creating Helpful Incentives to Produce Semiconductors (CHIPS) and Science Act Title III Sec. 10325 (a)(3)(F) (42 U.S.C. 19014)



# Budget Request Year Update FY 2027



# FY 2026 Plan and FY 2027 Request actions are occurring almost simultaneously.

- FY 2027 Budget is expected to be transmitted to Congress in several weeks, but final date is not yet known.
- Late January receipt of the FY 2026 appropriation leaves NFS with little time to incorporate impacts of FY 2026 in the FY 2027 Budget on a detailed level.
- Balancing act. However, EPSCoR is typically a constant.



# FY 2027 budget justification is ongoing.

- After submittal of the budget, briefings may be held with Appropriation and Authorization staffers, perhaps in April.
- Formal budget hearings unlikely without a confirmed director. Topical hearings with House Science and Senate Commerce authorizing committees are possible (eg QIS, AI).
- Recurring topics: QIS, AI, other Emerging Industries; critical minerals; EPSCoR.
- To understand administration priorities, see the joint OMB-OSTP R&D Memo M-25-24 issued in Sept. 2025.

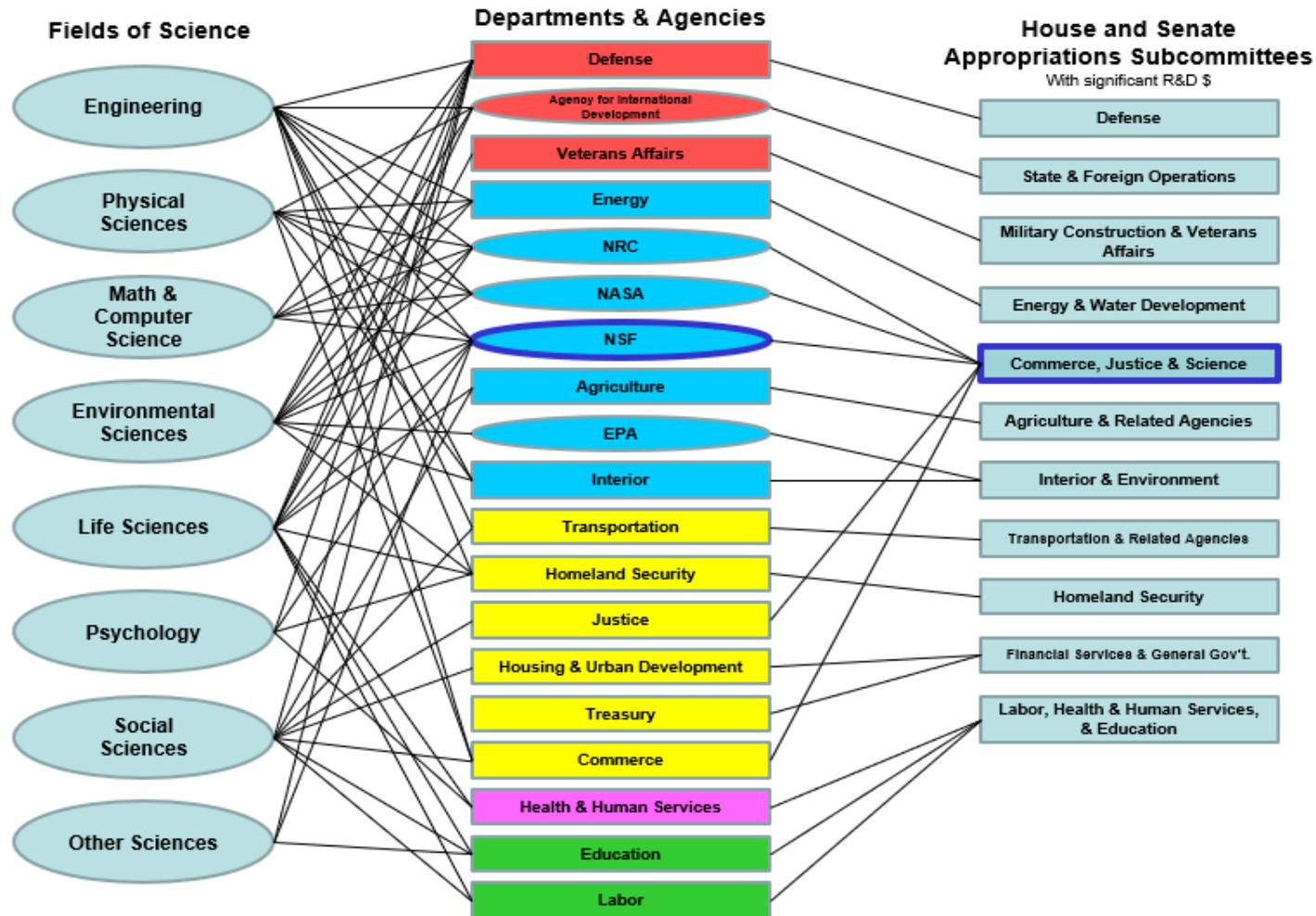


# What's Next?

- House and Senate appropriation sub-committees issue FY 2027 budget marks and report language (often public) late spring, early summer.
- FY 2028 Budget planning
  - NSF leadership discussions will begin in earnest soon
  - OMB's FY 2028 Budget Guidance memo expected in June (public)
  - Joint OMB/OSTP R&D priorities memo expected in summer (public)
- Congressional action by October 1<sup>st</sup>: Full FY 2027 appropriation?  
Continuing Resolution? Funding lapse?



# Many parts of the federal government are involved in many fields of science.



Showing fields of science and executive legislative decision units.



# Questions?

