

NSF ENGINES FACT SHEET



Entrepreneurial fact sheet on the NSF Engines program

Jumpstart your region's innovation ecosystem with up to \$160 million over 10+ years.

The U.S. National Science Foundation [Regional Innovation Engines](#) (NSF Engines) program supports the development of cross-sector regional coalitions to engage in use-inspired research, drive research results to the market and society, promote workforce development and ultimately stimulate the economy and create new jobs. Each NSF Engine focuses on use-inspired research and development that creates new technologies, jobs and economic opportunities for national, societal and economic impact. The program was launched in May 2022 by the NSF Directorate for Technology, Innovation and Partnerships.

The NSF Engines program encourages regional teams of innovators and ecosystem builders, including for-profit organizations like startups, incubators, venture studios and accelerators, working in partnership with others, to submit proposals aimed at building innovation ecosystems across the U.S.

Goal of the NSF Engines program

The NSF Engines program envisions supporting multiple flourishing regional innovation ecosystems across the U.S., spurring economic growth in regions that have not fully participated in the technology boom of the past few decades.

10 inaugural NSF Engines

In January 2024, NSF announced the first-ever NSF Engines awards to 10 teams of innovators and ecosystem builders from industry, higher education, nonprofit, tribal nations and state and local governments. Each awardee team received an initial \$15 million over the two years with the potential to receive up to \$160 million each over the next decade. 60% of NSF Engines awardees include partners who are new to NSF funding, demonstrating NSF's openness to novel, creative partnerships.

- Central Florida Semiconductor Innovation Engine
- Colorado–Wyoming Climate Resilience Engine
- Great Lakes Water Innovation Engine
- Louisiana Energy Transition Engine
- North Carolina Textile Innovation and Sustainability Engine
- North Dakota Advanced Agriculture Technology Engine
- Paso del Norte Defense and Aerospace Innovation Engine
- Piedmont Triad Regenerative Medicine Engine
- Southwest Sustainability Innovation Engine
- Upstate New York Energy Storage Engine

Check out our website:

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



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We invite you to sign up for our newsletter to learn more about the NSF Engines program.

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U.S. National Science Foundation
Regional Innovation Engines

Email us questions:
engines@nsf.gov

Why should startups, venture funds and entrepreneurial support organizations join an NSF Engine?

- NSF Engines provides long-term, flexible capital and support to regions—driving economic growth throughout the U.S.
- NSF Engines aims to make ecosystems stronger and more cohesive, leading to more robust research and development and a pipeline for startup companies to scale products and services regionally.

How is NSF Engines different from other federal innovation programs?

- The amount and length of program funding per investment (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 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 operated in close collaboration with other federal agencies, most notably the Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration programs, including Tech Hubs and the Build Back Better Regional Challenge.

What are some examples of engagement pathways for startups, venture funds and entrepreneurial support organizations?

- Become a core partner (a member of the stakeholder coalition often contributing or receiving significant resources).
- Bring the best entrepreneurial innovation ecosystem builders to the table, ensuring company builders and startup founders have a voice in topic areas and goals.
- Partner on research and development, develop startup support infrastructure and talent initiatives and drive regional need conversations.
- Invest in companies developing breakthrough technologies emerging from NSF Engines.

Take action

- Convene relevant sectors and organizational types within your region.
- Complete the [NSF Engines Engagement Interest Form](#).