



U.S. National Science Foundation
Office of the Director

December 8, 2025

Dr. Victor R. McCrary
Chair, National Science Board
2415 Eisenhower Avenue
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Dr. McCrary:

This letter transmits the National Science Foundation Management Response to the Office of Inspector General (“OIG”) Semiannual Report, which covers the period from April 1, 2025, through September 30, 2025. The Management Response consists of two statistical tables required of all Executive agencies under the Inspector General Act (as amended). The NSF submits its Management Response to the National Science Board so that the Board may, subject to an affirmative vote, include the NSF Management Response when they transmit the OIG Semiannual Report to Congress.

The Inspector General Act requires that the NSF Management Response report status and progress towards resolving past expenditures identified by the OIG as “questioned costs” or “funds that could be used more efficiently if NSF implemented an OIG recommendation.” Costs may be questioned by the OIG because of an alleged violation of law, regulation, or other standard or because of a finding that costs were not supported by adequate documentation at the time of an audit. During the reporting period, with respect to external audits, NSF resolved \$3,175,643 in questioned costs and the OIG identified \$105,291 in new, unresolved questioned costs during the reporting period. During the reporting period, and no new findings were made during the period.

NSF is also required to report on the status and progress of resolving OIG recommendations. The second table provided in our Management Response identifies a total of 269 OIG external audit recommendations open at the beginning of the reporting period or for which management decisions were made in the period. The NSF took final action on 228 recommendations during the period, leaving a net balance of 41 open audit recommendations to carry over into the next period.

Our Management Response only reports data relating to OIG external audits, primarily compliance audits of grant recipients. An additional 10 reports and 26 recommendations remain open at the end of the reporting period for OIG audits of NSF internal programs and operations issued before the start of this reporting period.

Management has agreed to all recommendations included in these audits, all are resolved, and none include questioned costs or funds put to better use.

The NSF appreciates the work of the OIG Office of Audits, Inspections, and Evaluations and our effective working relationship with the OIG. We look forward to continued engagement with the OIG toward our shared goal of the responsible stewardship of U.S. taxpayer funds.

Sincerely,

**MICAH M
CHEATHAM**

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Micah Cheatham
Chief Management Officer

**Management Decisions Made on OIG External Audit Reports
for the Six-Month Period Ended September 30, 2025**

	Number of Reports	Dollar Value
A. Audit reports pending management decisions at the beginning of the period		
(1) Questioned Costs	11	\$3,175,643
(2) Funds Put to Better Use	0	\$0
B. Audit reports issued during the reporting period		
(1) Questioned Costs	1	\$105,291
(2) Funds Put to Better Use	0	\$0
C. Total audit reports pending management decisions this reporting period (A+B)	12	\$3,280,934
D. Audit reports for which a management decision was made during the reporting period (Disallowed Costs)		
(1) Questioned Costs	11	\$3,175,643
(a) Disallowed Costs		\$1,613,004
(b) Allowed Costs		\$1,562,639
(2) Funds Put to Better Use	0	n/a
E. Audit reports pending management decisions at the end of the period		
(1) Questioned Costs	1	\$105,291
(2) Funds Put to Better Use	0	\$0
F. Total Reports (D+E)	12	\$3,280,934

**Final Actions Taken on Audits with Management Decisions
for the Six-Month Period Ended September 30, 2025**

	Number of Recommendations	Dollar Value
A. Audit reports with management decisions on which final action had not been taken at the beginning of the period	113	\$1,330,232
B. Audit reports on which management decisions were made during the period	156	\$1,612,966
C. Total audit reports pending final action during this period (Total A+B)	269	\$2,943,198
D. Audit reports on which final action was taken during this period for current and prior period audit reports	228	\$2,451,321
(1) Recoveries		
a) Collection and Offset		\$2,451,321
b) Amount uncollectible		
(2) Write-offs		
(3) Implemented Recommendations	228	
E. Audit reports needing final action at the end of the reporting period and unimplemented recommendations (C-D) See detailed table for explanations why final actions are not complete.	41	\$491,877
F. Total (D+E)	269	\$2,943,198

Management Decisions Made on OIG External Audit Reports for the Period Ended September 30, 2025

			No. of	Questioned Costs	Funds Put to Better	
			Recommendations		Use	
A. Audit reports pending management decisions at the beginning of the period:						
1	19-1-017	Oregon State University	24	\$369,532	\$0	
2	21-1-004	University of Florida	17	\$640,723	\$0	
3	24-1-004	University of New Hampshire	7	\$7,754	\$0	
4	24-1-006	Montana State University	18	\$119,241	\$0	
5	24-1-011	University of Alabama Tuscaloosa	14	\$41,311	\$0	
6	24-1-013	Brown University	14	\$78,318	\$0	
7	25-1-001	University of Georgia	2	\$0	\$0	
8	25-1-002	University of Maine	3	\$12,282	\$0	
9	25-1-003	University of Nebraska	14	\$196,047	\$0	
10	25-1-004	Columbia University	23	\$661,353	\$0	
11	25-1-005	Northeastern University	20	\$1,049,082	\$0	
Subtotal A			156	\$3,175,643	\$0	
			No. of	Questioned Costs	Funds Put to Better	
			Recommendations		Use	
B. Audit reports issued this six-month reporting period						
1	25-1-006	Georgetown University	18	\$105,291	\$0	
Subtotal B			18	\$105,291	\$0	
C. Total audit reports pending management decisions this reporting period (Total A+B: 12)			174	\$3,280,934	\$0	
			No. of	Questioned Costs	Funds Put to Better	Disallowed Costs
			Recommendations		Use	
D. Audit reports for which a management decision was made during the reporting period						
1	19-1-017	Oregon State University	24	\$369,532	\$0	\$259,299
2	21-1-004	University of Florida	17	\$640,723	\$0	\$222,838
3	24-1-004	University of New Hampshire	7	\$7,754	\$0	\$4,604
4	24-1-006	Montana State University	18	\$119,241	\$0	\$78,101
5	24-1-011	University of Alabama Tuscaloosa	14	\$41,311	\$0	\$33,066
6	24-1-013	Brown University	14	\$78,318	\$0	\$66,717
7	25-1-001	University of Georgia	2	\$0	\$0	\$0
8	25-1-002	University of Maine	3	\$12,282	\$0	\$12,282
9	25-1-003	University of Nebraska	14	\$196,047	\$0	\$196,047
10	25-1-004	Columbia University	23	\$661,353	\$0	\$87,653
11	25-1-005	Northeastern University	20	\$1,049,082	\$0	\$652,397
Subtotal D			156	\$3,175,643	\$0	\$1,613,004
			No. of	Questioned Costs	Funds Put to Better	
			Recommendations		Use	
E. Audit reports pending management decisions at the end of the period:						
1	25-1-006	Georgetown University	18	\$105,291	\$0	
Subtotal E			18	\$105,291	\$0	
F. Reconciliation total audit reports (Total D+E: 12)			174	\$3,280,934	\$0	

Final Actions Taken on Audits with Management Decisions for the Six-Month Period Ended September 30, 2025

				Reported	Disallowed Costs	Open	Pending Repayment
				Recommendations		Recommendations	
A. Audit Reports with management decisions on which final action had not been taken at the beginning of the period:							
1	20-1-004	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill		43	\$613,823	13	\$613,823
2	20-1-005	University of Houston		30	\$80,117	8	\$60,672
3	21-1-002	Texas A&M University		24	\$95,489	7	\$0
4	21-1-007	Clemson University		35	\$226,381	30	\$85,021
5	21-1-017	Tennessee State University		13	\$155,432	6	\$0
6	22-1-002	University of Texas at Dallas		24	\$188,314	6	\$188,314
7	22-1-006	California Polytechnic State University Foundation		13	\$19,608	7	\$0
8	22-1-008	Education Development Center		12	\$33,562	7	\$20,118
9	22-1-009	BSCS Science Learning ¹		16	\$118,178	3	\$94,624
10	23-1-002	Computing Research Association		27	\$195,383	7	\$195,383
11	23-1-003	University of Mississippi		16	\$129,951	13	\$13,750
12	23-1-005	Incorporated Research Institutions for Seismology (IRIS)		5	\$470	2	\$0
13	23-1-006	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute		22	\$197,677	2	\$6,079
14	24-1-002	University of Arkansas		13	\$252,954	1	\$52,448
15	24-1-008	University of Oklahoma Norman Campus ²		19	\$1,251,186	1	\$0
Subtotal A				312	\$3,558,525	113	\$1,330,232

				Reported	Disallowed Costs	Open	Pending Repayment
				Recommendations		Recommendations	
B. Audit Reports on which management decisions were made during the period:							
1	19-1-017	Oregon State University ³		24	\$259,299	24	\$259,261
2	21-1-004	University of Florida ⁴		17	\$222,838	17	\$222,838
3	24-1-004	University of New Hampshire		7	\$4,604	7	\$4,604
4	24-1-006	Montana State University		18	\$78,101	18	\$78,101
5	24-1-011	University of Alabama Tuscaloosa		14	\$33,066	14	\$33,066
6	24-1-013	Brown University		14	\$66,717	14	\$66,717
7	25-1-001	University of Georgia		2	\$0	2	\$0
8	25-1-002	University of Maine		3	\$12,282	3	\$12,282
9	25-1-003	University of Nebraska		14	\$196,047	14	\$196,047
10	25-1-004	Columbia University		23	\$87,653	23	\$87,653
11	25-1-005	Northeastern University		20	\$652,397	20	\$652,397
Subtotal B				156	\$1,613,004	156	\$1,612,966

C. Total Recommendations Pending Final Action During This Period: **269** **\$2,943,198**

				Open	Pending Repayment	Closed	Repaid
				Recommendations		Recommendations	
D. Audit Reports on which final action was taken during this period:							
1	19-1-017	Oregon State University		24	\$259,261	20	\$76,167
2	20-1-004	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill		13	\$613,823	13	\$613,823
3	20-1-005	University of Houston		8	\$60,672	8	\$60,672
4	21-1-002	Texas A&M University		7	\$0	7	\$0
5	21-1-004	University of Florida		17	\$222,838	11	\$9,139
6	21-1-007	Clemson University		30	\$85,021	30	\$85,021
7	22-1-002	University of Texas at Dallas		6	\$188,314	6	\$188,314
8	22-1-006	California Polytechnic State University Foundation		7	\$0	7	\$0
9	22-1-008	Education Development Center		7	\$20,118	7	\$20,118
10	22-1-009	BSCS Science Learning		3	\$94,624	3	\$94,624
11	23-1-002	Computing Research Association		7	\$195,383	7	\$195,383
12	23-1-003	University of Mississippi		13	\$13,750	13	\$13,750
13	23-1-005	Incorporated Research Institutions for Seismology (IRIS)		2	\$0	2	\$0
14	23-1-006	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute		2	\$6,079	2	\$6,079
15	24-1-002	University of Arkansas		1	\$52,448	1	\$52,448
16	24-1-004	University of New Hampshire		7	\$4,604	7	\$4,604
17	24-1-006	Montana State University		18	\$78,101	15	\$36,961
18	24-1-008	University of Oklahoma Norman Campus		1	\$0	1	\$0
19	24-1-011	University of Alabama Tuscaloosa		14	\$33,066	14	\$33,066
20	24-1-013	Brown University		14	\$66,717	13	\$61,259

21	25-1-001	University of Georgia	2	\$0	2	\$0
22	25-1-002	University of Maine	3	\$12,282	3	\$12,282
23	25-1-003	University of Nebraska	14	\$196,047	14	\$196,047
24	25-1-004	Columbia University	23	\$87,653	18	\$74,869
25	25-1-005	Northeastern University	20	\$652,397	4	\$616,695
Subtotal D			263	\$2,943,198	228	\$2,451,321

			Reported Recommendations	Disallowed Costs	Open Recommendations	Pending Repayment	Explanation Why Final Action is Not Complete
E. Audit Reports needing final action at the end of the period:							
1	19-1-017	Oregon State University	24	\$259,299	4	\$183,094	a.
2	21-1-004	University of Florida	17	\$222,838	6	\$213,699	a.
3	21-1-017	Tennessee State University	13	\$155,432	6	\$0	b.
4	24-1-006	Montana State University	18	\$78,101	3	\$41,140	a.
5	24-1-013	Brown University	14	\$66,717	1	\$5,458	a.
6	25-1-004	Columbia University	23	\$87,653	5	\$12,784	a.
7	25-1-005	Northeastern University	20	\$652,397	16	\$35,702	a.
Subtotal E			88	\$1,522,437	41	\$491,877	

F. Reconciliation of Recommendations:		269	\$2,943,198
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Final actions are completed when all recommendations are closed and all disallowed costs have been repaid. Explanations why final actions are not complete:

- a. The management decision was made during the preceding year.
- b. NSF Management continues to pursue final actions to ensure full implementation of corrective action plans.

Disallowed Costs: Disallowed costs are the amounts that must be repaid as a result of NSF's management decisions. OIG reports "sustained costs" which are the amounts that NSF agreed had a reasonable basis for questioning the costs in the audit reports. However, within its managerial discretion, NSF determined to disallow costs that are less than the questioned costs based on detailed reviews and interpretation of applicable Federal and NSF requirements, proposal and award information maintained by the Agency, and documentation provided by the awardees.

Sections A and B Footnotes:

¹22-1-009 BSCS Science Learning: Previously reported pending repayment of \$94,664 included \$40 disallowed costs under an award where NSF did not pursue repayment. Corrected pending repayment amount is \$94,624.

² 24-1-008 University of Oklahoma: Previously reported one open recommendation with pending repayment of \$1,124,864; however, this management decision was reversed as a result of an appeal resulting in \$0 pending repayment.

³19-1-017 Oregon State University: Disallowed costs were \$259,299; however, NSF will not pursue repayment of \$38 under an award resulting in the pending repayment amount of \$259,261.

⁴21-1-004 University of Florida: The University has appealed management decisions related to disallowed costs of \$222,838. As of 9/30/2025, adjudication of this appeal was on-going.