



U.S. National
Science Foundation



NSF 75
YEARS OF
INNOVATION

2025 marks the 75th anniversary of NSF. Throughout the year, the agency will host in-person and virtual activities to commemorate this significant milestone. For more information, visit: [nsf.gov/75years](https://www.nsf.gov/75years)

ARKANSAS

● FAST FACTS



\$33,096,000

Total NSF Awards to Arkansas



\$29,940,000

Invested in Fundamental Research in Arkansas



\$3,156,000

Invested in STEM Education in Arkansas



\$2,244,000

Invested in Arkansas Businesses

● TOP NSF-FUNDED ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS

University of Arkansas
\$22,415,000

Arkansas State University
\$1,958,000

University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences
\$1,153,000

● NSF BY THE NUMBERS

The U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF) is an independent federal agency created by Congress in 1950 to promote the progress of science; to advance the national health, prosperity, and welfare; and to secure the national defense. To fulfill this vital role, NSF supports basic research and researchers who create knowledge that transforms the future.

DID YOU KNOW?

NSF has funded the work of **268** Nobel Prize winners over 75 years.



\$9.06B

FY 2024
Total Enacted

92%
Funds research, education and related activities



11K
Awards



1.9K
Institutions



358K
People

"Data represents FY 2024 Actuals unless otherwise indicated"



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INNOVATION | *Generating new knowledge that provides a greater understanding of the world around us*

Funded through the NSF Industry-University Cooperative Research Centers program, the Center for Membrane Applications, Science and Technology (MAST) collaborates with membrane manufacturers and users to promote scientific knowledge and to develop new products that advance human health, prosperity and welfare. Membranes have a wide variety of uses, including drug manufacture, food and beverage production, drinking water and wastewater treatment and the recovery of valuable chemical species from waste streams. By establishing multidisciplinary project teams of industry scientists and university researchers from four institutions, the MAST Center addresses challenging technical issues that are of significant societal impact in the areas of healthcare and environmental stewardship. For example, the MAST Center's work at the **University of Arkansas** is focused on developing efficient processes to purify viruses and virus-like particles for use in vaccines and gene therapy products. In addition, the MAST Center works with local community colleges and schools to train a skilled workforce to support a developing local biotechnology industry.



EXPANDING FRONTIERS | *Generating institutional capacity, new technologies and societal impact*

Bolstering University Infrastructure for Leading Development in Research (BUILD) is a collaboration between **Arkansas Tech University** and the **University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff** to improve their institutional position to engage with Arkansas' state-wide research ecosystem. Both institutions play central roles in the rural economic development of their regional ecosystems in central and southeastern Arkansas, respectively. Through this NSF Enabling Partnerships to Increase Innovation Capacity project, these universities are aligning faculty research with regional partnership opportunities; expanding existing partnerships that currently depend on individual faculty into more sustainable collaborations; building partnerships that better meet employer needs and fully leverage university capabilities; and counteracting underemployment or relocation of STEM talent. BUILD aims to create a robust research development enterprise, leading to a revitalized rural economic ecosystem, broad-based STEM workforce growth and strengthened regional economic competitiveness.



EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE | *Supporting our STEM talent of today and tomorrow*

Over the next six years, the NSF Scholarships in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Program will support 28 full-time students at **Hendrix College** to pursue bachelor's degrees in biology, biochemistry and molecular biology, chemistry, chemical physics, computer science, mathematics and physics. In addition to receiving scholarships, students engage closely with faculty mentors and each other in shared coursework, participate in a peer mentoring program designed to foster a sense of belonging and engagement in the sciences, receive internship and research opportunities, converse with professional scientists and undertake a STEM-themed community project. In partnership with the Arkansas Innovation Hub, scholarship program participants also design and execute a project that addresses student-identified community challenges. With scientific skill sets and connections to the rural areas of the South, the students explore how they can contribute to the innovation economy in their communities, thereby bolstering infrastructure and addressing the other scientific needs in the region.

COMPETITIVE RESEARCH

ARKANSAS is one of 28 U.S. states or territories under the NSF Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR). For more information, visit [ARKANSAS' EPSCoR state web page](#).

NCSES

The [National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics \(NCSES\)](#) within the U.S. National Science Foundation is the nation's leading provider of statistical data on the U.S. science and engineering enterprise. As a principal federal statistical agency, NCSES conducts nationally representative surveys and publishes objective data and reports on topics related to research and development, the science and engineering workforce, and STEM education. For example, in FY 2024, **Arkansas** invested **\$1,025,000,000** on research and development.

For more information on NSF's impact in your state, please contact NSF Office of Legislative and Public Affairs at congressionalteam@nsf.gov.

LEARN MORE

- **BROUGHT TO YOU BY NSF** – NSF has invested in discoveries, inventions, and innovations that have shaped the modern world, including the internet, 3D printing, American Sign Language, Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), deep sea exploration, Doppler radar and more. For more information on NSF impacts, please visit: [nsf.gov/impacts](https://www.nsf.gov/impacts).
- **RESEARCH SECURITY** – NSF is committed to safeguarding the integrity and security of science and engineering while also keeping fundamental research open and collaborative. NSF seeks to address an age of new threats and challenges through close work with our partners in academia, law enforcement, intelligence and other federal agencies. By fostering transparency, disclosure and other practices that reflect the values of research integrity, NSF is helping to lead the way in ensuring taxpayer-funded research remains secure. To learn more, please visit [NSF's Research Security website](#).
- **FOSTERING INNOVATION** – Every year, NSF funds around 400 companies across nearly all technology areas to create prototypes and commercialize technologies. Learn more at [seedfund.nsf.gov](https://www.seedfund.nsf.gov).