



U.S. National Science Foundation



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)

COLORADO

● FAST FACTS



\$364,053,000

Total NSF Awards to Colorado



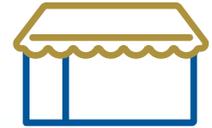
\$331,832,000

Invested in Fundamental Research in Colorado



\$25,957,000

Invested in STEM Education in Colorado



\$9,723,000

Invested in Colorado Businesses

● TOP NSF-FUNDED ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS

University of Colorado Boulder

\$111,338,000

Colorado State University

\$32,363,000

Colorado School of Mines

\$12,783,000

● 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"



www.nsf.gov



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

The NSF Regional Innovation Engines (NSF Engines) program was established to advance transdisciplinary, collaborative, use-inspired and translational research and technology development in critical and emerging technology focus areas. The NSF ASCEND Engine in Colorado and Wyoming, led by **Rocky Mountain Innovation Initiative Inc.**, advances the nation's capacity for innovation in climate technologies. This NSF Engine is a place-based innovation ecosystem designed to transform cutting-edge research in advanced sensing and computation for environmental decision-making into economic and societal impact. With Colorado and Wyoming facing increasing challenges from wildfires, water scarcity, soil degradation and extreme weather events, this region serves as a strategic testbed for high-impact, technology-driven adaptation strategies. By harnessing advanced sensing, AI-driven analytics, and data-informed decision-making, the NSF ASCEND Engine accelerates the development of scalable resilience solutions.

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

New quantum technologies are poised to transform fields of broad societal impact in computing, sensing and communications. However, there is a significant gap between fundamental laboratory demonstrations and the fabrication of quantum devices that can be built into instrumentation such as computers, clocks, navigation tools and optical networks; simply put, it is not yet known how to build the manufacturable quantum devices of the future. The National Quantum Nanofab (NQN) at the **University of Colorado Boulder**, funded through the NSF Mid-Scale Research Infrastructure-1 program, is addressing this shortcoming by developing the advanced nanofabrication approaches required to transition quantum discoveries into functioning quantum devices. Importantly, NQN is an open-access national facility for academic, government and industrial users, accelerating the codesign and development of quantum devices. NQN also serves as a hub of education, training and outreach for students and the workforce essential to U.S. leadership in quantum science and engineering.

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

A team of researchers at the **Colorado Schools of Mines** is developing an innovative and much-needed quantum sensing (QS) curriculum and effective roadmap for quantum engineering education. Although engineering is essential to the success of QS applications, few academic programs in the U.S. teach QS to engineering students outside of physics classes. In support of the National Quantum Initiative and the quantum industry, it is important to teach topics in quantum information science and technology to engineering students. This project, funded through the NSF Improving Undergraduate STEM Education program, involves collaboration between the Colorado School of Mines, the University of California, Davis and MITRE, a nonprofit research organization. The project team will create a portable QS curricular module for incorporation into quantum courses for engineering students across a wide variety of programs nationally, and the module will significantly assist instructors involved in quantum engineering education with the development of programmatic materials.

ON THE CUTTING EDGE

NSF is pushing the boundaries of what is possible in today's most important technology areas, including [artificial intelligence](#), [quantum information science](#), and [biotechnology](#). The Foundation also maintains industry-leading, [state-of-the-art facilities](#) around the world.

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, **Colorado** invested **\$11,386,000,000** 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).