



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)

ILLINOIS

● FAST FACTS



\$382,076,000

Total NSF Awards to Illinois



\$329,750,000

Invested in Fundamental Research in Illinois



\$52,326,000

Invested in STEM Education in Illinois



\$10,483,000

Invested in Illinois Businesses

● TOP NSF-FUNDED ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
\$116,530,000

University of Chicago
\$88,779,000

Northwestern University
\$64,047,000

● 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*

The work of the NSF Engineering Research Center for Human Augmentation via Dexterity (NSF HAND) at **Northwestern University** will lead to versatile, dexterous robotic arms and hands that address a broad range of human, industry, and societal needs. The purpose is to create robot manipulators that are widely useful “out of the box.” The center brings together experts in materials, manufacturing, manipulation, soft robotics, artificial intelligence, machine perception, modeling, haptics, human-robot interaction, participatory design and research, team science, education, law and the social sciences to overcome fundamental barriers to dexterity. The result will be an engineered system — hands, skills, interface and training materials — that dramatically advance robotic manipulation and its accessibility to a wide range of user populations. NSF HAND also provides a novel education platform for introducing learners to AI and dexterity; an accelerator program to help small and medium enterprises succeed with robots; research experiences for undergraduates and teachers; and undergraduate and graduate certificates built on a foundation of dexterity, social impacts of automation and participatory research and design methods.



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

NSF Regional Innovation Engines (NSF Engines) represent one of the single largest broad investments in place-based research and development in the nation’s history, uniquely placing science and technology leadership as the central driver for regional economic competitiveness. The NSF Water Innovation Engine in the Great Lakes, led by the nonprofit **Current Innovation NFP**, aims to advance the nation’s capacity for innovations in the circular water economy through research, translation and workforce activities centered around the concept of waste-to-wealth-and-health. The NSF Engine discovers, develops and deploys innovative viable technologies that attract water-intensive manufacturers to the Great Lakes region while maintaining environmental health; recovers valuable resources from wastewater streams; and creates an innovation ecosystem to foster employment, ownership and wealth-building opportunities for people and communities. It has an initial region of service that spans three states — Illinois, Ohio and Wisconsin — and core partners from the manufacturing and energy sectors, national labs and universities, economic and workforce development organizations, entrepreneurship support organizations, nonprofits, philanthropies and investment firms.



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

The NSF CyberCorps® Scholarship for Service (SFS) program funds proposals establishing or continuing scholarship programs in cybersecurity to develop a superior cybersecurity workforce. The CyberRambler program, **Loyola University Chicago’s** CyberCorps® SFS program, builds on the existing interdisciplinary cybersecurity program to recruit students from computer science, cybersecurity, psychology, criminal justice and criminology. Each CyberRambler scholar receives two years of scholarship support plus advising and mentoring support to ensure adequate progress toward graduation and successful job placement. Scholars are involved in interdisciplinary research and education and receive training to develop the critical thinking, independence, teamwork and technical knowledge required in a cybersecurity career. Following graduation, scholarship recipients are required to work in cybersecurity for a federal, state, local or tribal government organization for the same duration as their scholarship support.

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, **Illinois** invested **\$21,550,000,000** 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).