



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)



MAINE

● FAST FACTS



\$32,726,000

Total NSF Awards to Maine



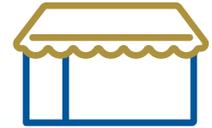
\$22,973,000

Invested in Fundamental Research in Maine



\$9,753,000

Invested in STEM Education in Maine



\$1,046,000

Invested in Maine Businesses

● TOP NSF-FUNDED ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS

University of Maine
\$16,571,000

Colby College
\$1,209,000

Saint Joseph's College
\$1,155,000

● 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 by the NSF EPSCoR Research Incubators for STEM Excellence Research Infrastructure Improvement (NSF E-RISE RII) program, the Maine Algal Research Infrastructure and Accelerator (MARIA) project, led by the **Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences**, is strengthening the capabilities of algae-related research infrastructure. This new research infrastructure is streamlining the exploration of algae's commercial potential, from individual cell-level analysis to product optimization and eventual scaling. Additionally, the Bigelow Laboratory and **MDI Biological Laboratory** are leading collaborations with the MARIA team to enhance the science and entrepreneurial training as well as workforce development programs offered through the **University of New England, Colby College** and **Southern Maine Community College**. Lastly, MARIA provides a framework to connect the resources of the **Maine Center for Entrepreneurs, Gulf of Maine Ventures** and the **Maine Technology Institute** with students, researchers and entrepreneurs to accelerate their creative ideas into the "blue economy."



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

The University of Maine leads a second NSF E-RISE RII project, Maine-Forest, which aims to create a statewide research, education and innovation incubator to build strategic research and development capacity. The incubator will fuel the growth of the state's forest-based economy and the rural communities it supports. Four interconnected research themes in the project — environmental AI and informatics, cellulosic nanofiber bioproducts, rural and tribal resilience, and smart rural development — reflect strengths and opportunities within the jurisdiction that align with the state's science and technology, climate action and economic development strategic plans. This new, partnership-based infrastructure is helping to create a far more comprehensive approach to promoting improvements in Maine's forest-based research infrastructure, R&D capacity and national competitiveness. Project partners include the **University of Southern Maine, Colby College, Bates College** and strategic nonprofits across the state.



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

The blue economy, which uses ocean environments in a sustainable way to support jobs and economic growth, is predicted to grow at double the rate of the rest of the economy by 2030. However, reduced access to science education by rural students limits their ability to attain advanced degrees and enter the STEM workforce crucial to the blue economy. To remedy these problems, the **University of Maine** is awarding 25 scholarships to full-time students with demonstrated financial need who are pursuing a bachelor's degree in marine science. Funded by the NSF Scholarships in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Program, the project supports the advancement of scholars through the establishment of a Scholar Success Mentoring Network and optional participation in a variety of program activities, including undergraduate research experiences, monthly professional development workshops, networking opportunities, formal summer internships/externships and a variety of cohort-building activities.

COMPETITIVE RESEARCH

MAINE is one of 28 U.S. states or territories under the NSF Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) and recently received awards through NSF's new E-CORE and E-RISE programs. For more information, visit MAINE'S [EPSCoR state web page](#).

NCSSES

The [National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics \(NCSSES\)](#) 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, NCSSES 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, **Maine** invested **\$870,000,000** 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.
- **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.