



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)

MONTANA

● FAST FACTS



\$40,151,000

Total NSF Awards to Montana



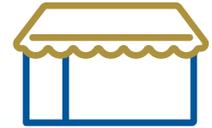
\$34,237,000

Invested in Fundamental Research in Montana



\$5,914,000

Invested in STEM Education in Montana



\$274,000

Invested in Montana Businesses

● TOP NSF-FUNDED ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS

Montana State University
\$23,392,000

University of Montana
\$13,866,000

Aaniiih Nakoda College
\$1,869,000

● 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*

Plant pollination is central to global ecology and the human food supply. However, the details of how plants interact with pollinators to assure pollen is used efficiently to set the most seeds are still poorly understood. An NSF Enabling Discovery through Genomics project at the **University of Montana** is investigating key parts of plant reproductive signaling via a novel plant movement trait: rapid, touch-sensitive stigma closure (TSSC). The stigma is the first point of pollinator contact and controls which pollen grains may sprout and grow to fertilize seeds. Certain plant families have a bi-lobed stigma that snaps shut, like a tiny Venus flytrap, within a few seconds of touch and then re-opens only if it has not received enough pollen. This project builds on new genome resources and methods to investigate what genes were used to build this novel trait, how it works, and why it has been lost in some species. The research will generate basic knowledge important to everything from crop improvement to the design of soft robots, train scientists in modern genomic and molecular methods, and create shared resources.

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

A goal of the NSF Tribal Colleges and Universities Program (NSF TCUP) is to increase the intellectual leadership of NSF TCUP institutions so that they can address scientific or engineering needs or interests, specifically for their tribes or communities, or broadly for the nation. The NSF TCU Enterprise Advancement Centers strand allows TCUP institutions to capitalize on their investments in STEM instructional and research capacity. One such center, the Aaniiih Nakoda Nic'-Mni' (Water) Center housed at **Aaniiih Nakoda College**, is focused on water quality and management issues relevant to the Fort Belknap Indian Community (FBIC). The center conducts and integrates findings from four related water research studies on issues of critical concern to FBIC; offers training and education programs that provide community members with the knowledge, skills, experiences and credentials needed to address local water issues effectively; and gathers and shares information that the community can use to make informed decisions regarding the proper care and use of the reservation's water resources.

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

Like many areas, Montana experiences a high teacher turnover rate and a shortage of new teachers entering the field. But as the state with the highest percentage of rural schools (74%) and rural school districts (95.3%), this phenomenon is devastating for Montana's smallest communities, where the departure of just one teacher could represent the loss of an entire STEM department. To address this challenge, **Montana State University** is directing funds provided by the NSF Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship program towards an initiative to recruit, train and support 26 STEM teachers from seven high-need school districts in becoming master teacher fellows. The project will provide the fellows with leadership skills, content knowledge and confidence to elevate their fellow educators, schools and communities alongside their students.

COMPETITIVE RESEARCH

MONTANA is one of 28 U.S. states or territories under the NSF Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR). For more information, visit MONTANA'S [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, **Montana** invested **\$679,000,000** 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).