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

# PUERTO RICO

## FAST FACTS

**$19,827,000**
Total NSF Awards to Puerto Rico

**$14,587,000**
Invested in Fundamental Research in Puerto Rico

**$5,239,000**
Invested in STEM Education in Puerto Rico

**$893,000**
Invested in Puerto Rico Businesses

## TOP NSF-FUNDED ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS

**University of Puerto Rico at Río Piedras**
**$8,313,000**

**University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez**
**$5,634,000**

**University of Puerto Rico at Humacao**
**$1,556,000**

## 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*

In Puerto Rico, the NSF EPSCoR Research Incubators for STEM Excellence program supports a project to create a detailed map of molecular processes for evolutionary comparisons using two butterfly model systems. The project is led by the **University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras** and brings together a multidisciplinary team of researchers spread across seven academic institutions within the University of Puerto Rico system. By integrating a diverse set of scientific techniques and artificial intelligence, researchers are illuminating the genome-to-phenome pathway of a complex trait at a cellular level, addressing significant scientific questions about the mechanisms that instruct cells to undergo particular fates. Researchers partner with Puerto Rico's Department of Economic Development and Commerce, the Puerto Rico Science, Technology & Research Trust and the Molecular Science Research Center to foster innovation, technology transfer and entrepreneurship on the island, ultimately impacting its economy via the development of high-tech infrastructures and a highly trained STEM workforce.

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

Poor clinical trial communication causes participant disengagement and attrition, resulting in incomplete data, failed trials and associated economic losses for the pharmaceutical industry. A Puerto Rican startup, **DoCare**, is leveraging an investment from the NSF Small Business Innovation Research program to improve clinical trial success rates by enhancing the engagement and retention of participants. The research being performed at the startup combines unsupervised machine learning and operations research models to predict participant communication and optimize contact protocols to increase engagement and retention. This translational technology hopes to achieve response rates close to 95% total participation, results which would improve patient outcomes, decrease healthcare costs and increase the success rate of clinical trials.

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

With support from the NSF Scholarships in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Program, the University of **Puerto Rico, Mayagüez** is offering scholarships to 36 talented students who are pursuing their bachelor's degree in biology, chemistry or psychology. The scholarships are linked to co-curricular activities for the students, including mentoring, research opportunities and graduate school preparation. Through this investment, high-achieving, low-income students who would otherwise face significant barriers to college attendance and graduation are getting their degrees and joining the STEM workforce.

## COMPETITIVE RESEARCH

**PUERTO RICO** is one of 28 U.S. states or territories under the NSF Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR). For more information, visit **PUERTO RICO'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, **Puerto Rico** invested **$0** 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.