



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)

# RHODE ISLAND

## ● FAST FACTS



**\$57,350,000**

Total NSF Awards to Rhode Island



**\$49,436,000**

Invested in Fundamental Research in Rhode Island



**\$7,914,000**

Invested in STEM Education in Rhode Island

## ● TOP NSF-FUNDED ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS

Brown University  
**\$27,520,000**

University of Rhode Island  
**\$22,847,000**

Salve Regina University  
**\$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](https://www.nsf.gov)



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

Rapid progress in artificial intelligence in recent years has been attributed to dramatic increases in the scale of deep neural networks. However, even the largest, highest-performing networks can fail in strange and surprising ways. As these artificial intelligence systems become a larger part of the economy, correcting these failures takes on greater importance. That is why **Brown University** is leveraging an award from the NSF Robust Intelligence program to rectify the growing misalignment problem by designing the next generation of human-aligned deep neural networks capable of mimicking human behavior. Using the computational, algorithmic, and representational principles that shape natural intelligence, this innovative research is advancing the state of the art in algorithms that behave like the human visual system. These algorithms are broadly applicable across computer vision, cognitive science and neuroscience.

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

Bolstered by 13 institutions of higher education, Rhode Island has long been an engine for scientific and technological innovation, from catalyzing the Industrial Revolution in 1790 to developing the first offshore wind farm in the U.S. in 2015. To continue these institutions' mission of ensuring a thriving, informed citizenry, the **University of Rhode Island, Rhode Island College, Roger Williams University, Brown University,** and the **Rhode Island School of Design** are leading a project funded by the NSF EPSCoR Collaborations for Optimizing Research Ecosystems Research Infrastructure Improvement (NSF E-CORE RII) program to strengthen research infrastructure and capacity in Rhode Island. Once established, this network will further support life science and public health, energy, advanced materials and food innovation and technology, establishing Rhode Island as an economic development leader able to benefit from having robust research and educational facilities in proximity. In addition to supporting research infrastructure to serve the entire state, the network is catalyzing partnerships by seeding diverse and use-inspired research collaborations. By investing in building research capacity across Rhode Island and establishing use-inspired seed funding, this award is creating abundant opportunities to translate research into economic development in Rhode Island.

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

**Salve Regina University** is using an NSF Scholarships in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics award to support the retention and graduation of high-achieving, low-income students with demonstrated financial need, contributing to the national need for well-educated scientists, mathematicians, engineers, and technicians. Over its six-year duration, this project will fund scholarships to 16 full-time students who are pursuing bachelor's degrees in biology, chemistry, or mathematics. Specific activities through this project include a summer bridge program, a faculty fellow program, and experiential learning projects. Furthermore, by partnering with local blue economy (ocean-focused) businesses and organizations, this program will prepare Salve students for employment through real-life experiences in the fast-growing blue economy sector.

## COMPETITIVE RESEARCH

RHODE ISLAND is one of 28 U.S. states or territories under the NSF Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR). For more information, visit [RHODE ISLAND'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, **Rhode Island** invested **\$1,715,000,000** 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](mailto: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).