



July 22, 2024

The National Science Foundation is essential to our country's scientific future, innovation ecosystem, and science and technology workforce. While [CNSF](#) appreciates the fact that, despite a challenging budget environment House appropriators have approved a 2% increase for the agency in fiscal year (FY) 2025 appropriations, we are concerned that this increase fails to restore NSF funding to levels provided in FY 2023. That means that at the proposed FY 2025 level the agency would still be operating at more than 7% below the levels of two years ago.

While the bill does provide additional funding in FY 2025, we are disappointed that it reduces STEM Education at the Foundation by \$172 million or 15% from the previous year. Our competitiveness depends on a strong STEM workforce and an education system that prepares our students with the skills they'll need. NSF plays a critical role in these areas at all levels of education from early childhood through secondary education, graduate school, and lifelong learning. We hope these funds will be restored in final appropriations. We cannot undermine our training programs at a time when our domestic technology workforce is in dire need of new talent.

NSF needs dramatic new resources to drive our innovation ecosystem and advance emerging technologies, such as artificial intelligence, quantum science, biotechnology, microelectronics, and many others, that support our national security and competitiveness. In a recent survey more than three-quarters of the American public believe the US is losing the race for global leadership in science and technology¹. We cannot afford to underinvest in our economic and competitive future. We appreciate that the House bill is part of a larger process and negotiations on various priorities between the Senate and Administration remain ahead. We encourage the House to consider adding funding for NSF as the bill moves forward or in any supplemental or emergency funding vehicle. We thank Chairmen Cole and Rogers and Ranking Members DeLauro and Cartwright for their work on the FY 2025 CJS bill and urge them to work together to strengthen NSF in the final FY 2025 legislation.

CNSF is an alliance of over 140 professional organizations, universities and businesses united in support for the future vitality of the National Science Foundation. www.CNSF.us

¹ <https://sciencetechaction.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/STAC-State-of-Science-in-America-Report-12.5.23.pdf>