

Number of People Involved in NSF Activities

NSF estimates that in FY 2013 more than 284,500 people will be directly involved in NSF programs and activities, receiving salaries, stipends, or participant support. Beyond these figures, NSF programs indirectly impact millions of people. These programs reach K-12 students and teachers, the general public, and researchers through activities including workshops; informal science activities such as museums, television, videos, and journals; outreach efforts; and dissemination of improved curriculum and teaching methods.

FY 2013 Request			
Number of People Involved in NSF Activities			
	FY 2011		
	Actual	FY 2012	FY 2013
	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate
Senior Researchers	53,073	53,930	55,660
Other Professionals	14,441	14,595	14,975
Postdoctoral Associates	6,855	6,935	7,135
Graduate Students	40,163	40,885	42,160
Undergraduate Students	27,039	27,400	28,090
K-12 Teachers	48,086	48,115	48,850
K-12 Students	86,225	86,310	87,645
TOTAL, PEOPLE	275,882	278,170	284,515

Senior Researchers include scientists, mathematicians, engineers, and educators receiving funding through NSF awards. These include both researchers who are principal or co-principal investigators on research and education projects, and researchers working at NSF-supported centers and facilities.

Other Professionals are individuals who may or may not hold a doctoral degree or its equivalent, are considered professionals but are not reported as senior researchers, postdoctoral associates, or students. Examples are technicians, systems experts, etc.

Postdoctoral Associates are individuals who have received Ph.D., M.D., D.Sc., or equivalent and are not faculty members of the performing institution. About 98 percent are supported through funds included in research projects, centers, or facilities awards. Others are recipients of postdoctoral fellowships.

Graduate Students include those compensated from NSF grant funds. About 30 percent receive support through programs such as NSF Graduate Research Fellowship and NSF Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship. Other graduate students supported assist senior researchers or postdoctoral associates in performing research through awards for research projects, centers, or facilities. NSF provides support for about 5 percent of the science and engineering graduate students in the U.S.

Undergraduate Students include students compensated from NSF grant funds who are enrolled in technical colleges or baccalaureate programs. They may be assisting senior researchers or postdoctoral associates in performing research, or participating in NSF programs aimed at undergraduate students, such as Research Experiences for Undergraduates.

K-12 Teachers include teachers at elementary, middle, and secondary schools. These individuals actively participate in intensive professional development experiences in the sciences and mathematics.

K-12 Students are those attending elementary, middle, and secondary schools. They are supported through program components that directly engage students in science and mathematics experiences.