

NSF Funding Profile

The Funding Profile presents a high level, agency-wide estimate of proposal pressure, funding rates (or proposal "success"), and award statistics. These indicators are useful in gauging the relative efficacy of different funding levels.

Statistics for Competitive Awards: The Number of Proposals is based on several factors, including past actual activity, planned competitions, and research trends within the various disciplinary communities. External factors, such as the state of the national economy and other sources of funding, also play a part. The Number of Awards is also based on several factors, including estimated funding and expected proposal pool. The Funding Rate is the number of competitive awards made during a year as a percentage of total proposals competitively reviewed. This indicates the probability of receiving an award when submitting proposals to NSF.

Statistics for Research Grants: The Number of Proposals is based on several factors, including past actual activity, planned competitions, and research trends within the various disciplinary communities. External factors, such as the state of the national economy and other sources of funding, also play a part. The Number of Awards is also based on several factors, including estimated funding and expected proposal pool. Research Grants are grants limited to research projects and exclude other categories of awards that fund infrastructure-type activities, which do not require multi-year support, such as equipment and conference awards. Annualized Award Size shows the annual level of research grants provided to awardees by dividing the total dollars of each award by the number of years over which it extends. Both the average and the median annualized award size for competitively reviewed awards are shown. Average Duration is the length of awards in years.

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	FY 2011		
	Actual Estimate ¹	FY 2012 Estimate	FY 2013 Estimate
Statistics for Competitive Awards			
Number of Proposals	51,400	53,400	55,100
Number of Awards	11,150	11,700	12,200
Funding Rate	22%	22%	22%
Statistics for Research Grants			
Number of Research Grant Proposals	38,600	40,050	41,350
Number of Research Grant Awards	7,550	7,850	8,150
Funding Rate	20%	20%	20%
Median Annualized Award Size	\$125,950	\$128,500	\$128,700
Average Annualized Award Size	\$156,200	\$161,250	\$160,500
Average Duration (years)	2.9	2.9	2.9

¹ The FY 2011 Actual Estimate does not capture actions within Integrative Activities (IA), which includes the Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research.