

LOWER-PRIORITY PROGRAMS

NSF's FY 2018 Request follows a thorough examination of programs and investments across NSF to determine where the potential exists for more innovative investments. This Budget Request includes nine proposed terminations, consisting of activities that have either achieved their goals or of activities that will be realigned to better serve the agency's mission. The total reduction is largely being redeployed into ongoing programs.

Program Terminations

Catalyzing New International Collaborations (CNIC) (-\$190,000) supports the participation of U.S.-based researchers and students in activities intended to catalyze new international research collaborations. In FY 2018, the CNIC program will sunset because it achieved its stated goal. Lessons learned from CNIC will be incorporated in the revised International Research Experiences for Students (IRES) solicitation to support larger numbers of principal investigators and build collaborations at the disciplinary program level.

International Research Fellowship Program (IRFP) (-\$2.32 million) introduced scientists and engineers in the early stages of their careers to international collaborative research opportunities, thereby furthering their research capacity and global perspective and forging long-term relationships with scientists, technologists, and engineers abroad. In FY 2018, the program will sunset because it achieved its objective. Lessons learned from IRFP will be incorporated into future program solicitations that support U.S. scientists, engineers, and students engaged in international research and education activities in all NSF-supported disciplines.

NSF Headquarters Relocation (-\$38.87 million) funds will be greatly reduced, as the move will be substantially complete by the end of FY 2017. NSF is anticipated to complete the move of its headquarters to the new building in Alexandria, VA by October 1, 2017. A small budget remains in FY 2018 for items such as decommissioning of the current headquarters buildings and unanticipated changes required at the new headquarters.

Pan-American Advanced Studies Institutes (PASI) (no change) was a jointly supported initiative between the Department of Energy and NSF that supported short courses at the advanced graduate, post-doctoral, and junior faculty levels. PASI was paused in FY 2014, and will sunset in FY 2018, as assessments of the program indicate that it has reached its stated goals.

Science Across Virtual Institutes (SAVI) (-\$50,000) fostered and strengthened interaction among scientists, engineers and educators around the globe, based on the knowledge that excellence in STEM research and education exists in many parts of the world and that scientific advances can be accelerated by scientists and engineers working together across international borders. The program achieved its stated goal and will sunset in FY 2018. Lessons learned from SAVI will be incorporated into future OISE program solicitations.

Science and Technology for America's Recovery: Measuring the Effect of Research on Innovation, Competitiveness, and Science (STAR METRICS) (-\$1.0 million) sought to provide a common empirical data and analytic infrastructure for recipients of federal research and development (R&D) funding to facilitate the sharing of data, interpretation of results, and to understand how federal funding for R&D affect the innovation ecosystem. As of January 1, 2016, STAR METRICS halted the federal collection of institution data and subsequent production of reports that help document the value of the federal government's investments in research and development. Because data collection has ended, the pilot activity has been completed.

Sunsetting NSF-wide Investments Returning to Core Programs

Cyberinfrastructure Framework for 21st Century Science, Engineering, and Education (CIF21) (-\$181.67 million) is a multi-directorate NSF-wide priority area that was established in FY 2011 to foster the necessary research, education, and infrastructure activities that would enable the achievement of a comprehensive cyberinfrastructure, leveraging existing data, software, and high-performance computing programs. Led by the Office of Advanced Cyberinfrastructure (OAC) within the Directorate for Computer and Information Science and Engineering (CISE), CIF21 was a partnership among the Directorates for Biological Sciences (BIO), CISE, Education and Human Resources (EHR), Engineering (ENG), Geosciences (GEO), Mathematical and Physical Sciences (MPS), and Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences (SBE). Following the scheduled sunseting of CIF21 in FY 2017, NSF will transition some existing CIF21 activities as it continues to develop a focused set of activities in alignment with the National Strategic Computing Initiative (NSCI). In addition, the rich topic of data, encompassing data science, data management, data policy, community building, and workforce development, will also remain a strategic focus for NSF through the Harnessing the Data Revolution Big Idea, which will span research, education, and research infrastructure.

Research at the Interface of Biological, Mathematical and Physical Sciences (BioMaPS) (-\$35.07 million) has sought to discover fundamental new knowledge at the intersections of the biological, mathematical and physical sciences, and engineering in order to enable innovation in national priorities such as clean energy, climate science, advanced manufacturing, and understanding the brain, which are essential to the Nation's prosperity, economic competitiveness, and quality of life. BioMaPS began in FY 2011 as a partnership between BIO and MPS. The program was expanded in FY 2012 with additional participation from ENG. The program is being eliminated as it has achieved its goal, leading to a culture change within NSF with cross-directorate collaboration in these fields having become standard practice. In FY 2018, only remaining continuing grant increments will be supported.

Science, Engineering, and Education for Sustainability (SEES) (-\$103.63 million) was a coordinated effort to support research spanning a wide range of scientific domains that began in FY 2010. Multiple perspectives and areas of expertise were supported to increase the understanding of integrated systems of human society and the natural world and to lead the development of solutions to sustainability challenges. SEES was a multi-directorate program that included contributions from BIO, CISE, EHR, ENG, GEO, MPS, the Office of Integrative Activities (IA), the Office of International Science and Engineering (OISE), and SBE. Although FY 2017 concludes funding for the portfolio of SEES activities, NSF will continue investing in the research necessary for a sustainable human future, via other programs and mechanisms, such as hazards-related research projects under NSF's Risk and Resilience investment area, research through INFEWS, and other NSF core programs.