

NSF PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK

Per the GPRA Modernization Act of 2010, this chapter, together with the Overview, contains basic information about NSF’s mission and Strategic Plan, as well as NSF’s FY 2019 Annual Performance Plan (APP), Major Management Challenges, FY 2017 Annual Performance Report (APR), and Strategic Objective Progress Update. Information about NSF’s performance can also be found on the NSF website in the FY 2017 Performance and Financial Highlights Report.¹

Strategic Plan and Strategic Objectives

Alongside this Request, NSF releases its new Strategic Plan for FYs 2018-2022: *Building the Future: Investing in Discovery and Innovation*.¹ This Plan lays out two strategic goals that embody the dual nature of NSF’s mission to advance the progress of science while benefitting the Nation: *Expand knowledge in science, engineering, and learning* and *Advance the capability of the Nation to meet current and future challenges*. A third goal, *Enhance NSF’s performance of its mission*, directs NSF to hold itself accountable for achieving excellence in carrying out its mission. Each goal has two Strategic Objectives which together encompass all areas of agency activity. This goal structure enables NSF to link its investments to longer-term outcomes.

Strategic Goal	Strategic Objective
1 Expand knowledge in science, engineering, and learning.	1.1 Knowledge Advance knowledge through investments in ideas, people, and infrastructure.
	1.2 Practice Advance the practice of research.
2 Advance the capability of the Nation to meet current and future challenges.	2.1 Societal Impacts Support research and promote partnerships to accelerate innovation and to provide new capabilities to meet pressing societal needs.
	2.2 STEM Workforce Foster the growth of a more capable and diverse research workforce and advance the scientific and innovation skills of the Nation.
3 Enhance NSF’s performance of its mission.	3.1 Human Capital Attract, retain, and empower a talented and diverse workforce.
	3.2 Processes and Operations Continually improve agency operations.

FY 2018-2019 Agency Priority Goal

In this Request, NSF is establishing an Agency Priority Goal (APG) to *Expand public and private partnerships to enhance the impact of NSF’s investments and contribute to American economic competitiveness and security*. By September 30, 2019, NSF’s number of partnerships and/or award actions with other federal agencies, private industry, and foundations/philanthropies will grow by five percent, relative to the FY 2017 baseline, to make available infrastructure, expertise, and financial resources to the U.S. scientific and engineering research and education enterprise.

FY 2019 Performance Plan

NSF’s FY 2019 APP continues two goals aimed at monitoring of key program and infrastructure investments. The FY 2019 APP also includes two goals aimed at maintaining and improving customer service: NSF’s longstanding performance goal to make timely award decisions and a goal new in FY 2018

¹ www.nsf.gov/about/performance

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that focuses on improving the quality of the reviews written by outside reviewers. This goal includes new targets for FY 2019 associated with the agency's reform plan. NSF's long-standing diversity and inclusion goal has been updated to focus on leadership engagement. In addition to the APG on partnerships, which supports agency reform efforts, NSF has also added new performance goals tied to the agency reform plans to ensure alignment of job requirements with competencies and improve user interactions with IT systems.