

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 impact of different funding levels.

Statistics for Competitive Awards: Competitive awards encompass the universe of NSF new activity in a given year. Examples include research grants, cooperative agreements, equipment, fellowships, and conferences.

Statistics for Research Grant Awards: Research Grant Awards are a sub-set of competitive awards. They are limited to research projects and exclude other categories of awards such as those for cooperative agreements, equipment, fellowships, and conferences.

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 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. Annualized Award Size shows the annual level of research grant awards provided to awardees by dividing the total dollars of each award by the number of years over which it extends. Average Duration is the length of awards in years.

NSF Funding Profile¹			
	FY 2019 Actual Estimate	FY 2020 (TBD)	FY 2021 Request Estimate
Statistics for Competitive Awards			
Number of Proposals	40,800	-	43,500
Number of Awards	11,200	-	10,700
Funding Rate	27%	-	25%
Statistics for Research Grant Awards			
Number of Research Grant Proposals	33,500	-	34,600
Number of Research Grant Awards	8,500	-	8,100
Funding Rate	25%	-	23%
Median Annualized Award Size	\$149,300	-	\$220,000
Average Annualized Award Size	\$194,400	-	\$195,000
Average Duration (years)	3.0	-	3.0

¹ Display excludes NSB, OIG, and staff offices.