

NUMBER OF PEOPLE INVOLVED IN NSF ACTIVITIES

NSF estimates that in FY 2021 approximately 299,900 people will be directly involved in NSF programs and activities, receiving salaries, stipends, participant support, and other types of direct involvement. Beyond these figures, NSF programs indirectly impact millions of people, reaching 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 2021 Request | | | |
|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Number of People Involved in NSF Activities | | | |
| | FY 2019 | | |
| | Actual | FY 2020 | FY 2021 |
| | Estimate | (TBD) | Estimate |
| Senior Researchers | 40,791 | - | 41,470 |
| Other Professionals | 12,134 | - | 12,110 |
| Postdoctoral Associates | 5,320 | - | 5,050 |
| Graduate Students | 41,549 | - | 39,940 |
| Undergraduate Students | 38,226 | - | 37,030 |
| K-12 Teachers | 40,307 | - | 40,100 |
| K-12 Students | 127,332 | - | 124,200 |
| Total Number of People | 305,659 | - | 299,900 |

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. These individuals are supported through funds included in research projects, centers, or facilities awards, as well as by postdoctoral fellowships.

Graduate Students include those compensated from NSF grant funds. NSF supports graduate students through NSF’s fellowship and traineeship programs as well as research assistantships and funds to assist senior researchers or postdoctoral associates in performing research through awards for research projects, centers, or facilities. NSF provides support for approximately 32 percent of the U.S. science and engineering graduate students receiving federal funds and about five percent of the science and engineering graduate students in the U.S. overall.¹

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.

¹ Science and Engineering Indicators 2018: Chapter 2 Higher Education in Science and Engineering, Appendix Tables 02-08 and 02-13. Retrieved from www.nsf.gov/statistics/2018/nsb20181/data/appendix?achapter561

Summary Tables

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.