

**OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL SCIENCE BOARD (NSB)****\$4,600,000**  
**+\$100,000 / 2.2%**

The FY 2022 Budget Request for the Office of the National Science Board is \$4.60 million, an increase of \$100,000 above the FY 2021 Enacted of \$4.50 million. This FY 2022 Request level will enable the NSB to fulfill its policymaking and oversight responsibilities for NSF and continue its statutory responsibilities as outlined in the NSF Act, including activities related to the authorization of major research facilities projects.

**NSB Funding**

(Dollars in Millions)

	FY 2020 Actual	FY 2021 Enacted	FY 2022 Request	Change over FY 2021 Estimate	
				Amount	Percent
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4.43</b>	<b>\$4.50</b>	<b>\$4.60</b>	<b>\$0.10</b>	<b>2.2%</b>
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	17	17	17	-	N/A

**Appropriations Language**

For necessary expenses (including payment of salaries, authorized travel, hire of passenger motor vehicles, the rental of conference rooms in the District of Columbia, and the employment of experts and consultants under section 3109 of title 5, United States Code) involved in carrying out section 4 of the National Science Foundation Act of 1950 (42 U.S.C. 1863) and Public Law 86–209 (42 U.S.C. 1880 et seq.), ~~\$4,500,000~~**\$4,600,000**: Provided, That not to exceed \$2,500 shall be available for official reception and representation expenses.

**National Science Board**  
**FY 2022 Summary Statement**

(Dollars in Millions)

	Enacted/ Request	Expired	Obligations
			Actual/ Estimates
FY 2020 Appropriation	\$4.50	-\$0.07	\$4.43
FY 2021 Estimated	4.50		4.50
FY 2022 Request	4.60		4.60
\$ Change from FY 2021 Estimated			\$0.10
% Change from FY 2021 Estimated			2.2%

**National Science Board in Context**

The NSB, established by the NSF Act of 1950, has dual responsibilities to: provide national science policy advice to the President and Congress; and establish policies for NSF within the framework of applicable national policies as set forth by the President and the Congress. The Board consists of 24 presidentially appointed members plus the Director of NSF as an ex officio member. Representing the broad U.S. science and engineering (S&E) research and education community, the Board serves collectively as an advisory body on S&E issues critical to the Nation. Board members serve six-year terms on staggered appointments and are drawn from industry, academe, non-profit organizations, government, and professional scientific societies representing the breadth of S&E disciplines. They are selected to represent all areas of the Nation based on their eminence in research, education, or public service.

The Board currently convenes at least four formally scheduled public meetings per year, with additional meetings as needed, to review and approve major NSF awards; provide guidance on new programs; oversee and provide policy direction to NSF; oversee the lifecycle of large facilities, including conducting site visits; and address significant S&E-related national policy issues. The Board initiates and conducts studies and reports on a range of policy topics and engages NSF's stakeholders nation-wide. The Board reviews NSF's priorities to ensure progress and consistency along the strategic direction set for NSF and to ensure balance among new investments and core programs.

### **Policy Responsibilities**

The Board examines issues of importance to the S&E research and education communities, in general, and to NSF, in particular. Topics are determined through requests from Congress or the President, and as the Board identifies in consultation with the community and NSF management. Recent reports have examined topics such as the skilled technical workforce, mid-scale research infrastructure, operations and maintenance costs for NSF's large facilities, and the rise of China in S&E. In May 2020, the Board released its *Vision 2030* report.

The Board has several standing committees to assist with its responsibilities.

The **Executive Committee** (EC) includes the Director of NSF, who chairs the Committee, and four elected members from the Board, of whom two are the NSB Chair and Vice-Chair. The Board has delegated to this Committee its authority to approve awards in the rare instances when immediate action is required between Board meetings.

The **Committee on Oversight** (CO) conducts independent oversight of NSF's operations, processes for risk management, audit plans and results, and processes for complying with laws and regulations; reviews Office of the Inspector General activities and NSF management responses; monitors audits and makes related recommendations to the Board; and oversees the Board's compliance with the Sunshine Act.

The **Committee on Strategy** (CS) provides a forum for developing the Board's strategic discussions of NSF's budget, programs, organization structure and agency vision; makes recommendations to the Board on annual Budget Requests and quadrennial Strategic Plans; and provides strategic guidance to the Board on NSF's programs.

The **Committee on National S&E Policy** (SEP) oversees development and production of the congressionally-mandated *Science and Engineering Indicators (Indicators)* report in collaboration with NSF's National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES); helps ensure that the S&E information and policy resources developed by the NSB are high-quality, policy-relevant, and accessible in order to meet stakeholder needs; and helps fulfill the NSB's charge to provide ongoing information and policy advice to Congress and the President on S&E research, education, and workforce issues.

The **Committee on Awards and Facilities** (A&F) addresses strategic issues and recommends policies to the Board related to awards and MREFC projects; makes recommendations to the Board on awards and facilities; and provides lifecycle oversight on facilities and oversight on awards.

The **Committee on External Engagement** (EE) leads the NSB's communication and engagement efforts with government, industry, the public and the research and education communities, and helps the Board advance the pursuit of national policies for the promotion of research and education in S&E.

The **Subcommittee on Honorary Awards** (AWD) reviews nominations for two awards established by the Board: the Vannevar Bush Award and the Public Service Award.

Ongoing activities of the Board include review and approval of:

- Large awards, MREFC projects and other proposals as needed;
- NSF’s Management Response to the Office of Inspector General Semi-annual Reports to Congress;
- Transmittal of the NSF, OIG, and NSB budget submissions to the Office of Management and Budget;
- Priority order of projects in the MREFC Account;
- Midscale Research Instrumentation-2 awards (and oversight of the Midscale Research Instrumentation-1 awards); and
- Inclusion of new projects requiring funding under the MREFC Account.

The Board also reviews and makes recommendations on:

- NSF’s financial management reports,
- The operation of NSF’s merit review system, and
- NSF’s research infrastructure portfolio.

**Office of the National Science Board**  
**Personnel Compensation and Benefits and Other Operating Expenses**  
(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2020 Actual	FY 2021 Enacted	FY 2022 Request	Change over	
				FY 2021 Estimate Amount	Percent
Personnel Compensation & Benefits (PC&B) <sup>1</sup>	\$3,159	\$3,173	\$3,446	\$273	8.6%
Staff Development & Training	10	10	22	12	120.0%
Advisory & Assistance Services	1,099	1,293	814	-479	-37.0%
Travel & Transportation of Persons	134	0	280	280	0.0%
Communications, Supplies, & Equipment	32	21	35	14	66.7%
Representation Costs	3	3	3	-	N/A
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,437</b>	<b>\$4,500</b>	<b>\$4,600</b>	<b>\$100</b>	<b>2.2%</b>
Full-Time Equivalents (FTE)	17	17	17	-	N/A

<sup>1</sup> FY 2022 PC&B includes base salary costs and anticipated within grade and promotion increases.

**Personnel Compensation and Benefits**

The Board’s FY 2022 Budget Request supports a core of full-time policy, communications, administrative, legal, and executive secretariat staff. In addition to providing institutional memory for the Board, the Board Office staff provides both the resources and expertise for coordinating and conducting science and education policy analyses and developing and implementing broad communication and outreach programs. Staff also advise the Board on legal aspects of its policies and activities and provides operational and administrative support that are essential for the Board to fulfill its mission. The Request reflects planned increases in NSB office staff pay and in performance awards spending in FY 2022.

**Other Operating Expenses**

The Staff Development and Training budget line supports various training events such as federal leadership training for management staff, Contracting Officer Representative (COR) training and recertification, and project management (PM) training, as well as facilitation services for staff retreats that have a professional development component. To ensure adequate COR coverage, NSB Office management increased the number of staff who are certified as CORs. This will lead to increased training and biannual recertification costs. To facilitate and manage implementation of *Vision 2030* and other NSB projects more effectively and efficiently, in FY 2020 and 2021 the NSB Office procured a PM support contract and a PM tool and

provided training on the use of this tool to current staff. In the future newly hired Board Office staff will be required to receive training on this tool and PM concepts.

Increased PM capacity in the NSB Office is planned in coordination with a decrease in the need for and cost level of the PM support contract included in the Board's Advisory and Assistance Services budget line. This line also includes some of the resources needed to produce reports such as the Congressionally mandated *Science and Engineering Indicators (Indicators)*. To facilitate accessibility and use of *Indicators* data in policy decisions and analysis, the Board creates interactive digital products, including an electronic state data tool that allows for more frequent and timely updates and state one-pagers that highlight select data by state. For *Indicators 2022*, the Board will update the state data tool and state one-pagers, develop a series of thematic reports, and release *The State of U.S. Science and Engineering* in January 2022.

Other items in the Advisory and Assistance Services line support multimedia strategies, such as data-driven dynamic graphics, film, and video, to increase awareness and use of the Board's products by stakeholders; maintenance of an electronic official records management system, which enables compliance with federal records requirements; the webcasting and archiving of all open Board meetings; transcription services necessary for compliance with the *Government in the Sunshine Act*; and board book management software, which facilitates effective and efficient NSB meetings; . This budget line also supports website maintenance costs, which are anticipated to decrease as NSF migrates to an easier to maintain platform in FY 2022.

The NSB's Travel and Transportation of Persons budget line primarily covers costs related to Board member travel to NSF headquarters for the Board's four annual meetings and a member-only retreat, for oversight of NSF's large programs and facilities, and for engaging stakeholders. For example, as it implements its *Vision 2030*, the Board anticipates convening partners and stakeholders for discussions about specific action items in the Vision Roadmap. Also supported in this budget line is travel for invited speakers and participants in the NSB's activities.

The Communications, Supplies, and Equipment budget line funds communications services and information technology. This budget line item includes the refreshment of IT equipment in accordance with NSF's Workstation Refresh Cycle schedule, the funding of wireless equipment, and purchase of office supplies upon return to on-site facilities.

The FY 2022 Budget Request will support the Board's efforts to strengthen the U.S. S&E enterprise through its policy and information-related activities. Specifically, the Request will help the NSB improve the usefulness of the resources it produces to ensure that Congress, the Administration, academia, private industry, and the general public continue to have access to timely, comprehensible, and objective S&E data and policy guidance.