



# ALABAMA

## FY 2021 Fast Facts



**\$63,484,000**

Total NSF Awards to Alabama



**\$42,816,000**

Invested in Fundamental Research Alabama in



**\$20,668,000**

Invested in STEM Education in Alabama



**\$512,000**

Invested in Alabama startups

## Top NSF-funded Academic Institutions for FY 2021

**\$21,187,000**

Auburn University

**\$12,361,000**

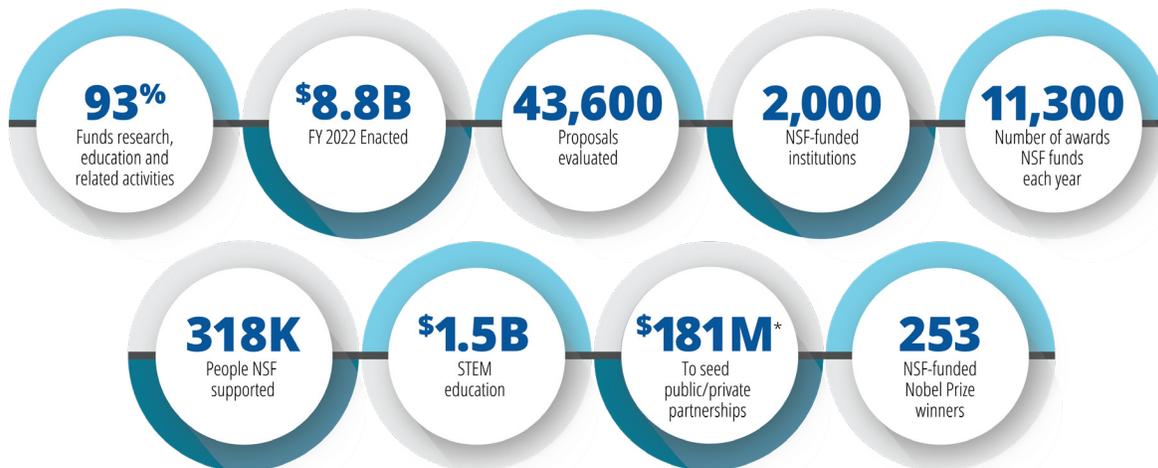
University of Alabama Tuscaloosa

**\$6,163,000**

Tuskegee University

## NSF By The Numbers

The National Science Foundation (NSF) is an [\\$8.8 billion](#) independent federal agency created by Congress in 1950 to promote the progress of science; to advance the national health, prosperity, and welfare; to secure the national defense. NSF's vital role is to support basic research and researchers who create knowledge that transforms the future.



Data represents FY 2021 Actuals unless otherwise indicated.  
\*Corresponds to NSF investments initiated in FY 2021 and spanning multiple years.



## NSF-funded COVID-19 Research and Recovery

Researchers at **Tuskegee University** are studying how minority communities access and attend to disease prevention messages during the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak. Because of the ever-evolving nature of COVID-19 information and need for a nationwide response to prevention and containment methods recommended by public health experts, there is an urgent need for all communities including underrepresented minorities to trust and to implement prevention and containment methods. This project designed and tested culturally sensitive tools and materials to promote disease prevention across a multi-state (Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana) area using a newly constructed instrument to assess residents' level of trust and fear related to disease transmission. It also looks at where and how they prefer to receive information regarding prevention and treatment strategies. The project has the capacity to provide health and government organizations with information and data on how minority communities access and attend to disease prevention messages and pandemic outbreaks.



## STEM Education

The NSF INCLUDES Alliance of Students with Disabilities for Inclusion, Networking, and Transition Opportunities in STEM employs a collective impact approach with dozens of partnering organizations to increase the number of students with disabilities who complete associate, baccalaureate and graduate STEM degrees and enter the STEM workforce. Led by **Auburn University**, in partnership with five other regional hubs, NSF INCLUDES Alliance partners include 27 institutes of higher education and three professional organizations: the Association of University Centers on Disabilities, Association on Higher Education and Disability, and Learning Disabilities Association of America.



## Research Driving Innovation

An NSF Research Traineeship award to **Tuskegee University** established a multidisciplinary traineeship in sustainable nanobiomaterials. Current generation packaging materials are made of polymer composites that are derived from petroleum sources. These materials are not degradable and either end up in landfills or incinerated, releasing toxic gases. Factors such as greater environmental awareness, societal concerns and the depletion of petrochemical resources collectively drive a desire to develop new materials and products based on plant fibers and degradable biopolymers. The program is a partnership between three doctoral programs to collaboratively develop innovative sustainable biomaterials for biodegradable packaging systems, including biomedical and food packaging. The multidisciplinary project team trains emerging scientists, engineers, entrepreneurs and managers to develop the next generation of sustainable, biodegradable food and medical packaging applications. The knowledge and training gained by the trainees will eventually result in new design and manufacturing methodologies.



## EPSCoR

**COMPETITIVE RESEARCH** | Alabama is one of 28 U.S. states or territories under [NSF's Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research \(EPSCoR\)](#). Over **\$7,970,000** in awards have been made to Alabama academic institutions through EPSCoR in FY 2021. For more information, visit [Alabama's EPSCoR state web page](#).

## NCSES

According to the [National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics \(NCSES\)](#), which is housed in NSF, Alabama ranks **7<sup>th</sup>** in the nation for Federal R&D obligations. Visit Alabama's science and engineering state profile to learn more!

- **4.5%** of Alabama's workforce are employed in S&E occupations.
- **26.38%** of Alabama's higher education degrees are concentrated in S&E fields.

## Learn More

**COVID RELIEF** - Congress provided NSF with funding to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19 in the CARES Act of 2020 and the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021. For more information on NSF-funded COVID-19 research and recovery, visit NSF's award database for [CARES Act](#) and [ARP](#) awards, and NSF's Toolkit for [COVID funding updates](#).

**NSF FACT SHEETS** – NSF provides fact sheets about the agency and its bold investments in basic research. These fact sheets profile NSF investments in research across all fields of science and engineering, including [quantum](#), [artificial intelligence](#), and [advanced manufacturing](#), and the NSF-supported [research](#) and [computing infrastructure](#) powering the U.S. response to COVID-19.

**CONNECT WITH NSF** – For more information on NSF's impact in your state, please contact NSF's Office of Legislative and Public Affairs at [congressionalteam@nsf.gov](mailto:congressionalteam@nsf.gov).