ALABAMA FACT SHEET

FY 2020 FAST FACTS

$69,095,000
Total NSF awards to Alabama

$53,587,000
Invested in fundamental research in Alabama

$15,508,000
Invested in STEM education in Alabama

$481,000
Invested in Alabama startups through NSF’s small business program

TOP NSF-FUNDED ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS FOR FY 2020

$28,019,000
University of Alabama-Tuscaloosa

$13,516,000
Auburn University

$9,483,000
University of Alabama-Huntsville

NSF BY THE NUMBERS

The National Science Foundation (NSF) is an $8.5 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.
NSF-FUNDED RESEARCH FIGHTING COVID-19

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 Act of 2021. For more information on NSF’s COVID research, visit NSF’s award database and COVID funding reports.

COVID-19 RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT | 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

STEM WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT | The NSF funded Cybercorps Scholarship for Service program at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, the University of Alabama in Huntsville, Auburn University, and the University of South Alabama is designed to recruit and train the next generation to meet the needs of the cybersecurity mission for Federal, State, local, and Tribal governments. This program provides scholarships for up to 3 years of support for cybersecurity undergraduate and graduate education and in return recipients agree to work after graduation for the U.S. Government, in a position related to cybersecurity.

RESEARCH DRIVING WORKFORCE INNOVATION

FUTURE OF WORK | With NSF funding, researchers at University of Alabama Tuscaloosa were able to acquire a 3.0 Tesla Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) system, which established a significant new direction in human neuroscience research at UA. In addition to increasing opportunities for collaboration with other institutions in multisite projects, the neuroimaging facility provides a much-needed boost to the neuroscience initiatives (e.g., graduate research in neuroscience, undergraduate neuroscience minor, undergraduate and graduate programs in educational neuroscience). A number of research projects were named as early users of the MRI system, including: 1) Multiscale neural processing and the neurobiology of language processing and reading comprehension; 2) Developing brain algorithms to improve natural language processing; 3) Neurobiological bases of mathematical cognition, with specific emphasis on embodiment of number and arithmetic; 4) Examining the cognitive and neural changes associated with healthy aging, memory, and attention; 5) Investigating lifetime stress, brain aging, and the racial differences underlying brain aging; 6) Biomedical imaging analysis and development of shape-controlled magnetic nanoparticles for MRI; and 7) Developmental neurobiology of social brain in healthy individuals and in disorders.

LEARN MORE

• NSF70 – In 2020, NSF commemorated its 70th anniversary and the 75th anniversary of the publication of Science - the Endless Frontier. Watch the highlight video for NSF’s seven decades of funding the best and brightest ideas that have transformed our lives and established the U.S. as a science and technology leader.

• 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.