ALASKA FACT SHEET

FY 2020 FAST FACTS

$61,168,000
Total NSF awards to Alaska

$59,290,000
Invested in fundamental research in Alaska

$1,878,000
Invested in STEM education in Alaska

$250,000
Invested in Alaska startups through NSF’s small business program

TOP NSF-FUNDED ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS FOR FY 2020

$52,457,000
University of Alaska-Fairbanks

$2,414,000
University of Alaska-Anchorage

$984,000
University of Alaska-SE Juneau

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 Sitka Sound Science Center received an NSF RAPID grant to study public attitudes in rural Alaskan communities about the COVID-19 crisis in order to better understand how different types of communities are reacting to this pandemic. The spread of COVID-19 has impacted communities around the country in different ways. From urban centers to rural communities, and in regions spanning the country, understanding the variations in pandemic response will help establish a historical record of the COVID-19 crisis as well as inform public health policy.

**STEM EDUCATION**

**STEM WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT** | With support from NSF’s Advanced Technological Education program, which focuses on the education of technicians for the high-technology fields that drive the nation’s economy, the University of Alaska Anchorage is leading a partnership among Prince William Sound College, nine high schools in seven school districts, and regional employers. The project’s long-term goal is to fill needs in Alaska’s skilled technical workforce by providing Alaskan high school students with introductory courses in software engineering. To reach this goal, this project will prepare teachers in underserved Alaska high schools to teach dual-enrollment courses in the software engineering fields of commercial web design and mobile application development. The courses will use a cooperative model of instruction that combines the content expertise of college faculty with the teaching expertise of certified high school teachers. The courses will meet all five of the Alaska state technology standards and thus be relevant for high school graduation as well as college credit.

**RESEARCH DRIVING WORKFORCE INNOVATION**

**FUTURE OF WORK** | A Long-Term Ecological Research site along the northern Alaskan coast, established with support from a 5-year $5.6 million dollar award from NSF, will focus on the interactions between land and ocean that shape coastal ecosystems in the Arctic over different time scales. Researchers at the Beaufort Sea Lagoons LTER site will study food webs, which support large-scale coastal fisheries and more than 150 species of migratory birds and waterfowl. Long-term changes along the northern Alaska coast have already affected the types of fish and other creatures that live in the lagoons, and these effects are expected to continue. The LTER research team will collaborate with members of local communities, including the Inupiat, and with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which manages the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

**EPSCoR**

- **COMPETITIVE RESEARCH** | Alaska is one of 28 U.S. states or territories under NSF’s Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR). Over $1,440,000 in awards have been made to Alaska academic institutions through EPSCoR in FY 2020. For more information, visit [Alaska’s EPSCoR state web page](#).

**NCSES**

- According to the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES), which is housed in NSF, 26% of Science, Engineering, and Health doctorates conferred in Alaska are made in Earth sciences. Visit Alaska’s science and engineering state profile to learn more!

- **4.59%** of Alaska’s workforce are employed in S&E occupations.

- **8.43%** of Alaska’s industries offer high-level science, engineering and technology occupations.

**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](mailto:congressionalteam@nsf.gov).