FY 2021 Fast Facts

- **$57,905,000**
  - Total NSF Awards to Iowa

- **$44,947,000**
  - Invested in Fundamental Research in Iowa

- **$12,957,000**
  - Invested in STEM Education in Iowa

- **$2,996,000**
  - Invested in Iowa startups

Top NSF-funded Academic Institutions for FY 2021

- **$27,208,000**
  - Iowa State University

- **$12,601,000**
  - University of Iowa

- **$7,589,000**
  - Eastern Iowa Community College

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.
**NSF-funded COVID-19 Research and Recovery**

Working closely with industry partners, North Iowa Area Community College will develop an intermediate robotics course using a broad range of robotics instrumentation including vision, collaborative robots and mobile industrial robots. This project is designed to be directly relevant to industry’s needs for the permanently altered manufacturing environment brought on by the coronavirus pandemic. Manufacturing comprises the largest industry sector in north Iowa and a 2020 survey of regional manufacturers confirmed the need for industrial technicians with more advanced robotics skills. This project will help to engage students with new robotics instrumentation focused on safety and efficiency and will help to keep industries located in the north Iowa region, some of which have already been deeply affected by the loss of workers and useable square footage due to the pandemic.

**STEM Education**

A five-year project at Morningside University, supported by NSF’s Scholarships in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics, or S-STEM, program, will provide scholarships to two groups of 12 students to support their attaining bachelor’s degrees in biology, chemistry, computer science or mathematics. The project seeks to increase the retention and graduation rates among rural STEM students by supporting them through STEM-centric civic engagement activities, together with faculty and peer mentoring programs; a mathematics corequisite course; undergraduate research experiences; and career-oriented externship opportunities with industry partners. The main goal of the S-STEM program is to enable low-income students with academic ability, talent or potential to pursue successful careers in promising STEM fields.

**Research Driving Innovation**

NSF’s Platforms for Advanced Wireless Research, or PAWR, public-private partnership will establish a wireless “living lab” across Iowa State University, the city of Ames and surrounding farms and rural communities in central Iowa. The project, titled ARA: Wireless Living Lab for Smart and Connected Rural Communities, is a testbed that complements the technical specialties of earlier PAWR platforms. In addition to a wide range of wireless technology, it creates a deeply programmable infrastructure including services that directly benefit precision agriculture in both crop and livestock farms. This new regional testbed joins a diverse portfolio of large-scale wireless research platforms located throughout the United States and features wireless research to enable high-throughput, universal and affordable rural broadband.

**EPSCoR**

**COMPETITIVE RESEARCH** | Iowa is one of 28 U.S. states or territories under NSF’s Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR). Over $3,770,000 in awards have been made to Iowa academic institutions through EPSCoR in FY 2021. For more information, visit Iowa’s EPSCoR state web page.

**NCSES**

According to the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES), which is housed in NSF, 32% of Science, Engineering and Health doctorates conferred in Iowa are made in Life sciences.

- 4.12% of Iowa’s workforce are employed in S&E occupations.
- 33.43% of Iowa’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.