PUERTO RICO FACT SHEET

FY 2020 FAST FACTS

$23,623,000
Total NSF awards to Puerto Rico

$11,136,000
Invested in fundamental research in Puerto Rico

$12,487,000
Invested in STEM education in Puerto Rico

$750,000
Invested in Puerto Rico startups through NSF’s small business program

TOP NSF-FUNDED ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS FOR FY 2020

$18,948,000
University of Puerto Rico - All Campuses

$1,582,000
Universidad Ana G. Méndez

$1,003,000
Universidad del Sagrado Corazon

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 | With NSF support, the University of Puerto Rico Medical Sciences campus will continue development of its Phase II Center for Environmental Neuroscience under NSF’s CREST, Centers of Research Excellence in Science and Technology, program. Investigators and students will explore the impact of anthropogenic environmental degradation on nervous systems at the structural, physiological and behavioral levels.
CREST supports the enhancement of research capabilities of minority-serving institutions through the establishment of centers that effectively integrate education and research. CREST promotes the development of new knowledge, enhancement of the research productivity of individual faculty, and an expanded presence of students historically underrepresented in STEM disciplines.

STEM EDUCATION
STEM WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT | A project at the University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez aims to serve the local and national needs for more STEM teachers who are fluent in Spanish and English, and who are well-qualified to teach in high need schools. The project will provide undergraduate STEM majors up to two years of scholarship support as they complete their baccalaureate STEM degrees and obtain teacher certification. Prior to their placement in high-need schools, the scholars will participate in STEM teaching experiences as well as classroom action research to study the effectiveness of curricular materials developed for K-12 STEM outreach efforts. This project includes a partnership with the Mayagüez School Region. Project goals include preparing approximately 40 STEM teachers over the five-year period of the award and placing these new teachers in high-need schools or school districts.

RESEARCH DRIVING WORKFORCE INNOVATION
FUTURE OF WORK | A project at the University of Puerto Rico aims to build significant research capacity in Puerto Rico in the wearable technology field by forming the Center for the Advancement of Wearable Technologies. The center will build on the research capacity developed by prior nanoscience research activities funded by NSF’s EPScoR, Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research, and managed by the Puerto Rico EPScoR office. The center is structured around three goals: 1) advance the fundamental and applied science of biosensors, portable power and storage, and data analytics; 2) provide an engaged and diverse workforce for the nation’s wearable technology sector; and 3) stimulate economic development together with Puerto Rico’s medical device industry.
Puerto Rico EPScoR will use a network of academic, industry and government partnerships to access state-of-the-art equipment, to identify research opportunities for trainees, and to build a robust innovation ecosystem. The project will also leverage established infrastructure in Puerto Rico for education, outreach and workforce development activities to make significant strides towards developing a diverse, next-generation STEM workforce that is well-aligned with the science priorities of the jurisdiction.

EPScor
• COMPETITIVE RESEARCH | Puerto Rico is one of 28 U.S. states or territories under NSF’s Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPScoR). Over $3,810,000 in awards have been made to Puerto Rico academic institutions through EPScoR in FY 2020. For more information, visit Puerto Rico’s EPScoR state web page.

NCSES
• According to the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES), 44% of Science, Engineering, and Health doctorates conferred in Puerto Rico are made in Psychology. Visit Puerto Rico’s science and engineering state profile to learn more!
3.05% of Puerto Rico’s workforce are employed in S&E 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.