The National Science Foundation (NSF) is a $9.5 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.

**FY 2022 Fast Facts**

- **$157,273,000** Total NSF Awards to Tennessee
- **$84,403,000** Invested in Fundamental Research in Tennessee
- **$17,219,000** Invested in STEM Education in Tennessee
- **$4,258,000** Invested in Tennessee Businesses

**Top NSF-funded Academic Institutions for FY 2022**

- **University of Tennessee, Knoxville**
  - $32,731,681

- **Vanderbilt University**
  - $29,101,641

- **University of Memphis**
  - $6,868,101

**NSF By The Numbers**

- 11K Number of awards NSF funds each year
- $9.9B FY 2023 Enacted
- 39K Proposals evaluated
- $1.6B STEM education
- 1.8K NSF-funded institutions
- 93% Funds research, education and related activities
- 352K People NSF supported
- 258 NSF-funded Nobel Prize winners

Data represents FY 2022 Actuals unless otherwise indicated.
Expanding the Frontiers of Science

The broader impact and commercial potential of this NSF Innovation Corps, or I-Corps™, Hubs project, led by Vanderbilt University, is the development of a sustainable, inclusive innovation ecosystem that will impart shared economic prosperity across the United States’ mid-South region. Currently, a gap exists in understanding how regional innovation clusters can unify to drive the development of a prolific innovation ecosystem. Addressing this gap will enable policymakers and government agencies to implement evidence-based approaches to inform programmatic investments and maximize technology commercialization, economic development and overall national innovation readiness. The mid-South Hub's formative, evidence-driven approach informs how inclusive innovation ecosystems can be established in regions with nascent economic activity. This consortium of diverse, deep technology-producing institutions from disparate locations within the mid-South region will leverage the I-Corps™ program to catalyze technological commercialization, spur economic development and inform the future of inclusive American innovation. This effort advances technology transfer from academic institutions into entrepreneurial ventures that seed emergent, regional ecosystems. The data-driven, performance improvement approach ensures best practices are evidence-based and create a model for other regions seeking to induce inclusive innovation cluster development.

STEM Education

NSF's CyberCorps® Scholarship for Service program at Tennessee Tech University supports national defense through the production of well-trained cybersecurity professionals. The program supports both undergraduate and graduate students with a focus on improving the diversity of the cybersecurity workforce through increasing the representation of women and underrepresented minorities. The program is also the first in the state of Tennessee to serve the economically distressed Appalachian region. It also allows new innovations in the CyberCorps® SFS program and enables the Cybersecurity Education Research and Outreach Center at Tennessee Tech to continue deepening its local, regional and national impacts. The CyberCorps® SFS program funds proposals that establish or continue scholarship programs in cybersecurity and aligns with the U.S. National Cyber Strategy to develop a superior cybersecurity workforce.

Regional Innovation Engines

The NSF Engines program envisions fostering flourishing regional innovation ecosystems across the country, providing a unique opportunity to spur economic growth in regions that have not fully participated in the technology boom of the past few decades. The NSF Engines program uniquely harnesses the nation’s science and technology research and development enterprise and regional-level resources. NSF Engines can catalyze robust partnerships rooted in scientific and technological innovation to positively impact the economy within a geographic region, address societal challenges, and advance national competitiveness. Find potential NSF engines in your state.

Infrastructure

Through NSF’s Major Research Instrumentation, or MRI, program, Meharry Medical College is creating a high-performance computing network that will support high-throughput research and advance knowledge in computational biology and data science, including in genetics studies, machine learning and data visualization.

NCSES

According to the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES), which is housed in NSF, 35% of science, engineering and health doctorates conferred in Tennessee are made in life sciences. Visit Tennessee’s science and engineering state profile to learn more!

- **26.15%** of Tennessee’s higher education degrees are concentrated in S&E fields.
- **3.6%** of Tennessee’s workforce are employed in S&E occupations.
- **7.55%** of Tennessee’s total employment is attributable to knowledge- and technology-intensive industries.

Learn More

**CHIPS & SCIENCE** – The CHIPS and Science Act’s investments in the U.S. National Science Foundation will help the United States remain a global leader in innovation. Implementation of this legislation will be key to ensuring that ideas, talent and prosperity are unleashed across all corners of the nation. For more information, please visit NSF’s CHIPS and Science website.

**RESEARCH SECURITY** – NSF is committed to safeguarding the integrity and security of science and engineering while also keeping fundamental research open and collaborative. NSF seeks to address an age of new threats and challenges through close work with our partners in academia, law enforcement, intelligence and other federal agencies. By fostering transparency, disclosure and other practices that reflect the values of research integrity, NSF is helping to lead the way in ensuring taxpayer-funded research remains secure. To learn more, please visit NSF’s Research Security website.

**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.