

The image features a vertical strip on the left side showing a stylized American flag with a blue and white circuit board pattern overlaid on it. The rest of the image has a solid dark blue background.

One Year Later: NSF Fulfilling the American Innovation and Competitiveness Act (AICA)

Wanda Ward, Senior Advisor
James Ulvestad, Chief Officer for
Research Facilities
Office of the Director
NSB Meeting of February 22, 2018

American Innovation and Competitiveness Act (AICA): Overview of the NSF Response

- Enacted into law on January 6, 2017.
- A bipartisan agreement that maximizes research and education opportunities and innovation opportunities to fuel the U.S. economy.
- Primarily impacts NSF, with some impact on NIST, NASA, and OSTP.
- Affirms and enhances NSF's management and operation.

Overview

- The American Innovation and Competitiveness Act is a policy bill; it does not authorize funding levels.
- Recent previous NSF reauthorization bills:
 - America COMPETES Act (P.L. 111-358) – 3 year authorization bill, FY'11 – FY'13, signed into law Jan. 4, 2011.
 - America COMPETES Act (P.L. 110-69) – 3 year authorization bill, FY'08 – FY'10, signed into law Aug. 9, 2007.
- States that NSF shall maintain the Intellectual Merit and Broader Impact criteria as the basis for evaluating grant proposals.
- Congress engaged NSF throughout the legislative process.

Major Provisions of the AICA

- § 102 – Transparency and Accountability.
 - Ensures that NSF awards contribute to societal goals.
- § 109 – Mid-Scale Project Investments.
 - Defines a new category of funding research instrumentation, equipment, and facilities upgrades.
- § 110 – Oversight of NSF Major Multi-User Research Facility Projects.
 - Strengthens oversight and accountability over the *full life-cycle*; calls for senior agency official appointment.
- § 111 – Personnel Oversight.
 - Control costs associated with IPA program.

Major Provisions of the AICA

- § 112 – Management of the U.S. Antarctic Program.
 - Improving logistical effectiveness to sustain and strengthen research.
- § 116 – Research Reproducibility and Replication.
 - Establishes a partnership with the National Research Council to examine and improve the rigor and reproducibility of federally-funded research.
- § 303 – STEM Education Advisory Panel.
 - Establishes a multi-agency joint advisory panel on STEM education.
- § 601 – Innovation Corps (I-Corps).
 - Authorizes further development and expansion of I-Corps.

NSF-wide Oversight to Fulfill the AICA

- May 2017: AICA Coordinating Committee (AICA-CC) established to ensure an effective and efficient response to AICA.
 - Coordinate and oversee the implementation of NSF's response to AICA.
 - Ensure the timely submission of periodic progress reports to Congress.

NSF Fulfilling AICA: Newest Developments

- § 110 – Oversight of NSF Major Multi-User Research Facility Projects
 - First Chief Officer for Research Facilities appointed, Jan. 2018
 - Ensuring Life-Cycle Oversight: Primary Actions
 - Formed Facilities Governance Board
 - Reset Major Facilities Working Group of Accountable Program Officials
 - Reset MREFC panel as Large Facilities Development Panel
 - Engaging in NSB facilities O&M study
 - Budget, branding, mid-scale, collaborations, spectrum

Facilities Governance Board (First Meeting)



AICA One Year Later: The NSF Response

- NSF Director Córdoba testifies before the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation Hearing, January 30, 2018



Provisions of the AICA Highlighted at Hearing

- § 102 – Transparency and Accountability.
- § 110 – Oversight of NSF Major Multi-User Research Facility Projects.
- § 303 – STEM Education Advisory Panel.
- § 601 – Innovation Corps (I-Corps).