



FULL COMMITTEE

HEARING CHARTER

"Unleashing the Golden Age of Science: Examining the Priorities of the FY2027 Research and Technology Enterprise"

Wednesday, July 22, 2026

10:15 a.m.

2318 Rayburn House Office Building

Purpose

The purpose of the hearing is to assess the fiscal year 2027 (FY27) budget request to Congress to support the nation's science enterprise.

Witness

- **The Honorable Michael Kratsios**, Director, White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP).

Key Questions

- What are the research priorities for OSTP, the National Science Foundation (NSF), and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), , and how does the proposed budget reflect those priorities?
- How does the proposed budget affect U.S. national security and global dominance of emerging technologies?
- How does the budget reflect the principles of Gold Standard Science?

Background on OSTP Director Kratsios

Michael Kratsios currently serves as both OSTP Director and Assistant to the President for Science and Technology.¹ Mr. Kratsios was confirmed as OSTP Director on March 25, 2025, and he previously served as the Deputy Assistant to the President for Technology Policy, U.S. Chief Technology Officer (CTO), and Acting Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering during President Trump's first term.^{2,3}

Office of Science and Technology Policy

Congress established OSTP through the National Science and Technology Policy, Organization, and Priorities Act of 1976 (P.L. 94-282) to “serve as a source of scientific and technological analysis and judgment for the President with respect to major policies, plans, and programs of the Federal Government.” The Act further charged the OSTP Director with specific advisory duties within the Executive Office of the President (EOP), including providing “advice on the scientific, engineering, and technological aspects of issues that require attention at the highest level of Government.”⁴

The President nominates the OSTP Director, who is subject to confirmation by the Senate. In some Administrations, the President has concurrently appointed the OSTP Director to the position of Assistant to the President for Science and Technology (APST), a position that does not require Senate confirmation and which allows for the provision of confidential advice to the President on matters of science and technology. Michael Kratsios currently serves as both APST and OSTP Director.⁵ He was confirmed as OSTP Director on March 25, 2025.⁶ Stated OSTP priorities under Kratsios include ensuring “American leadership in scientific discovery and technological innovation, including in critical and emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, quantum computing, and biotechnology.”⁷

Regular appropriations for OSTP are provided through the annual Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act. Congress typically provides OSTP funding through a single account and does not generally allocate funding amounts for specific activities. OSTP's annual budget contains authorized full-time equivalent (FTE) levels for each fiscal year. FTE positions (expressed in terms of the number of regular hours worked by a full-time employee over one year) represent the number of staff Congress has authorized OSTP to directly support through appropriations in a given fiscal year.

¹ White House, Executive Office of the President, Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP), “Information and Resources,” <https://www.whitehouse.gov/ostp/information-resources/> (last visited July 2, 2026).

² Roll Call Vote 119th Congress - 1st Session, Vote No. 139 (Mar. 25, 2025) (Confirmation: Michael Kratsios as Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy), https://www.senate.gov/legislative/LIS/roll_call_votes/vote1191/vote_119_1_00139.htm.

³ Michael J.K. Kratsios, U.S. DEPT OF WAR, <https://www.war.gov/About/Biographies/Biography/Article/2279091/michael-jk-kratsios/>.

⁴ 42 U.S.C. §6613.

⁵ White House, Executive Office of the President, Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP), “Information and Resources,” <https://www.whitehouse.gov/ostp/information-resources/> (last visited July 2, 2026).

⁶ “PN13-8 - Nomination of Michael Kratsios for Executive Office of the President, 119th Congress (2025-2026),” March 25, 2025, <https://www.congress.gov/nomination/119th-congress/13/8>.

⁷ OSTP, “Our Director,” <https://www.whitehouse.gov/ostp/information-resources> (last visited July 10, 2026).

FY2027 Request

For FY2027, the Trump Administration requests \$7.965 million for OSTP, which would hold funding at the level enacted for FY2025 and FY2026 (Table 1).⁸ The proposed budget also includes 33 FTE positions in FY2027, compared with an estimated 33 FTE positions in FY2026 and 24 FTEs in FY2025.

Table 1. Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) Funding, FY2025-FY2027 Request (budget authority, in millions of current dollars)

Account or Program	FY2025 Enacted	FY2026 Enacted	FY2027 Request	Dollar Change	Percentage Change
OSTP Total	8.0	8.0	8.0	0	--

Source: FY2025 and FY2026 enacted amounts were taken from the explanatory statement to accompany the FY2026 CJS Appropriations Act (Division A of P.L. 119-74). FY2027 requested amounts were taken from Office of Management and Budget (OMB), *Appendix, Budget of the United States Government, Fiscal Year 2027*, April 2026, pp. 1089-1090, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/information-resources/budget/appendix/>.

National Institute of Standards and Technology

An agency within the U.S. Department of Commerce, NIST's mission is "to promote U.S. innovation and industrial competitiveness by advancing measurement science, standards, and technology in ways that enhance economic security and improve our quality of life."⁹ The director of NIST is a Senate-confirmed presidential appointee, the Under Secretary of Commerce for Standards and Technology. On May 18, 2026, the Senate confirmed Dr. Arvind Raman to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Standards and Technology.¹⁰ Dr. Raman holds multiple degrees in mechanical engineering and joined the agency "after a distinguished career at Purdue University in Indiana."¹¹

NIST research provides measurement, calibration, and quality assurance methods and techniques that support U.S. commerce, technological progress, product reliability, manufacturing processes, and public safety. NIST's responsibilities include developing, maintaining, and retaining custody of the national standards of measurement; providing the means and methods for making measurements consistent with those standards; and ensuring that U.S. national measurement standards are compatible with those of other nations.¹²

Regular appropriations for NIST are provided through the annual Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act. NIST discretionary funding is provided through three accounts:

- Scientific and Technical Research and Services (STRS), which supports laboratory programs, corporate services, and standards coordination and special programs;

⁸ Office of Management and Budget (OMB), *Appendix, Budget of the United States Government, Fiscal Year 2027*, April 2026, pp. 1089-1090, https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/eop_fy2027.pdf.

⁹ National Institute of Standards (NIST), "About NIST," <https://www.nist.gov/about-nist> (last visited July 2, 2026).

¹⁰ "PN730-54 - Nomination of Arvind Raman for Department of Commerce, 119th Congress (2025-2026)," May 18, 2026, <https://www.congress.gov/nomination/119th-congress/730/54>.

¹¹ NIST, "Arvind Raman (Fed)," June 2, 2026, <https://www.nist.gov/people/arvind-raman>.

¹² 15 U.S.C. §272(b)

- Industrial Technology Services (ITS), which supports two extramural programs, the Manufacturing USA and Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership programs; and
- Construction of Research Facilities (CRF), which supports construction activities, including maintenance, repairs, and major improvements, and major renovations of facilities NIST occupies or uses in Colorado, Hawaii, and Maryland.

FY2027 Funding Request

For NIST in FY2027, the Trump Administration requests \$853.9 million, a decrease of \$993.2 million from the FY2026 enacted amount (\$1,847.1 million).¹³ Under the FY2027 request, each of NIST's three appropriations accounts would face reductions. Compared with FY2026 enacted funding, the STRS account would see the largest dollar amount decrease—down \$520.0 million to a requested \$729.2 million for FY2027. This comparative decrease is largely due to the removal of FY2026 funding for “one-time congressionally directed projects” (totaling \$405.3 million as provided by P.L. 119-74).¹⁴

ITS would see the largest percentage decrease, with a requested 82.5% reduction from FY2026, which amounts to a decrease of \$175.0 million to \$37.0 million for FY2027. This reduction is due to the proposed elimination of the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP). The requested amount for CRF would decrease by \$298.1 million to \$87.8 million for FY2027, largely owing to the removal of FY2026 funding for “one-time congressionally directed projects” (totaling \$257.9 million, as provided by P.L. 119-74).¹⁵ Table 2 lists enacted funding levels for FY2025 and FY2026 as well as requested funding levels for FY2027 for NIST appropriations accounts and selected program activities.

The structure of the Administration's FY2027 request for NIST's STRS account differs from prior-year requests, which have typically proposed funding amounts for the following “sub-activities”: Laboratory Programs, Corporate Services, and Standards Coordination and Special Programs. In contrast, the FY2027 request divides proposed STRS funding across seven newly created “activity-based focus research and service areas,” which are labeled budget programs and include:¹⁶ Critical and Emerging Technology Measurement and Standards; Digital Technology Measurements and Standards; Core Metrology and Measurement Services; Exploratory Measurement Research and Development (R&D); Advanced Manufacturing R&D; Resilience and Fire Research; and NIST Center for Neutron Research.¹⁷

¹³ NIST, Exhibit 3, “Budget Estimates, Fiscal Year 2027,” *NIST and National Technical Information Service (NTIS), Fiscal Year 2027 Congressional Budget Justification*, April 2026, p. NIST-3, <https://www.commerce.gov/sites/default/files/2026-04/FY2027-NIST-NTIS-CJ-Submission.pdf>.

¹⁴ NIST, Exhibit 4A, “FY2026 to FY2027 Program Increases/Decreases/Terminations,” *NIST and NTIS, Fiscal Year 2027 Congressional Budget Justification*, April 2026, p. NIST-6, <https://www.commerce.gov/sites/default/files/2026-04/FY2027-NIST-NTIS-CJ-Submission.pdf>.

¹⁵ NIST, *NIST and NTIS, Fiscal Year 2027 Congressional Budget Justification*, April 2026, p. NIST-6.

¹⁶ NIST, *NIST and NTIS, Fiscal Year 2027 Congressional Budget Justification*, April 2026, p. NIST-78.

¹⁷ NIST, Exhibit 5, “STRS Summary of Resource Requirements,” *NIST and NTIS, Fiscal Year 2027 Congressional Budget Justification*, April 2026, p. NIST-9, <https://www.commerce.gov/sites/default/files/2026-04/FY2027-NIST-NTIS-CJSubmission.pdf>. *Congressionally Directed Projects* is also listed as a budget program with a request for zero dollar

The functions of NIST’s seven proposed budget programs generally align with those of the three “sub-activities” included in prior year requests.¹⁸ The FY2027 request does not appear to propose changes to the sub-activity structures of the ITS and CRF accounts compared with FY2026.

Table 2. National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Funding, FY2025-FY2027 Request (budget authority, in millions of current dollars)

Account or Program	FY2025 Enacted	FY2026 Enacted	FY2027 Request	Dollar Change	Percentage Change
Scientific and Technical Research and Services	857.2	1,249.2	729.2	-520.0	-41.6%
Industrial Technology Services	212.0	212.0	37.0	-175.0	-82.5%
<i>Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership</i>	<i>175.0</i>	<i>175.0</i>	--	<i>-175.0</i>	<i>-100.0%</i>
<i>Manufacturing USA Program</i>	<i>37.0</i>	<i>37.0</i>	<i>37.0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>--</i>
Construction of Research Facilities	87.8	385.9	87.8	-298.1	-77.2%
NIST Total	1,156.9	1,847.1	853.9	-993.2	-53.8%

Source: FY2025 and FY2026 enacted amounts were taken from the explanatory statement to accompany the FY2026 CJS Appropriations Act (Division A of P.L. 119-74). FY2027 requested amounts were taken from National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), *NIST and National Technical Information Service (NTIS), Fiscal Year 2027 Congressional Budget Justification*, April 2026.

Notes: Italics indicate amounts provided for sub-account activities. Components may not sum to totals because of rounding.

Selected Programs and/or Activities

Under the Administration’s FY2027 request, funding for all but two budget programs would receive less funding compared with FY2026 enacted levels. The Critical and Emerging Technology (CET) Measurement Standards (within the STRS appropriations account) would see increased funding for artificial intelligence (AI) activities. The Manufacturing USA budget program (within the ITS appropriations account) would see no change. As mentioned above, NIST’s FY2027 budget request proposes terminating the MEP program within the ITS appropriations account.¹⁹ The following sections provide additional details on the Administration’s FY2027 proposals for the CET Measurement and Standards budget program and the MEP program.

Critical and Emerging Technology (CET) Measurement and Standards and Center for AI Standards and Innovation (CAISI)

Located within the STRS appropriations account, the CET Measurement and Standards budget program has the goal of supporting research and measurement science, standards, and technology in critical and emerging technology, including AI, quantum information science and technology (QIST), and biotechnology and biomanufacturing.

For FY2027, the Administration requests \$73.0 million for AI-related activities within the CET Measurement and Standards budget program, a \$17.0 million increase compared with the \$56.0 million enacted in FY2026.²⁰ The \$17.0 million increase includes \$0.947 million for

¹⁸ For a comparison or “crosswalk” of funding amounts requested for FY2027 under the proposed budget program structure with the prior-year, subactivity structure, see NIST, Exhibit 18, “Budget Program Change Crosswalk,” *NIST and NTIS, Fiscal Year 2027 Congressional Budget Justification*, April 2026, pp. NIST-78- NIST-79.

¹⁹ For a list of proposed increases, decreases, and terminations, see NIST, Exhibit 4A, *NIST and NTIS, Fiscal Year 2027 Congressional Budget Justification*, April 2026, pp. NIST-6- NIST-7.

²⁰ NIST, *NIST and NTIS, Fiscal Year 2027 Congressional Budget Justification*, p. NIST-8.

“adjustments” to the FY2026 base and \$16.053 million to “expand efforts within the Center for AI Standards and Innovation (CAISI) that will accelerate AI innovation, global adoption of American AI, and America’s technological and marketplace dominance over foreign competitors, as outlined by the President’s AI Action Plan.”^{21,22}

This requested \$16.053 million increase would raise CAISI’s total budget to \$27 million. This requested increase includes a base of \$11 million to expand CAISI efforts to “evaluate evolving AI systems developed both in the U.S. and abroad to identify their performance capabilities, vulnerabilities, and national security threats” and \$5 million for CAISI’s focus on “research and publishing of evaluations of frontier models, promoting frontier AI that protects free speech and American values.”²³ The requested increase would also support 34 new staff positions for AI-related activities under the budget program.²⁴

Compared to FY2026, funding for QIST and biology-related measurement and standards activities would see reductions under the FY2027 request, with QIST funding declining by \$28.0 million to \$62.0 million and biotechnology and biomanufacturing funding declining by \$19.0 million to \$38.0 million.²⁵

The Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP)

The MEP program is a national network of centers established by the Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act (P.L. 100-418).²⁶ NIST provides funding to support MEP center operations, with matching funds provided by nonfederal sources (e.g., state governments, fees for service). MEP centers provide custom services to small and medium-sized manufacturers to improve production processes, upgrade technological capabilities, and facilitate product innovation. For FY2027, the Administration proposes terminating the MEP program, which would constitute a reduction of \$175.0 million compared with FY2026.²⁷ The request proposes that carryover funds from FY2026 be used to cover costs associated with an “orderly shutdown of the program” and indicates that centers would be required to change to “an entirely self-supporting basis.”²⁸ In terminating MEP, the Administration’s FY2027 proposal includes a reduction of 89 NIST staff positions associated with the program.²⁹

National Science Foundation

NSF supports basic research and education in the nonmedical sciences and engineering. Congress established NSF as an independent federal agency in 1950 to “promote the progress of science; to advance the national health, prosperity, and welfare; to secure the national defense;

²¹ *Id.*

²² NIST, *NIST and NTIS, Fiscal Year 2027 Congressional Budget Justification*, p. NIST-16.

²³ NIST, *NIST and NTIS, Fiscal Year 2027 Congressional Budget Justification*, p. NIST-16.

²⁴ NIST, Exhibit 4A, “FY2026 to FY2027 Program Increases/Decreases/Terminations,” *NIST and NTIS, Fiscal Year 2027 Congressional Budget Justification*, April 2026, p. NIST-6.

²⁵ NIST, *NIST and NTIS, Fiscal Year 2027 Congressional Budget Justification*, p. NIST-8.

²⁶ For additional background on the history and evolution of the program, see CRS Report R44308, *The Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership Program*, by Emily G. Blevins.

²⁷ NIST, *NIST and NTIS, Fiscal Year 2027 Congressional Budget Justification*, p. NIST-8.

²⁸ NIST, *NIST and NTIS, Fiscal Year 2027 Congressional Budget Justification*, p. NIST-90.

²⁹ NIST, *NIST and NTIS, Fiscal Year 2027 Congressional Budget Justification*, p. NIST-7.

and for other purposes.”³⁰ NSF is a major source of federal support for U.S. university research, particularly in computer and information science, geosciences, and social sciences.³¹ It is also responsible for a significant share of the federal STEM education portfolio and STEM student support programs.³²

Regular appropriations for NSF are provided through the annual Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies appropriations acts. NSF discretionary funding is typically provided through the following six appropriations accounts, while program-specific direction is usually included in accompanying conference reports or explanatory statements:

- Research and Related Activities (RRA), the main research account;
- STEM Education (EDU), the main education account;³³
- Major Research Equipment and Facilities Construction (MREFC), which supports the acquisition, construction, and commissioning of major facilities and larger mid-scale research infrastructure (RI);³⁴
- Agency Operations and Award Management (AOAM);
- the National Science Board (NSB), the account supporting NSF’s governing body; and
- the Office of Inspector General (OIG).

FY2027 Request

For FY2027, President Trump’s budget request includes \$4.0 billion in discretionary funding for NSF, a decrease of \$4.8 billion from the FY2026 enacted amount (Table 3). The FY2027 request also includes \$900 million in new mandatory funding to build a new Antarctic Research Vessel (ARV). Mandatory funding is not usually part of NSF’s budget request for the six appropriations accounts, so it is excluded from the figures and tables below but is discussed under the “Selected Programs and/or Activities” section.³⁵

³⁰ The National Science Foundation Act of 1950 (P.L. 81-507), https://nsf.gov-resources.nsf.gov/2023-04/NSF_act_1950_legislation.pdf.

³¹ In FY2024, the National Science Foundation (NSF) was the largest federal funder of university research in computer and information sciences, geosciences, mathematics and statistics, and physical sciences. Also in FY2024, NSF was the second largest funder of university research in social sciences and psychology, according to CRS analysis of data from the NSF National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES), “Table 48. Federal Obligations for Research Performed at Higher Education Institutions, by Agency and Field of R&D: FY 2024,” in *Survey of Federal Funds for Research and Development*, May 2026, <https://nces.nsf.gov/pubs/nsf26316/table/48>. FY2024 is the most recent year for which data are available.

³² For a summary of the federal science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) investments inventory, see Appendix 4 in Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP), *2024 Report on the Committee on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (CoSTEM) and CoSTEM-Related Agency Actions*, January 2025, p. 73, <https://bidenwhitehouse.archives.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/2024-CoSTEM-Annual-Report.pdf>.

³³ In the FY2027 budget request, NSF proposes consolidating EDU within the Research and Related Activities (RRA) account, listing EDU as a subaccount in RRA. NSF also proposed this consolidation in the FY2026 budget request, but the final FY2026 appropriations did not adopt this structure, instead providing funding for the RRA and EDU accounts separately, in line with prior-year appropriations account structures.

³⁴ Initial development and design and post-construction operations and maintenance are funded through the RRA account.

³⁵ NSF receives a comparatively small amount of mandatory funding from the CHIPS for America Workforce and Education Fund under Sec. 102(d)(2)(C) of Division A of the CHIPS and Science Act (P.L. 117-167), and from H-

The FY2027 budget request proposes consolidating the EDU account as a subaccount within the RRA account. The combined requested funding for these activities in FY2027 would be \$3.4 billion, down \$4.7 billion compared with the FY2026 enacted amount. Under the prior year structure, the FY2027 budget request would decrease funding for RRA by \$4.2 billion and EDU by \$510.6 million compared with the FY2026 enacted amounts.

The MREFC account supports construction of major research facilities (i.e., those with cost estimates over \$100 million) and scientific instruments (mid-scale research infrastructure with cost estimates of \$20 million to \$100 million). The Administration is requesting \$173.0 million in discretionary funding for MREFC in FY2027, a decrease of \$78.1 million (-31.1%) from the FY2026 enacted amount. The requested MREFC funding would support three main activities: mid-scale research infrastructure (\$30.0 million requested) and continued construction on two ongoing major research facility projects:³⁶

- The Antarctic Infrastructure Recapitalization (AIR) program (\$60.0 million requested), which is a portfolio of investments to improve U.S. Antarctic Program (USAP) infrastructure, including facilities, utilities, equipment, and the vehicle fleet, and
- the Leadership-Class Computing Facility (LCCF; \$81.5 million requested), led by the Texas Advanced Computing Center at the University of Texas at Austin, which the budget request describes as “a distributed facility that will provide unique computational and data analytics capabilities, as well as critical software and services.”³⁷

The AOAM account “funds the employees and support services at NSF that enable research and operations.”³⁸ For AOAM, the FY2027 budget request includes \$359.7 million, an increase of \$4.7 million (1.3%) above the FY2026 enacted amount. The budget request proposes two changes to the AOAM account in FY2027: shifting the account from one-year to two-year budget authority “to align its period of availability with the program funds in the [RRA] account” and increasing the transfer authority into the AOAM account from 10% to 20%.³⁹

The NSB account funds the staffing and operations of the National Science Board, NSF’s governing body, and the OIG account funds the staffing and operations of the NSF Office of Inspector General. Under the FY2027 request, compared to FY2026 enacted amounts, the NSB account would receive \$3.1 million, a \$2.0 million (-39.2%) decrease, and the OIG account would receive \$18.0 million, a \$6.2 million (-25.6%) decrease (Table 3).

Table 3. National Science Foundation (NSF) Discretionary Funding, FY2025-FY2027 Request (budget authority, in millions of current dollars)

1B Nonimmigrant Petitioner Fees (40% of total H-1B receipts collected, as authorized by P.L. 105-277 and P.L. 108-447). H-1B fees are used for two programs: the low-income scholarship program, Scholarships in STEM (S-STEM); and the Innovative Technology Experiences for Students and Teachers (ITEST) program. FY2027 fees for the H-1B account are projected to be \$150.5 million, equal to the FY2026 estimate.

³⁶ NSF, *FY 2027 Budget Request to Congress*, April 3, 2026, p. NSF-Wide Investments-31, <https://nsf.gov-resources.nsf.gov/files/FY-2027-NSF-Budget-Request-to-Congress.pdf>. Additionally, the FY2027 budget request includes \$1.5 million for “dedicated construction oversight,” including periodic cost, schedule, and risk reviews for all major facility projects.

³⁷ NSF, *FY 2027 Budget Request to Congress*, p. NSF-Wide Investments-45.

³⁸ NSF, *FY 2027 Budget Request to Congress*, p. Overview-9.

³⁹ NSF, *FY 2027 Budget Request to Congress*, p. Overview-9.

Account/Program	FY2025 Enacted	FY2026 Enacted	FY2027 Request	Dollar Change	Percentage Change
Research and Related Activities (RRA)	8,348.5	8,114.8	3,409.5	-4,705.3	-58.0%
<i>STEM Education (EDU)^a</i>	<i>1,172.0</i>	<i>938.3</i>	<i>427.7</i>	<i>-510.6</i>	<i>-54.4%</i>
Major Research Equipment and Facilities Construction (MREFC)	234.0	251.0	173.0	-78.1	-31.1%
Agency Operations and Award Management (AOAM)	448.0	355.0	359.7	4.7	1.3%
Office of Inspector General (OIG)	24.4	24.2	18.0	-6.2	-25.6%
National Science Board (NSB)	5.1	5.1	3.1	-2.0	-39.2%
Total NSF^b	9,060.0	8,750.0	3,963.2	-4,786.8	-54.7%

Source: FY2025 enacted amounts are from the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025 (P.L. 119-4). FY2026 enacted amounts are from Commerce, Justice, Science; Energy and Water Development; and Interior and Environment Appropriations Act, 2026 (P.L. 119-74). FY2027 amounts are from NSF, *FY 2027 Budget Request to Congress*, April 3, 2026, p. Notes: STEM = science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Components may not sum to totals because of rounding.

a. The FY2027 NSF budget request proposed consolidating the EDU account as a subaccount within the RRA account. To conform with this proposal, CRS included EDU amounts here in italics for reference; the amounts have also been included in the RRA amounts in this table.

b. In addition to discretionary funding, NSF reports mandatory funding in its budget breakouts. Mandatory funding is not shown in this table but includes \$75.0 million in FY2025 and \$50.0 million in each of FY2026 and FY2027 from the Creating Helpful Incentives to Produce Semiconductors (CHIPS) for America Workforce and Education Fund mandatory appropriations (per P.L. 117-167, Division A, §102(d)(2)). See the “Quantitative Data Tables” section of the NSF FY2027 budget request, p. QDT-8. The request also proposes \$900.0 million in new mandatory funding in the MREFC account for construction of an Antarctic Research Vessel. See the NSF FY2027 budget request, p. NSF-Wide Investments-41.

National Science Board Funding and Operations

The NSF Act of 1950 (P.L. 81-507), which created the NSF as “an independent agency,” states that “the Foundation shall consist of a National Science Board [NSB]... and a Director.”⁴⁰ The FY2027 request indicates that the proposed NSB budget (\$3.1 million) identifies the resources needed to enable execution of the Board’s statutory functions and ensure its independence... [and] will allow the NSB to fulfill its essential policymaking and oversight responsibilities for NSF and its statutory responsibilities as outlined in the NSF Act, including Science and Engineering Indicators.⁴¹

The NSB’s responsibilities, carried out in part through at least four formally scheduled public meetings per year, include reviewing and approving “major NSF awards,” overseeing and providing policy direction and strategic guidance to NSF; and overseeing the lifecycle of “large facilities, including conducting site visits.”⁴²

⁴⁰ 42 U.S.C. §1831. See also, 42 U.S.C. §1863; and NSF, “About the NSB,” <https://www.nsf.gov/nsb/about> (last visited July 7, 2026).

⁴¹ NSF, *FY 2027 Budget Request to Congress*, p. OrgEx-24.

⁴² NSF, *FY 2027 Budget Request to Congress*, p. OrgEx-25.

On April 25, 2026, President Trump dismissed all 22 members of the NSB (with two vacancies at the time).⁴³ According to the NSB website, as of July 7, 2026, all NSB positions are “pending new appointments.”⁴⁴

Funding Rates for Research and Development

Under the FY2027 requested funding amounts, NSF estimates that the funding rate for competitive awards (including research grants, cooperative agreements, equipment grants, and fellowships) would decrease from 18% to 7% of submitted proposals.⁴⁵ In 2021, the former NSF director, Dr. Sethuraman Panchanathan, testified that NSF was “only funding 50 percent of what... could be funded,” in terms of proposals that were deemed worthy of support but rejected because of budget constraints at that time.⁴⁶

Through the CHIPS and Science Act (P.L. 117-167), Congress authorized and reauthorized NSF programs and activities and authorized appropriations for NSF of \$18.9 billion in FY2027; the requested funding levels are \$14.9 billion (-79.0%) below the authorized amount.

Priority Research Investments and Mandatory Funding

NSF provides summary information on prior and requested funding for “NSF administration priorities and crosscutting research topics” as part of the budget request.⁴⁷ The funding amounts for each of the priority research areas would decrease under the FY2027 budget request compared to the FY2025 current plan amounts.⁴⁸ All of these priority research areas are on the list of key technology focus areas that guide federal agency activities authorized under the CHIPS and Science Act.⁴⁹

- Advanced materials and manufacturing (\$175.9 million requested);⁵⁰
- biotechnology (\$248.6 million requested);
- artificial intelligence (\$655.2 million requested); and
- quantum information science (\$231.2 million requested).

⁴³ There has not been an official statement from the Administration; the firings were initially reported by science news outlets. See, for example, Jeffrey Mervis, “Trump Fires Every Member of the U.S. National Science Foundation’s Governing Body,” *Science*, April 25, 2026, <https://www.science.org/content/article/trump-fires-nsf-oversight-board>; and Jacob Taylor, “Administration Explains National Science Board Firing as Criticism Grows,” *American Institute of Physics, FYI*, May 1, 2026, <https://www.aip.org/fyi/administration-explains-national-science-board-firing-as-criticism-grows>.

⁴⁴ See NSF, “Board Members,” <https://www.nsf.gov/nsb/members> (last visited July 7, 2026).

⁴⁵ NSF, *FY 2027 Budget Request to Congress*, p. Summary Tables-5.

⁴⁶ U.S. Congress, House Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies, “The National Science Foundation’s Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Request,” hearing, 117th Cong., 1st sess., April 14, 2021, <https://www.congress.gov/event/117th-congress/houseevent/LC67632/text?s=4&r=2>.

⁴⁷ NSF, *FY 2027 Budget Request to Congress*, p. Summary Tables-8.

⁴⁸ The budget request does not provide FY2026 estimates for these priority research areas. FY2025 current plan amounts is the most recent information available.

⁴⁹ P.L. 117-167, §10387; 42 U.S.C. §19107.

⁵⁰ “Advanced Materials and Manufacturing” is comprised of totals formally reported separately as “Advanced Manufacturing” and “Microelectronics & Semiconductors.” See, NSF, *FY 2027 Budget Request to Congress*, p. Summary Tables-8.

Additionally, the budget request includes requested amounts for NSF's participation in two statutorily required multiagency R&D programs.⁵¹ Both programs would see decreases under the FY2027 budget request compared to the FY2025 current plan: the National Nanotechnology Initiative (\$131.1 million requested) and the Networking and Information Technology Research and Development program (\$821.3 million requested).

To support construction of a new ARV with icebreaking capabilities, the FY2027 request includes \$900 million in new mandatory funding.⁵² In October 2025, NSF terminated the lease of the *ARV Nathaniel B. Palmer*, which had been the sole U.S. research vessel dedicated to Antarctica.⁵³ During the 2025-2026 Antarctic field season, NSF reassigned some U.S. researchers to vessels in the Academic Research Fleet—the *Sikuliaq* and *Roger Revelle*—that typically operate in the Arctic, though those vessels lacked the *Palmer's* icebreaking capabilities. The construction of a new ARV is a potential long-term option to support U.S. Antarctic research. NSF released a solicitation in February 2024 for the design and construction of a new ARV; the solicitation has been listed as inactive since August 2024.⁵⁴

Other Scientific Initiatives

Gold Standard Science

The “Golden Age of Science” reflects the Administration’s overarching framing for its science and technology agenda. The concept was introduced in President Trump’s March 2025 letter to Director Kratsios calling on OSTP to “usher in the Golden Age of American Innovation.”⁵⁵ Those priorities include ensuring unrivaled American leadership in critical and emerging technologies (such as AI, quantum, and nuclear), unleashing American energy dominance and exploring new frontiers, and multiplying the return on taxpayer investment in R&D.

Executive Order 14303, “Restoring Gold Standard Science” (May 23, 2025), directs that federally funded and federally conducted science adhere to nine tenets, including reproducibility, transparency, and being communicative of error and uncertainty; collaborative and interdisciplinary; skeptical of its findings and assumptions; structured for falsifiability of hypotheses; subject to unbiased peer review; accepting of negative results as positive outcomes; and without conflicts of interest.⁵⁶ OSTP issued implementing guidance on June 23, 2025,

⁵¹ Prior year budget requests included information for an additional multiagency program, the U.S. Global Change Research Program (USGCRP). In the FY2026 NSF budget request, funding for USGCRP would have decreased by 97% to \$25.2 million; it is not mentioned in the FY2027 NSF budget request. For additional details regarding recent USGCRP-related developments see, Waldman, “The Administration Has A New Climate Change Office. It’s Headed by A Climate Critic,” *Politico*, July 9, 2026, <https://www.politico.com/news/2026/07/09/the-administration-has-a-new-climate-change-office-its-headed-by-a-climate-critic-00990916>.

⁵² NSF, *FY 2027 Budget Request to Congress*, p. Overview-8.

⁵³ NSF, “Non-Renewal of ARSV Laurence M. Gould Charter: Transition Plans for Antarctic Research Support,” April 29, 2024, <https://www.nsf.gov/geo/opp/updates/non-renewal-arsv-laurence-m-gould-charter-transition-plans>.

⁵⁴ NSF, “Antarctic Research Vessel (ARV) Integrator, Solicitation,” Solicitation No. 49100423R0010, February 16, 2024, <https://sam.gov/opp/91adf79c76c245d49408930ae2c49fb4/view>.

⁵⁵ Letter from President Donald J. Trump to Michael Kratsios, Dir., Off. of Sci. & Tech. Pol’y (Mar. 2025), <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/2025/03/a-letter-to-michael-kratsios-director-of-the-white-house-office-of-science-and-technology-policy/>.

⁵⁶ Exec. Order No. 14303, Restoring Gold Standard Science, 90 Fed. Reg. 22601 (May 29, 2025), <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/05/29/2025-09802/restoring-gold-standard-science>.

directing agencies to incorporate these tenets across their research activities.⁵⁷ Agencies, including NSF, submitted initial implementation plans by August 22, 2025, and annual reports are due to OSTP on September 1, 2026.⁵⁸ An Executive Order signed on August 7, 2025, “Improving Oversight of Federal Grantmaking,” requires senior-appointee review of discretionary awards, prioritizes institutions with lower indirect-cost rates, and encourages applicant commitments to gold standard science.⁵⁹

Research Security

The Federal research security framework is built on two pillars: National Security Presidential Memorandum 33 (NSPM-33) and the research security provisions of the CHIPS and Science Act of 2022. Issued during the first Trump Administration, NSPM-33 directed federal research agencies to safeguard federally funded research and development, including a requirement that institutions receiving more than \$50 million per year in federal science and engineering support certify that they operate a research security program addressing cybersecurity, foreign-travel security, research security training, and export-control training.⁶⁰ The CHIPS and Science Act codified and extended this framework, including by directing OSTP to issue uniform guidelines on foreign talent recruitment programs, barring federal research-agency personnel from participating in these programs, requiring covered individuals to certify that they are not party to a malign foreign talent recruitment program, and establishing a government-wide annual research security training requirement for federal award personnel.^{61 62}

OSTP has issued the implementing guidance, including its July 2024 Guidelines for Research Security Programs at Covered Institutions, which defined a “covered institution” as one receiving more than \$50 million per year in federal science and engineering support and set agency-plan and institutional-implementation deadlines.⁶³ NSF released Important Notice No. 149 in July 2025, updating its research security policies and training requirements.⁶⁴ On June 24, 2025, the Committee requested that GAO review federal agencies’ and research institutions’

⁵⁷ Off. of Sci. & Tech. Pol’y, Agency Guidance for Implementing Gold Standard Science in the Conduct & Management of Scientific Activities (June 23, 2025), <https://www.whitehouse.gov/articles/2025/06/ostp-issues-agency-guidance-for-gold-standard-science/>.

⁵⁸ Nat’l Sci. Found., Gold Standard Science Implementation Plan (Aug. 22, 2025), <https://www.nsf.gov/policies/gold-standard-science>.

⁵⁹ Exec. Order No. 14332, Improving Oversight of Federal Grantmaking (Aug. 7, 2025), <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/08/improving-oversight-of-federal-grantmaking/>.

⁶⁰ National Security Presidential Memorandum 33, National Security Strategy for United States Government-Supported Research and Development (Jan. 14, 2021).

⁶¹ CHIPS and Science Act of 2022, Pub. L. No. 117-167, §§ 10631-10638, 136 Stat. 1372 (codified at 42 U.S.C. §§ 19231-19238).

⁶² 42 U.S.C. § 19234 (research security training requirement for federal research award personnel).

⁶³ Off. of Sci. & Tech. Pol’y, Guidelines for Research Security Programs at Covered Institutions (July 9, 2024), <https://bidenwhitehouse.archives.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/OSTP-RSP-Guidelines-Memo.pdf>.

⁶⁴ Nat’l Sci. Found., Important Notice No. 149, Updates to NSF Research Security Policies (July 10, 2025), <https://www.nsf.gov/notices/important/important-notice-no-149-updates-nsf-research-security/in149>.

implementation of research security guidelines, and the Committee also examined implementation at its December 2025 oversight hearing.^{65,66}

Genesis Mission

On November 24, 2025, President Trump signed Executive Order 14363, “Launching the Genesis Mission,” directing the Department of Energy (DOE) to build an integrated, AI-driven platform—the American Science and Security Platform—that connects the nation’s supercomputers, experimental facilities, AI systems, and federal scientific datasets across scientific domains, with the goal of doubling the productivity and accelerating the impact of American research and innovation within a decade.⁶⁷ The order builds on Executive Order 14179 (Removing Barriers to American Leadership in Artificial Intelligence) and America’s AI Action Plan, and it designates DOE Under Secretary for Science Darío Gil as the mission’s director, with OSTP coordinating participating agencies through the National Science and Technology Council.^{68,69} The One Big Beautiful Bill Act provided DOE \$150 million to clean, curate, and structure scientific data for use by AI systems and provided the National Nuclear Security Administration \$115 million to accelerate national-security missions through AI.⁷⁰

In December 2025, DOE announced collaboration agreements with 24 industry, academic, and philanthropic organizations;⁷¹ in February 2026, it published 26 National Science and Technology Challenges spanning energy dominance, discovery science, and national security;⁷² and in March 2026, it issued a Request for Applications and stood up the Argonne-led Transformational AI Models Consortium (ModCon) and the American Science Cloud (AmSC), the platform’s secure, federated computing backbone.^{73,74}

⁶⁵ Letter from Chairman Brian Babin, H. Comm. on Sci., Space & Tech., to Gene L. Dodaro, Comptroller Gen. of the U.S. (June 24, 2025) (requesting GAO review of federal agencies’ and research institutions’ implementation of research security guidelines).

⁶⁶ Research Security: Examining the Implementation of the CHIPS and Science Act and NSPM-33: Hearing Before the Subcomm. on Investigations & Oversight of the H. Comm. on Sci., Space & Tech., 119th Cong. (Dec. 18, 2025).

⁶⁷ Exec. Order No. 14363, Launching the Genesis Mission, 90 Fed. Reg. 55035 (Nov. 28, 2025), <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/11/28/2025-21665/launching-the-genesis-mission>.

⁶⁸ *Id.*

⁶⁹ Exec. Order No. 14179, Removing Barriers to American Leadership in Artificial Intelligence (Jan. 23, 2025); Off. of Sci. & Tech. Pol’y, America’s AI Action Plan (July 2025).

⁷⁰ One Big Beautiful Bill Act, H.R. 1, 119th Cong. (2025) (enacted July 4, 2025) (\$150 million to DOE to clean, curate, and structure scientific data for AI use; \$115 million to the National Nuclear Security Administration).

⁷¹ U.S. Dep’t of Energy, Energy Department Announces Collaboration Agreements with 24 Organizations to Advance the Genesis Mission (Dec. 2025), <https://www.energy.gov/articles/energy-department-announces-collaboration-agreements-24-organizations-advance-genesis>.

⁷² U.S. Dep’t of Energy, Genesis Mission National Science and Technology Challenges (Feb. 2026), <https://www.energy.gov/undersecretaryforscience/genesis-mission/genesis-mission-national-science-and-technology-challenges>.

⁷³ U.S. Dep’t of Energy, The Genesis Mission: Transforming Science and Energy with AI (Request for Applications) (Mar. 2026).

⁷⁴ Argonne Nat’l Lab’y, Genesis Mission (Transformational AI Models Consortium (ModCon) and American Science Cloud (AmSC)), <https://www.anl.gov/genesis-mission>.

White House Artificial Intelligence (AI) Action Plan and National AI Initiative Act of 2020

On July 23, 2025, the White House unveiled “Winning the AI Race: America’s AI Action Plan,” structured around three pillars to advance American dominance in AI: innovation, infrastructure, and international diplomacy and security.⁷⁵ OSTP led the development of the plan and oversees its implementation as part of the nation's broader science and technology policy agenda.⁷⁶

The National AI Initiative Act of 2020 (NAIIA), led by the House Science, Space, and Technology (SST) Committee, became law in January 2021 as part of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021.^{77,78} The law directs key agencies under the Committee’s jurisdiction to support AI research and development, many of which also received significant policy recommendations in the AI Action Plan.⁷⁹ Furthermore, in June 2026, the Committee held a markup passing several bills that would codify or support key elements of the AI Action Plan.⁸⁰

⁷⁵ White House Unveils America's AI Action Plan, THE WHITE HOUSE (July 2025), <https://www.whitehouse.gov/articles/2025/07/white-house-unveils-americas-ai-action-plan/>.

⁷⁶ Office of Science and Technology Policy, THE WHITE HOUSE, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/ostp/>.

⁷⁷ H.R. 6216, the National Artificial Intelligence Initiative Act of 2020, H. COMM. ON SCI., SPACE, & TECH. (Dec. 2020), <https://science.house.gov/2020/12/hr-6216-national-artificial-intelligence-initiative-act-2020>.

⁷⁸ William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021, Pub. L. No. 116-283, 134 Stat. 3388 (2021), <https://www.congress.gov/116/plaws/publ283/PLAW-116publ283.pdf>.

⁷⁹ Winning the Race: America's AI Action Plan, THE WHITE HOUSE (July 2025), <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/Americas-AI-Action-Plan.pdf>.

⁸⁰ *Full Committee Markup of H.R. 9341 et al.*, H. Comm. on Sci., Space & Tech., 119th Cong. (June 25, 2026), <https://science.house.gov/2026/6/full-committee-markup-of-h-r-9341-9363-2385-5351-5584-6461-8893-9333-9334-and-9372>.