

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

RESEARCH AND RELATED ACTIVITIES

The bill includes \$5,183,100,000 for fiscal year 2009 for research and related activities. When determining the allocation of resources, the NSF shall provide for a balanced program across all science disciplines. NSF is further encouraged to invest in cost-effective and innovative solutions, such as grid-computing to address the Nation's cyber infrastructure needs. Funds provided under this heading are not provided for adaptive systems technology.

Public awareness: NSF is encouraged to maximize communication and open exchange of data and results that flow from research that is funded by NSF appropriations, consistent with existing Federal law. NSF is expected to partner with grantees to expand the visibility to the public of NSF-sponsored research, especially through the Internet. NSF is the principal Federal agency charged with promoting science and engineering education, and increasing the public awareness of NSF's high-risk, high-reward research activities will contribute to the development of the future of science and technology workforce.

Icebreaking: Consistent with the direction to the U.S. Coast Guard contained in explanatory statement accompanying Public Law 110-329, NSF and the U.S. Coast Guard shall renegotiate the existing agreement between the two agencies so that operations and maintenance funding of the icebreakers is requested in the Coast Guard's annual budget beginning in fiscal year 2010. The NSF shall retain funding for the science-only related costs of icebreaking services to be procured from all entities (governmental and non-governmental). Funding to continue the caretaker status of the Polar Star is not contained within this appropriation, but rather within the funds appropriated to the Coast Guard by Public Law 110-329.

Experimental Program to Stimulate Cooperative Research (EPSCoR): Within the amounts provided, the bill designates \$133,000,000 for EPSCoR, of which at least \$70,000,000 shall be used for track 1 research infrastructure improvement (RII) awards. The increase in the size of the track 1 awards as provided in the most recent EPSCoR solicitation shall continue. The fiscal year 2009 operating plan shall reflect the direction herein and indicate the anticipated allocation of funds among other activities (e.g. track II RII, co-funding, SBIR, outreach, etc.).

NSF is directed to provide not less than \$660,000,000 for NSF investments/activities in the EPSCoR Jurisdictions in fiscal year 2009. Annual Increases in NSF investments should be proportional to the annual growth in overall research and related activities appropriation.

Plant Genome research program: Within the funds provided, \$101,220,000 shall be available for the plant genome research program.

National Radio Astronomy Observatory: The bill includes \$49,790,000 for the National Radio Astronomy Observatory.

Polar program: Any final selection criteria related to a competitive logistics procurement for the Polar program shall include as an evaluation measure the ability to provide high-speed communication of data to scientists.

Mathematical and physical sciences: The amounts include \$3,000,000 above the request to establish a mathematical institute devoted to the identification and development of mathematical talent and to advance mathematical topics critical to the national interest. In addition, a total of \$2,500,000 from mathematical and physical sciences is included for the maintenance and operations costs associated with IceCube.

Astronomical sciences: Within the funds provided, \$2,500,000 has been provided above the request to fund the design work of the advanced technology solar telescope. In addition, a total of \$2,500,000 from astronomical sciences is included for the maintenance and operations costs associated with IceCube.

MAJOR RESEARCH EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES CONSTRUCTION

The bill includes \$152,010,000 for major research equipment and facilities construction for fiscal year 2009. The bill provides for the following allocation of funds:

AdvLigo	\$51,430,000
Atacama Large Millimeter Array (ALMA).....	82,250,000
IceCube Neutrino Observatory.....	11,330,000
Advanced Technology Solar Telescope (ATST).....	7,000,000

EDUCATION AND HUMAN RESOURCES

The bill includes \$845,260,000 for education and human resources. Within the funds provided, the bill sets aside \$55,000,000 for the Robert Noyce Scholarship program. Adjustments to the budget request are as follows:

Graduate research fellowships.....	-\$9,700,000
Robert Noyce Scholarship Program	+43,400,000
Undergraduate/graduate student support programs.....	+650,000
Graduate teaching fellowships in K-12.....	+500,000
Math and science partnership.....	+10,000,000
Climate change education program.....	+10,000,000

Robert Noyce Scholarship program: Increasing the number of highly qualified K-12 math and science teachers is critical to the creation of a new generation of innovators. The Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program, including NSF Teaching Fellowships and Master Teaching Fellowships, recruits and supports talented mathematics and science

undergraduate students and postgraduate professionals to become K-12 mathematics and science teachers with scholarships, stipends and other support. The increase provided in the bill for the Noyce Program is for the purpose of expanding participation in the grant programs, established in section 10 and section 10A of the National Science Foundation Authorization Act of 2002 (42 U.S.C. 1862n-1) as amended by the America COMPETES Act.

Undergraduate/graduate student support programs: A total of \$87,500,000 is provided for undergraduate/graduate student support programs for fiscal year 2009. Funding of \$42,500,000 is provided for the Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation (LSAMP); \$31,500,000 is provided for the Historically Black Colleges and Universities Undergraduate Program (HBC-UP) and \$13,500,000 is provided for the Tribal Colleges and Universities Program (TCUP).

Climate change education program: The National Science Foundation shall consult with the National Academies in the development of a plan for the distribution of funds provided herein for the climate change education program.

AGENCY OPERATIONS AND AWARD MANAGEMENT

The bill provides \$294,000,000 for agency operations and award management for fiscal year 2009. NSF is directed to notify the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations 90 days prior to changing its existing cost sharing policies, and to include in such policy directive measures to mitigate effects on grantees, particularly on minority-serving institutions.

OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL SCIENCE BOARD

The bill includes \$4,030,000 for the Office of the National Science Board.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

The bill provides \$12,000,000 for the Office of Inspector General Funds are available for one year.