

Statutory Mission

To promote the progress of science; to advance the national health, prosperity, and welfare; and to secure the national defense.

—From the National Science Foundation Act of 1950

Vision

Advancing discovery, innovation, and education beyond the frontiers of current knowledge, and empowering future generations in science and engineering.

—From Investing in America's Future: NSF FY 2006–2011 Strategic Plan

NSF BY THE NUMBERS	
\$5.65 billion	FY 2006 Budget (obligations)
4%	NSF's share of total annual federal spending for research and development
45%	NSF's share of federal funding for nonmedical basic research at academic institutions
42,000	Proposals evaluated in FY 2006 through a competitive merit review process
10,450	Competitive awards funded in FY 2006
42,000	Scientists and engineers who evaluate proposals for NSF in a given year
239,000	Proposal reviews done in FY 2006
42,000	Students supported by NSF Graduate Research Fellowships since 1952
170,000	People (researchers, postdoctoral fellows, trainees, teachers, and students) NSF supports directly

