



National Science Foundation
ARRA
Agency Report

Source: <http://www.nsf.gov/recovery/>

Overview of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act)

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act) was signed into law by President Obama on February 17th, 2009. It is an unprecedented effort to jumpstart our economy, create or save millions of jobs, and put a down payment on addressing long-neglected challenges so our country can thrive in the 21st century. The Act is an extraordinary response to a crisis unlike any since the Great Depression, and includes measures to modernize our nation's infrastructure, enhance energy independence, expand educational opportunities, preserve and improve affordable health care, provide tax relief, and protect those in greatest need.

National Science Foundation
ARRA Analysis

National Science Foundation		
Initiative Title	Grants	NonGrants \$
Education and Human Resources	\$100,000,000	
Major Research Equipment and Facilities Construction		\$400,000,000
Oversight and audit of programs, grants, and activities		\$2,000,000
Research and Related Activities (R&RA)		\$2,500,000,000
Grand Total	\$100,000,000	\$2,902,000,000

Top Initiatives by NonGrants \$

National Science Foundation	
Initiative Title	NonGrants \$
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Major Research Equipment and Facilities Construction	\$400,000,000
Oversight and audit of programs, grants, and activities	\$2,000,000
Grand Total	\$2,902,000,000

ARRA NSF Fact Sheet

March 26, 2009

http://www.nsf.gov/news/news_summ.jsp?cntn_id=114483&org=NSF&from=news

Dr. Arden L. Bement, Jr., Director of the National Science Foundation, delivered a speech recently to employees on how the agency intends to implement the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

In his remarks, Dr. Bement said that NSF's portion of the ARRA (\$3 billion) is "sorely needed to ensure that America remains a leader in science and engineering research and education. That investment of 3 billion dollars will have an immediate impact on investigators, post-docs, graduate and undergraduate students, and teachers throughout the nation. NSF funding now helps to support nearly 200,000 individuals every year."

In his remarks, Dr. Bement described the rapid timeline and extensive planning under way at NSF to implement the ARRA:

- NSF is working closely with OSTP, OMB and Congress on the spending plan for ARRA. The agency anticipates a quick turnaround and will begin issuing ARRA research awards as soon as the plan is approved.
- NSF will define its ARRA funding and accountability processes on NSF.gov and Recovery.gov, and will begin to implement tracking and monitoring procedures immediately.
- NSF already has many highly rated research proposals in hand to consider for funding with ARRA funds. Some research proposals have already been reviewed and others are in the review process. NSF is planning to use the majority of the \$2 billion available in Research and Related Activities for proposals that are already in house and will be reviewed and/or awarded prior to Sept. 30, 2009.
- Grants funded under ARRA will be awarded quickly in order to contribute to new job creation and reinvestment.
- All grants issued with Recovery Act funds will be standard grants with durations of up to 5 years. This approach will allow NSF to structure a sustainable portfolio.
- Funding of new Principal Investigators and high-risk, high-return research will be a top priority.
- NSF will use ARRA funds to increase the number of CAREER and IGERT awards. CAREER grants support the research and education activities of junior faculty and IGERT grants support interdisciplinary research and training of graduate students.
- In addition to R&RA grants, the ARRA also allocated funding for NSF's Major Research Instrumentation (MRI) program and an Academic Research Infrastructure (ARI) program. NSF plans to issue new solicitations for proposals for these programs soon.
- NSF also will consider proposals declined on or after October 1, 2008. Reversals of declined proposals will be based on both the high quality of the

initial reviews, and the lack of available funding at the time of the original decision. NSF program officers will contact institutions when a reversal is being considered by NS

- NSF is currently working on a solicitation for a Science Masters Program, a new activity created under ARRA.
- NSF will use ARRA funds for awards under the Robert Noyce Scholarship program and the Math and Science Partnership program following merit review of proposals already submitted to those programs.
- NSF does not intend to provide any supplements to existing grants under ARRA.

DRAFT

Implementing the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act)

Important Notice 131

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009

Posted on March 18, 2009

On February 17, 2009, President Obama signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act) into law. One of the principal purposes of the law is to “provide investments needed to increase economic efficiency by spurring technological advances in science and health”.¹ During the signing ceremony President Obama stated,

"Even beyond energy, from the National Institutes of Health to the National Science Foundation, this recovery act represents the biggest increase in basic research funding in the long history of America's noble endeavor to better understand our world. Just as President Kennedy sparked an explosion of innovation when he set America's sights on the moon, I hope this investment will ignite our imagination once more, spurring new discoveries and breakthroughs that will make our economy stronger, our nation more secure, and our planet safer for our children."

2 In response to this landmark legislation, NSF has developed policies, procedures, and Frequently Asked Questions for use by the awardee community. These documents provide up-to-date information regarding NSF's implementation of the Recovery Act, and are available at www.nsf.gov/recovery . The key elements of NSF's implementation of the Recovery Act are highlighted below.

NSF Programs Receiving Recovery Act Funding

The Recovery Act supplements NSF fiscal year 2009 funding by \$3.0 billion. NSF currently has many highly rated proposals that it has not been able to fund. For this reason, NSF is planning to use the majority of the \$2 billion available in Research and Related Activities for proposals that are already in house and will be reviewed and/or awarded prior to September 30, 2009.

The Foundation also expects to expeditiously award funds as specified in the Recovery Act for: the Math and Science Partnership program (funded at \$25 million); the Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program (funded at \$60 million); the Major Research Equipment and Facilities Construction Account (funded at \$400 million); the Academic Research Infrastructure (ARI) program (funded at \$200 million); and the Science Masters program, (funded at \$15 million). Solicitations for these latter two programs will be posted this spring.

NSF will post a solicitation this spring for the Major Research Instrumentation Program (MRI) in order to make a sufficient number of awards to utilize the \$300 million provided in the legislation. The Foundation currently anticipates that no other solicitations will be posted that are solely in response to the Recovery Act.

Funding Prioritization

NSF will ensure that Recovery Act funds are awarded in a timely manner while maintaining its commitment to its established merit review processes.

In keeping with this, NSF's overall framework for Recovery Act investments emphasizes the following:

- All grants issued with Recovery Act funds will be standard grants with durations of up to 5 years. This approach will allow NSF to structure a sustainable portfolio.
- Funding of new Principal Investigators and high-risk, high-return research will be top priorities.

With the exception of the MRI, ARI and Science Masters programs, the majority of proposals eligible for Recovery Act funding include those that are already in house and will be reviewed and/or awarded prior to September 30, 2009.

NSF also will consider proposals declined on or after October 1, 2008. The reversal of the decision to decline must be based on both the high quality of the reviews received on the initial submission and the lack of available funding at the time the original decision was made. The cognizant program officer will contact the institution when a reversal is being considered by NSF. Specific procedural information regarding this new process is available on the NSF Recovery website.

Special Award Conditions

The Recovery Act mandates a significant level of transparency and accountability. The law and implementing guidance identify specific award conditions for awards made with Recovery Act funding. Therefore, award notices will include special award conditions identifying the funding as coming from the Recovery Act, and indicate the specific awardee reporting responsibilities mandated by Section 1512 of the Recovery Act.

Given the goals of the Recovery Act, awardees will be informed that they are expected to expend funds in a timely manner on allowable award costs and that NSF will be monitoring awards for expenditures. If, after 12 months, no allowable expenditures have taken place, NSF may consider reducing or terminating the award and reallocating the funds.

Working in Partnership

NSF is honored by the recognition of the Foundation's role in stimulating the American economy with its inclusion in the Recovery Act. The law and implementing guidance issued by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) set clear expectations for accountability and transparency from both Federal agencies and from recipients of Recovery Act funding.

The high expectations embodied in the Recovery Act acknowledge the contributions that NSF and its partners in the research and education community have made to the economy and welfare of the nation over the past six decades. This partnership is one of the nation's greatest strengths, and we look forward to working with you as

we continue to pursue the promise of science and engineering and meet the goals of the Recovery Act for securing the nation's future.

Arden L. Bement, Jr.
Director

1 P.L. 111-5, Section 3 (a) (3). The full text of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 is available electronically at:

http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=111_cong_bills&docid=f:h1enr.pdf

2 The full text of President Obama's remarks at the signing ceremony is available at:

http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/Remarks-by-the-President-and-Vice-President-at-Signing-of-the-American-Recovery-and-Reinvestment-Act/

From: (IMPORTANT NOTICE TO PRESIDENTS OF UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES AND HEADS OF OTHER NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION AWARDEE ORGANIZATIONS, dated March 18, 2009)
<http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/issuances/in131.pdf>

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The high expectations embodied in the Recovery Act acknowledge the contributions that NSF and its partners in the research and education community have made to the economy and welfare of the nation over the past six decades. This partnership is one of the nation's greatest strengths, and we look forward to working with you as we continue to pursue the promise of science and engineering and meet the goals of the Recovery Act for securing the nation's future.

National Science Board to Discuss Spending and Oversight of NSF's \$3 Billion Stimulus to Invest in America's Scientific Enterprise

Statement by Arden L. Bement, Jr., Director, National Science Foundation, on the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act of 2009, from February 24, 2009

The National Science Foundation is humbled and honored by the recognition of the Foundation's role in stimulating the American economy with its inclusion in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The \$3 billion provided to NSF will go directly into the hands of the nation's best and brightest researchers at the forefront of promising discoveries, to deserving graduate students at the start of their careers, and to developing advanced scientific tools and infrastructure that will be broadly available to the research community. With both long-term and short-term investments in basic science, the United States is poised to continue its leadership in science-based innovation.

NSF's task is to keep science and engineering visionaries focused on the furthest frontier. Our aim is to recognize and nurture emerging fields, and to prepare the next generation of scientific and engineering talent and leaders. When you add world-class facilities to advance transformative research to this effort, you have the recipe for success that has been a hallmark of NSF and the scientific enterprise for nearly 60 years. America's prosperity, global competitiveness and the well being of our citizens depend, more than ever before, on the steady stream of new ideas and the highly skilled science, technology, engineering and mathematics talent that NSF supports.

During the ARRA signing ceremony, President Obama said that "this investment will ignite our imagination once more, spurring new discoveries and breakthroughs that will make our economy stronger, our nation more secure and our planet safer for our children." NSF will ensure that this eloquent statement translates into reality. It seemed especially appropriate that the Act was signed, and these remarks expressed, at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, a long-time recipient of NSF funding aimed at the very thing the President hoped for, namely, "to ignite our imagination once more" in science and innovation.

NSF Programs

Broadband Technologies Opportunities Program

CISE invites researchers and educators to learn more about the Broadband Technologies Opportunities Program (BTOP), jointly funded by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (at the Department of Commerce) and the Department of Agriculture as a result of appropriations in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

The purpose of BTOP is to accelerate broadband deployment in unserved and underserved areas and ensure that strategic institutions that might create jobs or provide public benefit have broadband connections. Public meetings are scheduled for March 16, 19, 23 and 24, 2009 at the Department of Commerce in Washington, DC. Field hearings will be held elsewhere on March 17 and 18, 2009. For more information about the BTOP program, please see http://www.ntia.doc.gov/frnotices/2009/FR_BTOP_RFI_090312.pdf Broadband Technologies Opportunities Program

National Science Foundation
Report Date: 2009-03-20

Financial Status:

- Total Obligations: \$0
- Total Disbursements: \$0

Major Actions Taken to Date:

- Feb. 13th: Dr. Cora B. Marrett has been designated as NSF's Senior Accountable Official for American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.
- Feb 20th: Unique Treasury appropriation fund symbols (TAFS) have been established to distinguish Recovery Act spending from other spending.
- Feb. 20th: NSF submitted apportionment requests totaling \$3 Billion to OMB on Friday
- Feb. 24th: NSF agrees that it will not be necessary to enter into interagency agreements in order to execute the terms of the Recovery Act.
- Feb. 25th: NSF's Recovery Act Home page has been created at <http://nsf.gov/recovery/>
- Mar. 16th: NSF received CFDA number for Recovery Act Funding
- March 18: NSF issued Important Notice 131 to presidents of universities and colleges and heads of other NSF awardee organizations to communicate key elements of NSF's implementation of the Recovery Act.
- March 18: Dr. Arden L. Bement and Dr. Cora B. Marrett issued a staff memorandum to communicate the key elements of NSF's implementation of the Recovery Act and to transmit NSF's policies and procedures document for implementing the Recovery Act.

Major Planned Actions:

- NSF is preparing a Current Plan to send to Congressional Appropriators as required by the Act.
- NSF is working to ensure all stimulus funds are separate from non-Recovery Act funds in financial, grant writing, contract writing, and reporting systems.
- NSF is identifying opportunities to streamline data collection and help alleviate the reporting burden on recipients of Recovery Act funds.

Report Date: 2009-03-27

Financial Status:

- Total Obligations:\$0
- Total Disbursements:\$0

Major Actions Taken to Date:

- All DHS funds are apportioned.
- TSA - Hiring plans are in place.
- USCG:
 - Completion of the Mobile Bridge Const project bid package
 - Planning documentation and outlay projections completed on 7 of 8 shore infrastructure projects
- Analysis, planning, and preliminary engineering design documentation completed on vessel projects.

Major Planned Actions:

- TSA - Negotiate with airports on OTAs after spend plan is approved.
- OIG - Will assess DHS components implementation/exp plans
- ICE - Anticipate award of contracts July/August 2009
- FEMA:
 - Will issue grant guidance June/July 2009
 - Receipt and review of grant applications July/August 2009
 - Grants will be awarded September/December 2009
 - Emergency Food & Shelter:
 - Complete Congressional notifications of award 3/31/09
 - Issue funding document to National Board 3/31/09
- USCG:
 - Bid solicitation advertisements for the Mobile Bridge and Elgin, Joliet, and Eastern Railway Co. Bridge project.
 - Continue planning documentation for final shore infrastructure project.
 - Continue engineering design documentation for vessel projects.
- CBP:
 - Ports of Entry - Plans to issue Request for Proposal (RFP) by 5/30/09 and award project by 8/17/09.
 - SBInet - Initiate procurement and deployment of near-term existing technology, June/July 2009.
 - Non-intrusive inspection systems - Estimated contract award 5/29/2009.
- USM:
 - Will transfer funds to GSA via reimbursable agreement in the third quarter 2009.

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act) Frequently Asked Questions

Date: 03/27/09

http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=nsf09038

1. What restrictions will be placed on awards made with Recovery Act funds? Will there be any special award terms and conditions or additional reporting requirements associated with acceptance of these funds?

The Recovery Act mandates a significant level of transparency and accountability and so, in accordance with that, there will be additional requirements placed on awards made with Recovery Act funds.

Each NSF award that includes funds provided by the Recovery Act will contain specific conditions identifying the funding as coming from the Recovery Act, and reference the specific awardee reporting responsibilities mandated by Section 1512c. of the Recovery Act. In addition, awardees will be required to separately account for Recovery funds as such funds cannot be commingled with non-Recovery Act funds

Given the goals of the Recovery Act, awardees will be informed that they are expected to expend funds in a timely manner on allowable award costs and that NSF will be monitoring awards for expenditures. If, after 12 months, no allowable expenditures have taken place, NSF may consider reducing or terminating the award and reallocating the funds.

2. Are there special priorities for awards that will be made via the Recovery Act?

Funding of new Principal Investigators (PIs) and high-risk, high-return research will be top priorities. In addition, the Foundation will be making awards for programs specified in the Recovery Act, such as Academic Research Infrastructure (ARI), Major Research Instrumentation (MRI) and the Science Masters program. The full listing of NSF programs receiving Recovery Act funding can be found in Important Notice 131 (<http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/issuances/in131.pdf>) .

3. Will there be any eligibility restrictions on who may be supported using Recovery Act funds?

The NSF Director has made a commitment to follow established Foundation policies and procedures for submission, merit review and award of proposals funded under the Recovery Act. Therefore, unless modified by a specific program solicitation, the eligibility policies contained in the NSF Grant Proposal Guide Chapter I.E. "Who May Submit Proposals" apply and the Foundation will continue to make funding decisions based on the intellectual merit and broader impacts of submitted proposals. Some exceptions to this general guidance are provided in the White House memo of 3/20/09 (posted on this site) which states that Recovery Act

funds may not be used for several entities. The entities most relevant to NSF appear to be aquariums and zoos.

4. Does NSF expect to fund any new programs in response to the Recovery Act?

With the exception of the new Academic Research Infrastructure and Science Masters programs identified in the legislation, the majority of proposals eligible for Recovery Act funding include those that are already in house and will be reviewed and/or awarded prior to September 30, 2009. The Foundation currently anticipates that no other solicitations will be posted that are solely in response to the Recovery Act.

5. Will awardees have to separately account for Recovery Act funds?

Each NSF award that includes funds provided by the Recovery Act will contain specific conditions identifying the funding as coming from the Recovery Act, and reference the specific awardee reporting responsibilities mandated by Section 1512 of the Recovery Act. In addition, awardees will be required to separately account for Recovery funds as such funds cannot be commingled with non-Recovery Act funds.

Given the goals of the Recovery Act, awardees will be informed that they are expected to expend funds in a timely manner on allowable award costs and that NSF will be monitoring awards for expenditures. If, after 12 months, no allowable expenditures have taken place, NSF may consider reducing or terminating the award and reallocating the funds.

6. Does NSF expect an increase in proposal submissions from the research and education community and in requests to the community to review proposals in response to the Recovery Act?

The Recovery Act supplements NSF fiscal year 2009 funding by \$3.0 billion. NSF currently has many highly rated proposals that it has not been able to fund. For this reason, NSF is planning to use the majority of the \$2 billion available in Research and Related Activities for proposals that are already in house and will be reviewed and/or awarded prior to September 30, 2009. In most cases, review arrangements (including establishment of panels, where appropriate) have already been made. Thus, the Foundation does not anticipate a substantial increase in proposal submissions or requests to review proposals beyond what has already been put in place for FY 2009. NSF does not expect to have any of this Recovery Act funding available in Research and Related Activities for expenditure on FY 2010 awards.

7. What method should awardees use to demonstrate that they have created or retained jobs as a result of Recovery Act funding received from NSF?

Awardees will be required to provide, on a quarterly basis, an estimate of the number of jobs created, and, the number of jobs retained, as a result of the support

of Recovery Act projects. At a minimum, this estimate shall include any new positions created and any existing filled positions that were retained to support or carry out Recovery Act projects or activities managed directly by the awardee, and if known, by sub-recipients. Further guidance for reporting this estimate of jobs created and retained will be provided to institutions.

8. What advice can NSF provide to proposers that did not submit earlier this fiscal year and who therefore do not have a proposal already in-house at NSF that may be considered for Recovery Act funding?

NSF is planning to use the majority of the \$2 billion in Research and Related Activities provided by the Recovery Act for proposals that are already in-house. There are upcoming deadlines, however, to which proposers can still submit for NSF FY 2009 funding.

In addition, NSF plans to post solicitations this spring for the Academic Research Infrastructure program (funded at \$200 million), the Science Masters program (funded at \$15 million) and the Major Research Instrumentation Program (funded at \$300 million). Proposers are invited to review the requirements in these solicitations when they are posted, and, if they meet the criteria, to apply to the program(s).

9. Will NSF approve requests to increase the budgets on proposals that are currently in-house or were declined and are now being considered for Recovery Act funding?

The NSF Director has made a commitment to follow established Foundation policies and procedures for submission, merit review and award of proposals funded under the Recovery Act. For proposals that have not yet been awarded or declined, the policies concerning revisions to proposals made during the review process found in Chapter III.D of the NSF Grant Proposal Guide should be followed. For proposals eligible for reversal of the decline decision, the procedures outlined in the NSF Policies and Procedures for Implementation of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 should be followed.

10. Are there any special considerations for proposals with an international component?

The NSF Director has made a commitment to follow established Foundation policies and procedures for submission, merit review and award of proposals funded under the Recovery Act. Therefore, the policies contained in the NSF Grant Proposal Guide apply.

11. Are there limits or guidelines on the timeframe for expending funds once an award is made?

Given the goals of the Recovery Act, awardees will be informed that they are expected to expend funds in a timely manner on allowable award costs and that NSF will be monitoring awards for expenditures. If, after 12 months, no allowable

expenditures have taken place, NSF may consider reducing or terminating the award and reallocating the funds.

12. Will there be any restrictions on no-cost extensions for awards made with Recovery Act funds?

The NSF Director has made a commitment to follow established Foundation policies and procedures for submission, merit review and award of proposals funded under the Recovery Act. As such, standard NSF policies and procedures will be utilized in the processing and approval of no-cost extensions.

13. Will any Recovery Act awards be made through use of continuing grants?

Recovery Act funding is a one-time occurrence and therefore all new grants awarded using Recovery Act funds will be made via use of standard grants.

14. How will awardees receive Recovery Act funds awarded to their organization?

Awardees will continue to draw down their funds on a pooling basis through the FastLane Cash Request application. Separate draw downs can be done by an organization for Recovery Act and non-Recovery Act funds if it assists the organization tracking the funds.

15. Will an organization have to establish a separate bank account for the Recovery Act funds?

No, because NSF disburses funds by organization and not on an individual award. Organizations should track the Recovery Act fund awards and expenditures separately on their books.

16. How will Recovery Act funding affect the quarterly Federal Financial Report (FFR) process?

The FFR process will remain the same. Awardees will continue to report their expenditures on a grant by grant basis on the FFR.

FedBizOpps.gov →

No Items Found

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