THE SCIENCE COALITION

The National Science Foundation:

70 Years of STEERING THE FUTURE of Fundamental Science

70th PLATINUM ANNIVERSARY

WHAT DOES NSF DO?

In 2020, the National Science Foundation (NSF) celebrates its 70th anniversary, also known as the "platinum anniversary." As platinum is a catalyst in chemical reactions, NSF is a catalyst for scientific innovation as it is the only federal agency to support fundamental research in all fields of science and engineering.

Since its founding in 1950, the independent federal agency has promoted the progress of science, advanced the country's prosperity, welfare, and health, and secured the nation. The agency's focus to **advance knowledge and unearth discoveries for the benefit of society** has charted the course of American innovation.

NSF invests in the studies that underpin our economy, including **"high-risk, high pay-off"** ideas, novel collaborations, and numerous projects that may seem like science fiction today, but will shape our future in meaningful ways.

WHY DOES NSF MATTER?

Since its inception, NSF has been a unique federal agency in the way it operates from the bottom up. Officials work closely with the research community to identify cutting-edge opportunities and monitor the areas of research most likely to result in progress.

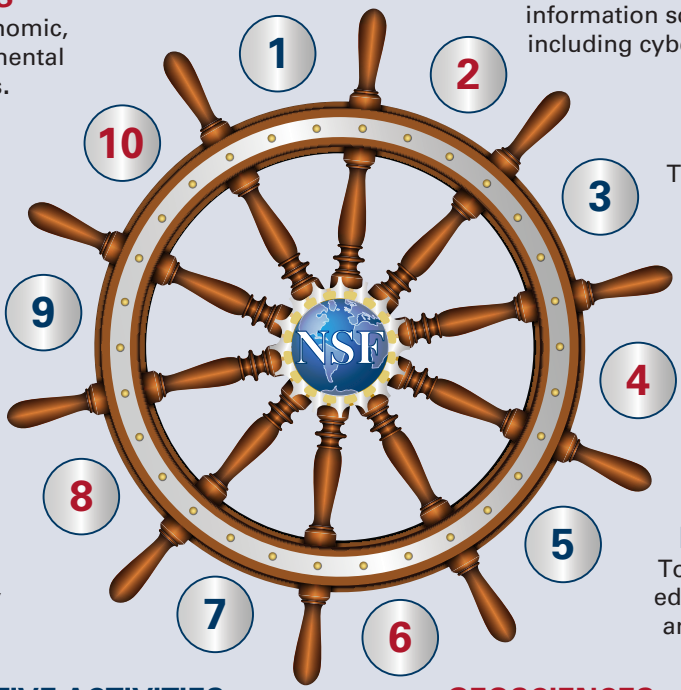
WHAT SCIENCE DOES NSF FUND?

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES
To enable discoveries for understanding life.

COMPUTER & INFORMATION SCIENCE & ENGINEERING
To investigate computer and information science and engineering, including cybersecurity and big data.

SOCIAL, BEHAVIORAL & ECONOMIC SCIENCES
To understand how social, economic, political, cultural, and environmental forces affect people's lives.

EDUCATION & HUMAN RESOURCES
To achieve excellence in U.S. science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education at all levels.



MATHEMATICAL & PHYSICAL SCIENCES
To harness the collective efforts of the math and physical sciences communities to address the most compelling scientific questions, educate the future workforce, and promote discoveries to meet the needs of the nation.

ENGINEERING
To enrich the understanding of natural systems, enhance electronics, and fortify the nation's infrastructure.

INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE & ENGINEERING
To promote innovation through access to international knowledge, infrastructure, and capabilities.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH & EDUCATION
To advance environmental research, education, and scientific assessment, and to determine the best means of implementing related activities.

INTEGRATIVE ACTIVITIES
To lead and coordinate strategic programs and opportunities across disciplinary boundaries.

GEOSCIENCES
To expand our knowledge about the processes that affect the global environment including the atmospheric, earth, ocean, and polar sciences.