



Fueling America's Workforce Pipeline

Basic scientific research at American colleges and universities not only drives our nation's technological innovation, economic growth, and global leadership, it also helps train and equip the next generation of scientists, engineers, and technologists who power our economy and make our nation the envy of the world.

Proposed federal funding cuts to university research could derail the nation's workforce pipeline and make it harder for employers to fill workforce gaps and attract top talent.



American Jobs and Innovation

Federal agencies like the National Science Foundation (NSF), the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Department of Defense, the Department of Agriculture, and the Department of Energy are the backbone of America's scientific enterprise. Government investments in basic research not only drive discovery but also train the next generations of American innovators, create good-paying jobs, and ensure the U.S. remains a global leader in science and technology.

The Power of Federal Investment

Federal funding for fundamental scientific research at colleges and universities gives budding researchers opportunities to gain hands-on experience with cutting-edge technologies and in tackling real-world challenges. Basic research endeavors on campus help build a robust and highly skilled workforce for the modern economy. Without sustained federal support, America risks falling behind its competitors and losing the talent that powers our future.

Filling Workforce Gaps

By 2030, the U.S. expects to have 1.4 million unfilled jobs in computer science, engineering, and other high-tech industries. Robust and sustained federal investments in basic scientific research at colleges and universities can help fill this gap and ensure that our nation maintains a strong and agile pipeline of workforce talent.

Federal funding cuts disrupt the career trajectories of researchers, scientists, and engineers across the country. The cuts to research can also spur many talented researchers across disciplines to seek opportunities abroad or leave the research field altogether, raising the risk of a "lost generation" of American innovators.

At the same time, other nations are actively investing in scientific talent and infrastructure, working to attract the top minds from around the world, including the United States. To remain competitive, America must strengthen its commitment to research and innovation by creating opportunities that empower the best and brightest to build their careers here and to secure the nation's long-term scientific and economic leadership.



Support for Federal Investment in Research*

Americans across the political spectrum want to maintain the federal government's robust investments in scientific research.



Over 8 in 10 American voters believe it's important for the U.S. to be the global leader in scientific research and technology.



Three-quarters of voters approve of the federal government using taxpayer funds to invest in scientific research, with strong bipartisan support.



A majority of voters across political parties say the federal government should invest more in scientific research.

Projected Implications at a Glance**

U.S. NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION (NSF)

NSF supports training programs that equip graduate students and early-career researchers with the skills needed for a range of STEM careers, ensuring a robust pipeline of talent for the U.S. workforce.

- **Proposed 55% budget decrease (FY26 PBR)**
- **> 1,500 grants canceled**
- **A 73% reduction in staff and fellowships**
- **Early estimates project a 78% reduction in early-career researchers**

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH (NIH)

NIH funding is critical for biomedical research and training, providing hands-on opportunities for students and supporting the infrastructure that leads to medical breakthroughs and improved public health.

- **Proposed 40% budget decrease (FY26 PBR)**
- **> 4,400 grants canceled**
- **An estimated 5,000 employees laid off**

*The national online survey was conducted among 1,538 registered voters from March 25-31, 2025.

**As of August 2025