National Science Foundation
FY14 Budget Summary

The Fiscal Year 2014 budget request for the National Science Foundation is $7.6 billion, an increase of $592.6 million, or 8.4 percent over the FY12 enacted amount of $7.03 billion. Given the uncertainty surrounding the final FY13 appropriation levels, the Administration decided to use FY12 enacted levels as a baseline for comparison with its FY14 presidential budget request (PBR) levels.

The FY14 budget includes the following breakdown in funding the NSF Directorates:

- **Research and Related Activities (R&RA)** would receive $6.2 billion. This is $523 million, or 9.2 percent, above the FY12 enacted level of $5.7 billion. The R&RA directorate includes a number of disciplines, including the funding for the social and behavioral sciences.
  
  Given recent congressional concerns about the funding for the Social, Behavioral, and Economics Directorate (SBE), it is important to note the FY14 request for SBE is $272 million, an increase of $18 million, or 7.1 percent, above the FY12 enacted level of $254 million.

- **Education and Human Resources (EHR)** would receive $880 million. This is $51 million, or 6.2 percent, above the FY12 enacted level of $830 million. The FY14 budget includes a government-wide reorganization of the nation’s science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education programs. *(As additional information is released about the reorganization, this and other AAU documents will be updated.)*

- **Major Research Equipment and Facilities Construction (MREFC)** would receive $210 million. This is $43 million, or 25.8 percent, above the FY12 enacted level of $198 million. The FY14 budget provides funding for the following projects: Advanced Laser Interferometer Gravitational-wave Observatory ($14.9 million); Advanced Technology Solar Telescope ($42 million); Large Synoptic Survey Telescope ($27.5 million); the National Ecological Observatory Network ($98 million); and the Ocean Observatories Initiative ($27.5 million). The budget also includes plans to begin construction on the Large Synoptic Survey Telescope (LSST).

The FY14 NSF budget continues to fund multi-agency and multidisciplinary initiatives, including:

• **The Integrated NSF Support Promoting Interdisciplinary Research and Education (INSPIRE)** – a program that supports interdisciplinary and transformative research across the Foundation. The FY14 budget includes $63 million for this program.

• **Science, Engineering, and Education for Sustainability (SEES)** – a program which supports sustainability projects. The FY14 budget proposes $222.7 million for the SEES program and recommends a strong focus on the following topics: water sustainability and climate; Cyber-SEES; Hazards; and Sustainable Chemistry, Engineering and Materials (SusChEM).

• **NSF Innovation Corp (I-Corps)** – This program was established several years ago and aims to build a national innovation ecosystem for NSF-funded researchers. The FY14 budget requests $24.8 million for the program. For FY14, NSF will continue to invest in the development of Innovation Teams and will expand support for I-Corp Nodes and I-Corp Sites.

The FY14 budget also requests funding for investments in clean energy research ($372 million), Research at the Interface of Biological, Mathematical, and Physical Sciences ($50.6 million), research in Cognitive Science and Neuroscience ($13.8 million), and Faculty Early Career Development ($223.7 million). The budget also includes $2.5 million to support NSF’s activities to improve public access to NSF-funded research.

**Government-wide changes to STEM Education**

As part of the ongoing effort to build on the five-year strategic plan of the National Science and Technology Council’s Committee on STEM Education (CoSTEM), the NSF FY14 budget outlines several important changes to its STEM education portfolio, particularly at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

• **Division of Graduate Education (DGE)** – The FY14 budget includes a reorganization of NSF’s graduate fellowship and traineeship priorities. The NSF Graduate Research Fellowship (GRF) will be expanded into a National Graduate Research Fellowship program (NGRF). According to the NSF budget justification, “this new program will operate under the same general framework and principles currently used in GRF, and will include consultation with other agencies to ensure the most effective practices are used and suitable targeted opportunities are provided. A $52.9 million increase is requested in FY14 for a total investment of $162.5 million within EHR. An equivalent investment ($162.5 million) is provided through International and Integrative Activities (IIA) for a total NGRF investment of $325 million.” (Note: IIA is a directorate within R&RA).

• **Division of Graduate Education** – The FY14 budget proposes a new program called the NSF Research Traineeships Program (NRT). The Integrative Graduate Education Traineeships (IGERT) will evolve into this new NRT program. The FY14 budget request for NRT is $55 million ($28.7 million from R&RA and $26 million from EHR).
• **Division of Undergraduate Education (DUE)** -- The FY14 NSF budget places special emphasis on supporting and generating 100,000 “effective” STEM education teachers and one million STEM graduates. To achieve this goal, the Administration proposes an NSF-wide program called, Catalyzing Advances in Undergraduate STEM Education (CAUSE).

In alignment with the Administration’s broader plan for consolidating STEM education programs across the government, CAUSE seeks to consolidate undergraduate STEM education programs across the Foundation. The FY14 budget request for CAUSE is $123 million ($26 million from R&RA and $97 million from EHR).

• **Division of Human Resources Development (HRD)** – In FY14, the Advance Program (aimed at the advancement of women in academic science) will help support NSF’s Career Life Balance activity ($250,000). The FY14 budget also includes funding for the Alliance for Graduate Education and the Professoriate (AGEP) at $7.8 million.

**Terminated Programs:**

The FY14 budget would terminate six programs, reduce funding for two programs, and consolidate one program into a broader one. Those of particular interest to research universities are the following:

- The Geoscience Teacher Training (GEO-Teach) program will operate under the consolidated NSF STEM education plan.

- The Centers for Ocean Science Education Excellence (COSEE) has been terminated because the program has fulfilled its goals.

- The University Radio Observatories (URO) is being superseded scientifically by the Atacama Large Millimeter Array, so it has been terminated. According to the budget justification, UROs will be eligible to compete for broader midscale activities.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION** about the NSF FY14 budget request is available here:

Useful documents include:

- NSF FY14 Summary Table
- Major Investments in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Graduate Education
- Catalyzing Advances in Undergraduate STEM Education (CAUSE)