



FASEB

Federation of American Societies
for Experimental Biology

Representing Over 130,000 Researchers

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Testimony of the
Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology
Prepared for the
House Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
Representative José Serrano, Chair
Representative Robert Aderholt, Ranking Member

On
FY 2021 Appropriations for the National Science Foundation

The Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) respectfully requests a minimum of \$9.4 billion in fiscal year (FY) 2021 for the National Science Foundation (NSF).

With a mandate to support fundamental research across all fields of science, engineering, and mathematics, the NSF is the cornerstone of our nation's scientific enterprise. Through its gold standard merit review process, NSF distributes funding that enables critical scientific breakthroughs, generating new knowledge and technologies that benefit society and our planet.

Among federal science agencies, NSF has the unique capacity to:

Support interdisciplinary research: By leveraging its research portfolio across the sciences, NSF funds cutting-edge research at the interface of the physical, biological, and social sciences to tackle profound challenges, including climate change.¹

Organize and lead research partnerships: The NSF coordinates and leads interagency research endeavors, including partnerships with NIH and the DOE Office of Science. These collaborations advance public health and clean energy, the development of artificial intelligence, and other national priorities.²

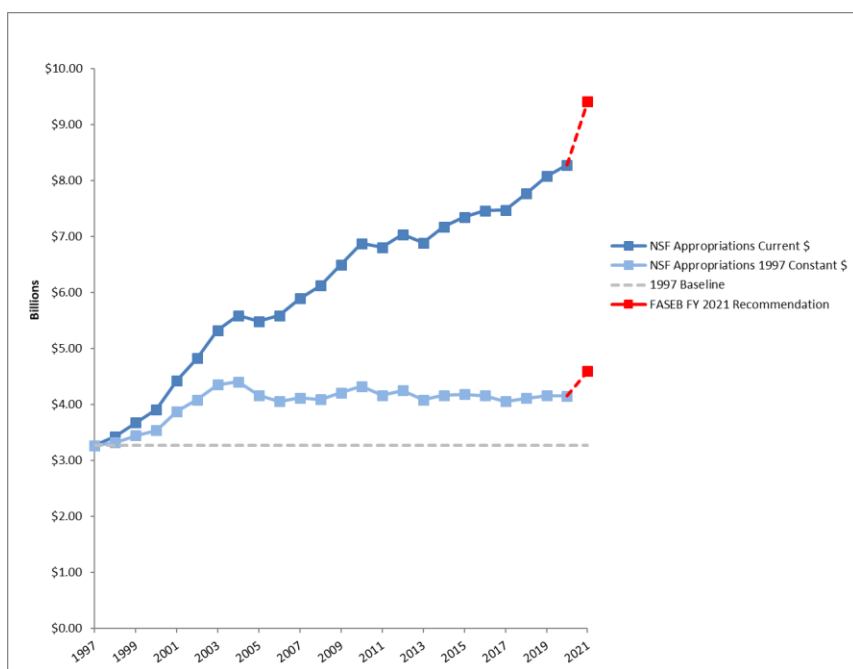
Train the next generation of scientists: NSF plays a key role in supporting scientific education, training young scientists who will work across different disciplines, and broadening participation in science and engineering among underrepresented groups.³

Despite its critical role in advancing science and innovation, NSF’s budget has not grown in real dollars in nearly 20 years (Figure 1). As a result, in 2017, because of a shortfall of \$3.8 billion in requested funding, NSF was unable to support a multitude of highly worthy proposals.⁴

NSF’s budget must be commensurate with both current and emerging scientific challenges and opportunities. Providing NSF with a \$9.4 billion budget (\$1.1 billion above FY 2020) would support a 3 percent budget increase across the agency’s core research and education programs. The agency could move ahead with plans to support key NSF-wide priorities, including 10 Big Ideas, Convergence Accelerators, and Mid-Scale Research Infrastructure.⁵

FASEB FY 2021 Recommendation: at least \$9.4 billion for NSF

Figure 1: NSF Appropriations, FY 1997-2021



¹ [NSF’s 10 Big Ideas, National Science Foundation, Alexandria, VA](#)

² [NSF Collaborations With Federal Agencies and Others, National Science Foundation, Alexandria, VA](#)

³ [Education and Human Resources Directorate, National Science Foundation, Alexandria, VA](#)

⁴ [Report on the National Science Foundation’s Merit Review Process, Fiscal Year 2017, National Science Foundation, Alexandria, VA](#)

⁵ [National Science Foundation Convergence Accelerators and NSF 10 Big Ideas Funding, FY 2020 Budget Request to Congress, National Science Foundation, Alexandria, VA](#)