

**Testimony of Research!America to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
FY27 Funding for the National Science Foundation (NSF)**

Contact: [Eleanor \(Ellie\) Dehoney](#), Senior Vice President of Policy and Advocacy,
Research!America

Submitted for the Record: March 26, 2026

On behalf of Research!America, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies appropriations for Fiscal Year 2027. With more than 300 organizational members, the nonprofit, nonpartisan [Research!America](#) alliance advocates for science, discovery, and innovation to achieve better health for all. We appreciate the Subcommittee's continued support for the National Science Foundation, a cornerstone of the nation's research, security, and economic enterprise.

Public opinion data indicates that Americans strongly value our nation's leadership in science and innovation. A national public opinion survey commissioned by Research!America in January 2026 found that:

- [89.1% of Americans](#) said it is important for the U.S. to be a global leader in science and technology
- [71.5% of Americans](#) said that they were concerned about the possibility of China surpassing the U.S. as the world's leading science and technology power
- [67.5% of Americans](#) believe Congress should invest more taxpayer dollars to advance science and technology in the U.S.

The National Science Foundation (NSF) supports research across a wide range of scientific and engineering fields that fuel discovery and technological progress in every region of the country. NSF supported research has helped lay the scientific groundwork for advances in areas such as artificial intelligence, semiconductor technologies, advanced manufacturing, quantum science, and next generation communications. These advances contribute to industries that strengthen the nation's economic competitiveness and national security. Discoveries supported by NSF have contributed to technologies such as magnetic resonance imaging used in modern medicine, advanced materials used in aerospace and energy systems, and computing approaches that power today's data driven economy.

More than [90 percent](#) of NSF funding is allocated based on a competitive grant review process. This funding flows to universities, research institutions, and businesses in communities across the United States, strengthening local and regional economies across the country while generating discoveries that contribute to new companies, new industries, and high skilled jobs. NSF programs also help translate research discoveries into commercial products and new enterprises, supporting startups and small businesses that drive regional economic growth and help establish new industries in the United States. NSF supported researchers have gone on to

receive [274 Nobel Prizes](#), reflecting the agency's long record of advancing transformative scientific progress.

NSF also plays an essential role in preparing the workforce that drives American innovation and economic strength. Through programs that reach students and researchers from early education through graduate training, NSF helps ensure that the United States maintains a highly skilled workforce capable of advancing critical technologies, strengthening domestic supply chains, and supporting modern manufacturing. In Fiscal Year 2024, more than [300,000](#) researchers, students, and teachers participated directly in NSF supported programs, helping prepare the scientists, engineers, and entrepreneurs who contribute to industries ranging from biotechnology and advanced manufacturing to cybersecurity and energy systems.

Strong support for NSF is particularly important as global competitors intensify their focus on science and technology leadership. Nations such as China are expanding their efforts with the explicit goal of leading in strategic industries that will shape economic and geopolitical influence in the decades ahead. Continued U.S. leadership in foundational research helps ensure that breakthroughs in areas such as artificial intelligence, advanced materials, and semiconductor technologies occur in the United States and strengthen American economic and national security interests.

Research!America respectfully requests **\$9.9 billion for the National Science Foundation** in Fiscal Year 2027. Strong support for NSF will strengthen the nation's scientific capacity, reinforce economic competitiveness, support American industry and workers, and help ensure that the discoveries shaping the future emerge from research conducted in the United States. We thank the House Appropriations Committee and your respective staff members for your continued dedication to serving the nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eleanor Dehoney". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Eleanor (Ellie) Dehoney
Senior Vice President of Policy and Advocacy
Research!America