

FY 2006 Appropriations for the National Science Foundation (NSF)

(numbers are in millions)

(the FY06 conf. numbers reflect the 1.0% across-the-board cut to all discretionary programs)

NSF Conference Language

NSF	FY05 Omnibus	President's FY 2006 Request	% change FY05 vs. FY06 Req.	House Mark	Senate Mark	FY06 Conf.	% change FY05 vs FY06
Research & Related Activities:							
Biological Sciences	576.6	581.8	0.9%				
Computer & Information Science & Engineering (CISE)	613.7	620.6	1.1%				
Engineering	458.5	475.3	3.7%				
Geosciences (GEO)	694.2	709.0	2.2%				
Earth Sciences	148.9	154.1	3.4%				
Ocean Sciences	311.8	315.2	1.1%				
Atmospheric Sciences	233.4	239.8	2.7%				
NCAR	80.05	81.1	1.3%				
Mathematical & Physical Sciences (MPS)	1,069.8	1,086.2	1.5%				
Astronomical Sciences	195.1	198.6	1.8%				
NCAR	1.17	1.17	no change				
Social, Behavioral & Economic Sciences	196.9	198.8	1.0%				
U.S Polar Programs	276.8	319.4	15.4%	425.0*			
Integrative Activities	129.9	134.9	3.8%				
Major Research Instrumentation	89.3	89.5	0.3%				
Total, R&RA	4,220.5	4,333.5	2.7%	4,377.5	4,345.2	4,343.2**	2.9%

NSF	FY05 Omnibus	President's FY 2006 Request	% change FY05 vs. FY06 Req.	House Mark	Senate Mark	FY06 Conf.	% change FY05 vs FY06
Education & Human Resources	841.4	737.0	-12.4%	807.0	747.0	798.9	-5.0%
National STEM Educ. Digital Library (NSDL)	18.3	15.0	-18.0%				
Major Research Equipment & Facilities Construction	173.6	250.0	44.0%	208.2**	193.4	191.5	10.3%
TOTAL, NSF	5,472.8	5,605.0	2.4%	5,643.3	5,531.0	5,596.5*	2.26%

Major Research Equipment and Facilities Construction (MREFC) Account:

Project	FY 2005 Omnibus	FY 2006 Request	% change FY05 vs. FY06 Req.	House	Senate	FY06 Conf.	% change FY05 vs FY06
Ongoing Projects							
Atacama Large Millimeter Array (ALMA) Construction	49.30	49.24	-0.1%	49.24	49.24	49.24	-0.1%
EarthScope	46.97	50.62	7.8%	50.62	50.62	50.62	7.8%
IceCube Neutrino Detector	47.62	50.45	5.9%	50.45	33.4	50.45	5.9%
Scientific Ocean Drilling Vessel	14.88	57.92	289%	57.92	57.92	57.92	289%
Rare Symmetry Violating Processes	14.88	41.78	180.8%	Not funded	Not funded	Not funded	n/a

Education and Human Resources:

Program	FY 2005 Omnibus	FY 2006 Req.	% change FY05 vs. FY06 Req.	FY06 Conf.	% change FY05 vs. FY06
Math & Science Partnerships	79.4	60.0	-24.4%	64.0	-19.4%
EPSCoR	93.7	94.0	0.3%	100.0	6.7%

Program	FY 2005 Omnibus	FY 2006 Req.	% change FY05 vs. FY06 Req.	FY06 Conf.	% change FY05 vs. FY06
Elementary, Secondary & Informal Education	181.9	140.8	-22.6%	172.6	-5.1%
Informal Science Education	63.1	63.0	-0.1%		
Undergraduate Education	153.7	135.0	-12.1%	146.0	-5.0%
Graduate Education	154.7	155.0	0.2%	155.0	flat
Historically Black Colleges and Universities Undergraduates Program	25.2	25.0	-0.8%	35.8	42.1%
Research, Evaluation and Communication	59.5	33.8	-43.2%	49.5	-16.8%

Detail on Conference (11/9/05):

Late last week conferees from the Senate's Commerce-Justice-Science (CJS) and the House's Science-State-Justice-Commerce (SSJC) Appropriations Subcommittees came to an agreement for the FY 2006 appropriations for the National Science Foundation (NSF).

♣ This reflects the 1.0% across-the-board cut that was directed in the Defense spending bill to all discretionary programs (excluding Veterans Affairs).

♣♣ For Research and Related Activities, \$4.387 billion (after the 1.0% cut: \$4.343 billion) is provided which is \$167 million or 3.9% more than last year and \$54 million more than the President's request. This is \$10 million more than the House and \$42 million more than proposed by the Senate. The conference agreement includes language-allowing funds within this account for NSF to reimburse the Coast Guard for polar icebreaking services. The precise amount of funding the NSF will have to provide the USCG is still to be determined (~ \$45 million). The conference report does, however, call for a study on alternatives for long-term icebreaking needs and future options.

Detail on Senate Markup (6/22/05):

The Senate Appropriations Committee approved its FY06 bill funding NSF, and it fell short of the President's request for NSF by about \$75 million – with reductions taken in the Senate bill largely confined to one project in the major research equipment and facilities construction account and NSF's salaries and expenses account.

For NSF as a whole, the Senate Subcommittee – chaired by Senator Richard Shelby (R-AL) – is recommending \$5.5 billion. This is \$58 million over last year's level but about \$75 million below the request. The Senate mark is about \$110 million below the House mark.

For NSF's research and related activities, the Senate Subcommittee is recommending \$4.3 billion – which is an increase of about 3 percent over last year and \$11 million more than the request. The additional funds are apparently for research related to the plant genome and radio astronomy programs.

For the Major Research Equipment and Facilities Construction account, the Senate is recommending \$193.35 million. This is the same level as the House and about \$42 million below the President's request. The reduction comes entirely from the proposed RSVP project. All other MREFC projects are funded at their requested levels.

For NSF's Education and Human Resources account, the Senate Subcommittee is recommending \$747 million, \$10 million more than the request with the additional funds being targeted at the Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research and the K-12 Math and Science Partnership program. The \$747 million recommendation, while more than the request still represents a reduction of over \$94 million from last year's level for education and human resources.

More Detail on House Markup (6/7/05):

* The Committee report includes language allowing the NSF Director to use these funds to reimburse of Coast Guard Services.

** The Committee provided the MREFC account \$193.3 million, and another \$14.88 from prior year appropriations. The latter amount will be added back to EHR's Division of Undergraduate Education.

The Committee recommends \$5.6 billion for NSF, \$171 million above FY05 and \$38 million above the President's request. The report recognizes NSF's new responsibility for polar icebreaking services, estimated to run between \$50 million and \$75 million in FY06, and advises NSF to "immediately begin a concurrent pursuit of alternative, more economical, icebreaking solutions for 2006 and beyond," as the cost of maintaining and modernizing the existing fleet is expected to grow dramatically in the future.

The report also makes funds available for "innovation inducement prizes," cash awards intended to invigorate high risk/high payoff research projects. The Committee asks NSF to work with the National Academies to devise prize categories and to write rules and conditions for awarding prizes.

In the Education and Human Resources account, the Committee provides \$70 million more than the President's request but \$34 million less than the current year's funding. The Math and Science Partnerships program is funded at \$60 million, as in the President's request, a 24.4% cut from its FY05 funding level. However, the significant cuts to Elementary, Secondary and Information Education and Undergraduate Education proposed in the President's budget request are largely restored.

Notes on House Markup (5/24/05):

The House Appropriations Science, State, Justice and Commerce Subcommittee marked up its bill funding NSF, NASA, and NOAA this morning. More detail will be posted when the Committee report is released. NSF is increased \$171 million over last year and \$38 million above the President's request. The President's budget sought to cut NSF education by over \$100 million – the Subcommittee's decision to add back \$70 million limits the reduction to just over \$30 million. To have provided these adjustments to the research account and the education account and still stay within the bottom line they

established for NSF, reductions must have been taken from other NSF accounts which may include the Major Research Equipment and Facilities Construction account and/or the Salaries and Expenses account. Increases of \$76.4 million and \$45.8 million respectively were included in the agency's budget request for these two accounts.

Notes on the President's FY 2006 Budget Request for NSF:

Facing a \$427 billion federal deficit, a pledge to cut that deficit in half by 2009, and a promise to continue the tax cutting policies enacted in his first term, the President today released an FY 2006 budget request that would provide less-than-inflationary growth for discretionary programs. For programs not related to defense or homeland security, the budget shows an actual decrease of nearly 1 percent.

The budget request for **Research and Related Activities** would receive \$4.3 billion, an apparent increase of nearly \$113 million, or 2.7 percent, for science and engineering research activities. Upon closer examination, however, \$43 million of the \$113 million increase would be used to reimburse the U.S. Coast Guard for icebreaking activities in support of the NSF's management of the U.S. Antarctic Program. The "real" increase for research activities in the NSF budget would be closer to \$70 million or 1.7 percent.

In the area of **Education and Human Resources**, the President's FY 2006 budget proposes to reduce NSF support for math and science education at the K-12 level and the undergraduate level by a total of \$104 million or 12.4 percent. This comes on the heels of a similar sized reduction taken in the FY 2005 budget. Looking at NSF funding for education and human resources over the FY 2005 and FY 2006 timeframe, over \$200 million – or 22 percent -- has been or is proposed to be eliminated from the NSF budget for the support of K-12 and undergraduate science education programs.