

Management Challenges for the U.S. National Science Foundation in Fiscal Year 2026






U.S. NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
Office of Inspector General

MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 5, 2025

TO: Dr. Victor McCrary
Chair
National Science Board

Mr. Brian Stone
NSF Chief of Staff, Performing the duties of the NSF Director
U.S. National Science Foundation

FROM: Megan E. Wallace
Acting Inspector General 

SUBJECT: Management Challenges for the U.S. National Science Foundation
in Fiscal Year 2026

Attached for your information is our report, *Management Challenges for the U.S. National Science Foundation in Fiscal Year 2026*. The *Reports Consolidation Act of 2000* (Pub. L. No. 106-531) requires us annually to update our assessment of the "most serious management and performance challenges facing the agency ... and the agency's progress in addressing those challenges." A summary of the report will be included in the U.S. National Science Foundation Agency Financial Report.

We appreciate the courtesies and assistance NSF staff provided during the completion of this report.

If you have questions, please contact me at 703-292-7100.

Attachment

Introduction

The U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF) is an independent federal agency that supports science and engineering in all 50 states and U.S. territories. Congress established NSF in 1950 to promote the progress of science; advance the national health, prosperity, and welfare; and secure the national defense. NSF fulfills its mission primarily by making grants. Its investments account for about 25 percent of federal support to America's colleges and universities for basic research. NSF also supports solutions-oriented research with the potential to produce advancements for the American people.

The *Reports Consolidation Act of 2000* (Pub. L. No. 106-531) requires us annually to update our assessment of NSF's "most serious management and performance challenges ... and the agency's progress in addressing those challenges." Each year, we identify these challenges based on our audit, inspection, and investigative work; knowledge of the NSF's operations; independent sources such as U.S. Government Accountability Office reports and NSF's advisory committees; and discussions with NSF senior staff and contractors. We identify management challenges as those that meet at least one of the following criteria:

- The issue involves an operation that is critical to an NSF core mission.
- The issue presents a risk of fraud, waste, or abuse to NSF or other government assets.
- The issue involves strategic alliances with other agencies, the U.S. Office of Management and Budget, the administration, Congress, or the public.
- The issue is related to key initiatives of the president.

It is important to note that identifying an issue as a "management challenge" does not necessarily mean NSF is having difficulty addressing it; instead, it means we identify the issue as one of the top challenges facing NSF and report on NSF's progress in addressing it, as required by the Act.

We identified three areas representing the most serious management and performance challenges facing NSF in FY 2026:

- Adapting to Changes in NSF's Grant-making Environment;
- Overseeing the United States Antarctic Program (USAP); and
- Mitigating Threats to Research Security.

We introduced a new challenge, "Adapting to Changes in NSF's Grant-making Environment," to reflect the many changes NSF has been experiencing over the past year. This challenge incorporates two challenge areas from last year: "Overseeing NSF's Funding Portfolio" and "Managing Human Capital." We also combined the prior-year challenge, "Overseeing and Managing Risks of Sexual Assault/Harassment in Antarctica," with "Overseeing the United States Antarctic Program (USAP)."

Finally, we removed two prior-year challenges, "Growing Participation and Capacity in STEM Education and Workforce" and "Addressing Sexual Harassment in the Scientific Enterprise." Nevertheless, addressing harassment in the scientific enterprise remains an issue that needs to be

addressed. As described in our February 2025 report, [Review of NSF Award Recipient Compliance with NSF's Harassment Terms and Conditions](#), we evaluated whether 100 recipient organizations were complying with NSF's harassment terms and conditions. We found that these recipients generally had policies and procedures to prohibit harassment. However, the majority had not implemented policies and procedures—or updated their existing policies and procedures—to specifically incorporate NSF's harassment terms and conditions. As a result, recipient policies were often insufficient to ensure compliance with NSF's harassment terms and conditions and were not consistent with NSF's terms, conditions, and other guidance. We made four recommendations to help ensure NSF-funded research and learning environments are free from all forms of harassment. We will continue to monitor NSF's progress in this area.

Following the issuance of this report, NSF will include its Management Challenges Progress Report and its response to *Management Challenges for the National Science Foundation in Fiscal Year 2025* in its Agency Financial Report.



The National Radio Astronomy Observatory's Very Large Array telescope in New Mexico
Credit: NRAO/AUI and photographer Kelly Gatlin; digital composite, Patricia Smiley



Challenge 1: Adapting to Changes in NSF's Grant-Making Environment

Making grants to support promising scientific research is a key element of NSF's mission. NSF's grant-making environment has undergone significant changes in 2025, as well as in the past several years. NSF faces a substantial loss of institutional knowledge due to workforce reductions in 2025, including the departure of its director and other senior leaders.

NSF's Technology, Innovation and Partnerships (TIP) directorate was formally established by the *CHIPS and Science Act of 2022*. The Act created several new requirements for NSF and provided NSF with the authority to use new types of award instruments. Although the Act authorized NSF's budget to more than double by FY 2027, to nearly \$19 billion, actual appropriations have fallen short. NSF was funded at \$9.06 billion in FYs 2024 and 2025, and NSF's FY 2026 budget request was \$3.9 billion.

NSF continues to adapt to changes in its grant-making environment. For example, the TIP directorate has continued to make significant progress in implementing its flagship initiative, the NSF [Regional Innovation Engines](#) (NSF Engines). This initiative aims to invest in multiple regions across the U.S., spurring research-driven economic growth in parts of the nation that have not fully participated in the technology boom of the past few decades. In January 2024, NSF announced the first nine NSF Engines, awarding coalitions spanning industry, higher education, nonprofit, tribal nations, and state and local governments. Each team received an initial \$15 million over the first 2 years, with the potential to receive up to \$160 million each over a decade. Sixty percent of the [inaugural NSF Engines awardees](#) included partners who were new to NSF funding and may have less experience managing federal funds than more traditional NSF awardees.

The U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) also updated the "Uniform Guidance" (Title 2 of the Code of Federal Regulations)—which comprises administrative requirements, cost principles, and audit requirements for federal awards—effective for all federal awards issued on or after October 1, 2024. NSF issued an update to its Award Terms and Conditions to implement the updated Uniform Guidance, which required the more than 2,000 institutions that receive NSF funding to amend their award management environments to comply with the updated federal and NSF guidelines. OMB is expected to propose additional revisions to the Uniform Guidance in 2026. NSF is also implementing further changes to its grant management policies and processes to comply with the Executive Order on [Improving Oversight of Federal Grantmaking](#), issued on August 7, 2025.

KEY FACTS

- This challenge involves an operation that is critical to an NSF core mission. It is also related to key initiatives of the president.
- The TIP Directorate has made extensive progress in implementing new programs.
- NSF is taking steps to manage its funding portfolio risks.
- NSF expects a workforce reduction of 25 percent between FY 2024 and FY 2026.
- NSF has made significant progress toward optimizing its workforce, but it faces a substantial loss of institutional knowledge due to workforce reductions.

NSF has strengthened its controls and implemented risk mitigation techniques; however, new award instruments, programs, and regulations present inherent challenges in ensuring the proper stewardship and accountability of award funds.

Workforce Reductions and Restructuring

Workforce reductions also create challenges for grant oversight and management. In its FY 2026 Budget Request to Congress, NSF proposed a 25 percent reduction in staffing, from 1,735 employees in FY 2024 to 1,297 in FY 2026. Since January 2025, the size of NSF's workforce has been reduced through multiple iterations of deferred resignation programs coupled with voluntary early retirement offers. Although NSF has made significant progress toward optimizing its workforce, it faces a substantial loss of institutional knowledge. Additionally, NSF has been without a director since April 2025, and a successor has not been nominated as of the date of this report.

NSF is optimizing its workforce by making organizational changes and restructuring its directorates to align with the administration's research and development priorities.¹ NSF's new structure will retain the existing directorates but replace divisions with sections that focus on five priority areas: artificial intelligence, quantum information science, biotechnology, nuclear energy, and translational science.

In October 2025, NSF established new supervisory scientific positions and reassigned federal employees who had been supervised by non-federal employees, referred to as rotators, to federal supervisors.² This action resolved the recommendations from our August 2025 report, [Review of NSF's Use of Non-Federal Employees in Supervisory Positions](#).³ At the time of our review, NSF permitted rotators to perform supervisory functions prohibited by the U.S. Office of Personnel Management's guidance, such as conducting an employee's annual performance rating, engaging in performance-based or adverse action procedures, and rewarding employees. Our office is also conducting an evaluation of NSF's processes for separating employees and expects to publish the results in 2026.

NSF continues to express its commitment to its mission and establish priorities within the policy context set by Congress and the administration. NSF will need to continue implementing change management and remain agile to address the uncertainties and risks it faces.

NSF's Key Completed Actions

- Implemented multiple new policies for grants management at the award recipient level.
- Posted information on its website about recent executive orders affecting NSF and the research community.
- Replaced divisions with smaller, more agile sections.

¹ [M-25-34 | NSTM-2 "Fiscal Year \(FY\) 2027 Administration Research and Development Budget Priorities and Cross-Cutting Actions"](#)

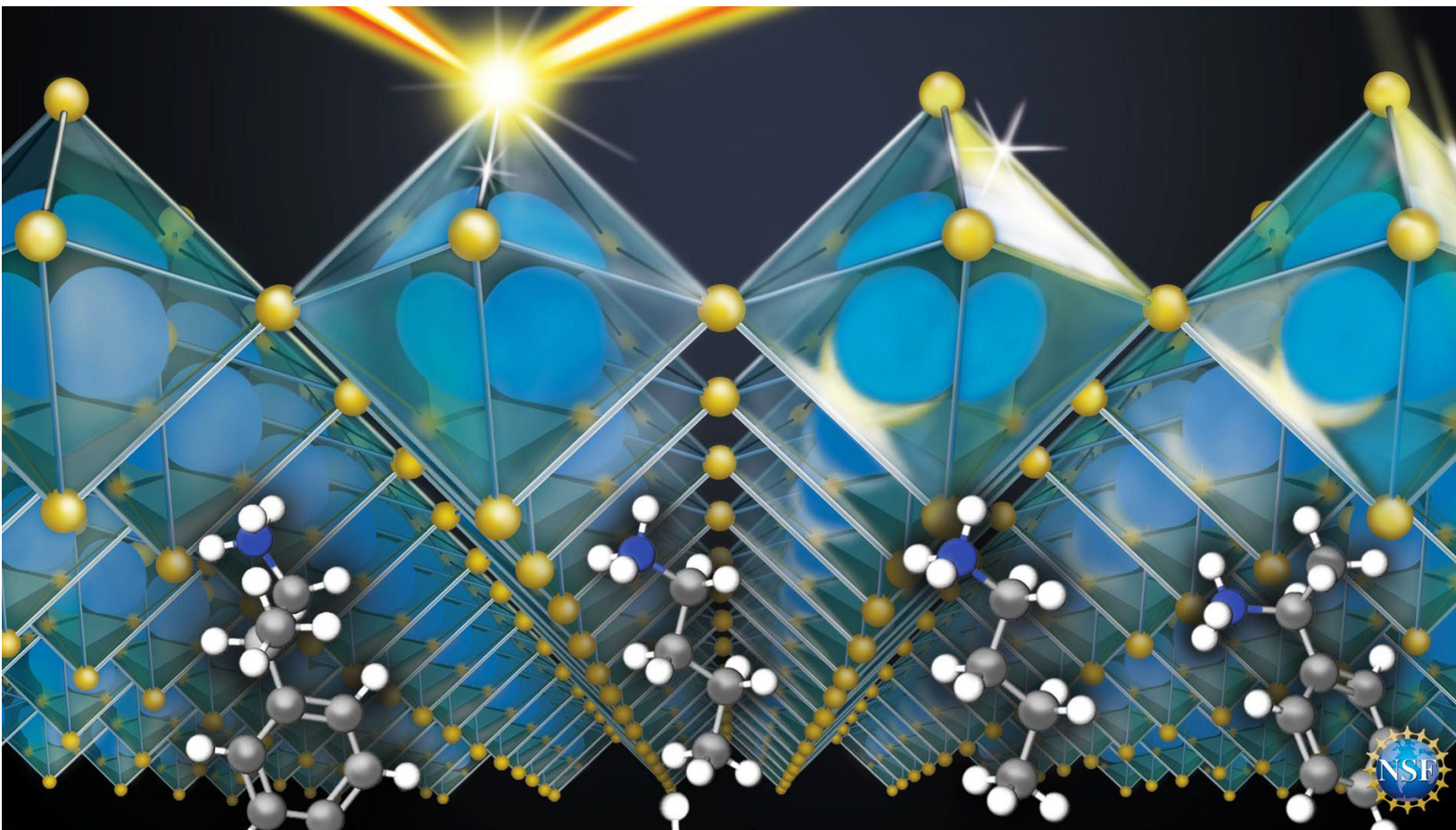
² As part of its human capital strategy, NSF employs temporary, non-federal staff through the Intergovernmental Personnel Act and the Visiting Scientist, Engineer, and Educator program. These individuals—referred to as IPAs or rotators—bring fresh perspectives from all fields of science and engineering to support NSF's mission.

³ OIG Report Number 25-09-005

- Established new supervisory scientific positions and reassigned federal employees who were supervised by rotators to federal supervisors.
- Published an Employee Separation Checklist and Guide to help with the offboarding of departing employees.

NSF's Key Planned and Ongoing Actions

- Conduct NSF Engines oversight and evaluate the results.
- Continue to execute its Gold Standard Science Implementation Plan as required by Executive Order 14303.



Researchers, working with a subset of 2D hybrid organic-inorganic perovskites—thin films consisting of alternating organic and inorganic layers in a highly ordered crystalline structure, as shown here—engineered materials that are both stiff and capable of insulating against heat. This extremely unusual combination of properties holds promise for a range of applications. *Credit: Jun Liu, North Carolina State University*



Challenge 2: Overseeing the United States Antarctic Program (USAP)

NSF manages the U.S. Antarctic Program (USAP) on behalf of the U.S. government. It operates three year-round stations—McMurdo, Amundsen-Scott South Pole, and Palmer—in partnership with the U.S. military, other federal agencies, and private contractors. NSF also manages an Antarctic research vessel and temporary field stations. Antarctica’s remote location, extreme environment, and limited seasonal accessibility present challenges far beyond those encountered in domestic science operations.

Management of the Antarctic Support Contract

NSF provides logistical support for the USAP through the Antarctic Support Contract (ASC) and other agreements. The current ASC was awarded in 2011 and is set to expire in 2026; it is NSF’s largest contract—valued at \$2.8 billion over nearly 15 years. The Office of Polar Programs monitors contract performance, and several other NSF offices collaborate to manage the USAP more broadly. Managing the contract is complex and requires a strong cost monitoring program, oversight of deliverables, deadline requirements, and appropriate consideration of risks.

In May 2025, NSF released a request for proposal for the next USAP support contract. The Antarctic Science and Engineering Support Contract (ASESC) will be a single-award, indefinite-delivery, indefinite-quantity contract spanning 20 years, with an \$8 billion ceiling. NSF will need to closely monitor the transition from the ASC to the ASESC to ensure uninterrupted USAP operations during and after the anticipated 1-year transition period. The transition to a new support contract also presents an opportunity to strengthen the USAP by identifying weaknesses in the current ASC and mitigating them in the future ASESC.

In our May 2025 report, [Evaluation of Safety and Health Concerns in the U.S. Antarctic Program](#) (OIG Report Number 25-03-001), we reported that NSF monitored the ASC contractor’s compliance with occupational safety and health standards and instituted programs to provide safe and healthy working conditions for the USAP. We also evaluated specific complaints we received related to unsafe working and living conditions at McMurdo Station. We found NSF monitors occupational safety and health for the USAP and the contractor’s safety program, as required. However, we identified concerns related to central communications staffing, fire department staffing and equipment, and safety hazards in the food storage warehouse. We also found that some USAP participants feared retaliation for reporting safety concerns. NSF and the contractor have taken steps to improve safety and living conditions based on the findings in the report. We recommended

KEY FACTS

- This challenge involves an operation that is critical to an NSF core mission and the U.S. government’s active and influential presence in Antarctica.
- NSF issued a solicitation in May 2025 for a new, 20-year Antarctic support contract, with a ceiling of \$8 billion.
- NSF is undertaking long-range infrastructure modernization projects across the USAP.
- NSF terminated the lease of its flagship Antarctic research vessel.
- NSF has taken steps to strengthen its reporting and response systems to incidents of sexual harassment and sexual assault for USAP.
- NSF is coordinating with our office, which has been investigating alleged criminal violations covered under the Special Maritime and Territorial Jurisdiction of the United States and providing an on-ice presence during the austral summer season.

that NSF consider including requirements in the future ADESC for minimum staffing levels for critical program areas, such as central communications and the fire department, as well as requiring a replacement schedule for aircraft rescue and firefighting vehicles and equipment.

In our March 2022 report, [*NSF Vetting of USAP Contractors*](#) (OIG Report Number 22-6-004), we reported that USAP contract employees were not vetted according to NSF's requirements. Instead, NSF relied on the ASC contractor's internal vetting processes, which are less rigorous. Based on our recommendations, NSF took significant steps to ensure the contractor submits its employees and subcontractors to NSF for vetting as required, and the remaining report recommendations were closed as of March 2025. NSF also annually reviews an Acceptance of Risk memorandum related to vetting USAP personnel, including limitations of vetting foreign nationals. We will continue to assess this process and NSF's Acceptance of Risk related to USAP personnel screening as part of our annual *Federal Information Security Modernization Act* audit.

Long-Range Infrastructure Investment

NSF's long-range infrastructure investment projects, such as the Antarctic Infrastructure Modernization for Science (AIMS) construction project, have faced significant delays due to the COVID-19 pandemic, staffing changes, hiring challenges, and design errors. NSF rebaselined the AIMS project in 2021, which ultimately reduced planned construction from six new facilities costing \$410 million to two facilities in McMurdo Station—a lodging building and the vehicle equipment operations center—with an estimated cost of \$275 million. However, the vehicle equipment operations center and an information technology and communications project, which were separate from the AIMS project, were put on hold in 2024.

In FY 2022, NSF initiated the Antarctic Infrastructure Recapitalization (AIR) program as a portfolio of infrastructure investments across the USAP stations, including facilities, utilities, equipment, and



Construction of the lodging building at McMurdo Station has created limited lodging capacity. Beneficial occupancy is planned for March 2026 and final acceptance for September 2026. *Credit: Jimmie Todd, Nov. 2025*

vehicle fleet equipment. NSF will evaluate and consider unfunded components of the original AIMS project for inclusion in the AIR program. Because of the significant issues the AIMS project faced, we consider the AIR program a future risk area for NSF. In 2024, we initiated an audit to assess the effectiveness of NSF's management of the USAP fleet and facilities maintenance programs and the AIMS project. We plan to issue a final report in FY 2026.

Large-scale infrastructure recapitalization is also needed at the South Pole Station to address normal wear and tear, environmental challenges, aging infrastructure, and evolving scientific research interests. For example, one of the NSF's most significant operational challenges at the South Pole Station is combating wind-driven snowdrift accumulations. In FY 2024, NSF issued a draft South Pole Station Master Plan summarizing the current conditions, constraints, and opportunities for the South Pole Station area. NSF's ongoing efforts to complete infrastructure remediation projects at South Pole Station have temporarily reduced NSF's ability to support new scientific research at the station. As a result, NSF is prioritizing already-funded science projects while limiting support for new projects through March 2026.

Antarctic Research Vessel Replacement

As of October 2025, NSF no longer has a dedicated vessel to support Antarctic research and logistics. The USAP had been operating at least one dedicated research vessel in the Southern Ocean since 1968, and two vessels over the past three decades—the research and supply vessel *Laurence M. Gould* and the icebreaker *Nathaniel B. Palmer*. NSF ended its charter for the *Gould* in 2024 and terminated the lease of the *Palmer* in October 2025.

NSF originally planned to replace the *Palmer* with a new Antarctic research vessel and issued a solicitation in September 2023 for an integrator to oversee the design and construction of the vessel. However, as of the date of this report, NSF had not awarded this contract, though it recently stated that it continues to pursue the development of a new Antarctic research vessel as part of a longer-term strategy for marine science and logistics support.

For the 2025–2026 season, NSF intends to continue supporting its portfolio of planned marine cruise projects using the [U.S. Academic Research Fleet](#). However, the *Palmer's* icebreaking capacity, berthing capacity, and advanced scientific capabilities were unique in NSF and within the U.S. fleet of scientific research vessels. Without a dedicated research vessel, NSF may face significant challenges to its ability to independently support marine research operations in Antarctica, and the potential delivery of a new vessel is at least a decade away.

Overseeing and Managing Risks of Sexual Assault/Harassment in the USAP

NSF continues to strengthen its sexual assault/harassment prevention and response (SAHPR) capabilities in the USAP. In 2022, an NSF-commissioned [assessment](#) found that NSF lacked adequate reporting and response systems to “ensure that it is appropriately informed of and responsive to incidents of sexual assault and sexual harassment within the USAP community.” As we [reported](#) in 2024, NSF primarily relied on the Antarctic Support contractor to manage its harassment reporting and response efforts before the release of the assessment results. Since

then, NSF has gradually assumed a greater leadership role and has taken numerous steps to help prevent and respond to sexual assault and sexual harassment, such as establishing a SAHPR office within the Office of the Director. The SAHPR office provides victim advocacy support on-ice during the austral summer and remote support during the austral winter. Additionally, the SAHPR office established a 24/7 NSF Antarctic Safer Science Helpline available to the USAP community as well as the wider NSF enterprise. NSF also made changes to the ASC to require additional reporting on SAHPR complaints and imposed new requirements on prospective personnel. In July 2025, NSF released the first [Sexual Assault and Harassment Climate Survey](#) findings for the USAP. Results from the survey will help expand NSF's understanding of sexual assault and harassment and will inform NSF decisions and policies for the USAP.

Sexual assault cases in Antarctica are especially challenging for law enforcement. In March 2023, our office published a [white paper](#) detailing considerations for reporting and responding to allegations of sexual assault and stalking in Antarctica. Since then, NSF has been coordinating with our Office of Investigations, which has been investigating alleged criminal violations covered under the Special Maritime and Territorial Jurisdiction of the United States, including aggravated sexual abuse, sexual abuse, abusive sexual contact, and stalking. OIG special agents began responding, remotely, to concerns raised by individuals in Antarctica in July 2023 and provided an on-site investigative presence for two 30-day trips to Antarctica during the 2024–2025 austral summer season. In the 2025–2026 austral summer, OIG special agents plan to be in Antarctica from mid-October through late February.

NSF's Key Completed Actions

- Obtained an organizational assessment report from the National Academy of Public Administration that includes recommendations related to improving the Office of Polar Programs' organizational alignment, structure, and leadership, as well as stakeholder and employee engagement.
- Issued a solicitation for the ADESC as a replacement for the ASC.
- Implemented corrective actions related to NSF's vetting of USAP contractors.
- Continued collaboration with the OIG on the law enforcement response in USAP.
- Reported on the USAP Sexual Assault and Harassment Climate Survey.
- Codified the agency's official definitions for terms related to sexual assault and harassment.
- Shifted the oversight of the existing SAHPR support contract to the SAHPR Program Office and designated the SAHPR program office director as one of the activities-based managers for the current ASC.

NSF's Key Planned and Ongoing Actions

- Award, execute, and oversee the ADESC.
- Finalize South Pole Master Plan.
- Oversee the lodging building completion at McMurdo Station.
- Plan and execute Antarctic infrastructure projects through the AIR program.
- Implement corrective actions related to the OIG evaluation of health and safety.
- Consider implementing the National Academy of Public Administration's recommendations to improve the Office of Polar Programs' organizational structure.



Challenge 3: Mitigating Threats to Research Security

Safeguarding the U.S. research enterprise from threats of inappropriate foreign influence continues to be critical. Although significant challenges remain, U.S. funding agencies and academia have made progress in combating malign foreign influence while maintaining an open research environment that fosters collaboration, transparency, and the free exchange of ideas.

NSF and other federal agencies continue to face challenges from foreign talent recruitment programs. These programs are organized, managed, or funded by a foreign government, instrumentality, or entity to recruit science and technology professionals or students in targeted fields. Although some of these programs are legitimate, many encourage or direct unethical and criminal behaviors, including the deliberate nondisclosure of the recruit's foreign position or employment and associated foreign scientific funding. Agreements for participation in some programs create conflicts of commitment, conflicts of interest, or both for researchers. For example, agreements may require recruits to attribute U.S.-funded work to a foreign institution, recruit or train other members, circumvent merit-based processes, or transfer U.S.-funded work to another country.

NSF has taken numerous actions to mitigate threats posed by foreign talent recruitment programs. For example, NSF created an Office of the Chief of Research Security Strategy and Policy, which was later codified in the *CHIPS and Science Act of 2022* (CHIPS and Science Act); strengthened disclosure requirements and provided compliance recommendations to U.S. academic institutions to ensure accurate disclosures to U.S. funding agencies; and developed research security training for federal research funding recipients. NSF also began conducting pre-award due diligence at the project level through a new risk mitigation pilot, the Trusted Research Using Safeguards and Transparency ([TRUST](#)) framework, which helps assess grant proposals for potential national security risks.

NSF should continue to assess and refine its controls to mitigate threats to research security and ensure that it has sufficient staff and resources to address this challenge. Our office is conducting an evaluation to assess the effectiveness of NSF's implementation of the research security mandates contained in the CHIPS and Science Act and expects to publish the results in mid-FY 2026.

NSF's Key Completed Actions

- Established the Research Security and Integrity Information Sharing Analysis Organization ([SECURE Center](#)), which will serve as a clearinghouse for information to empower the research community to identify and mitigate risks posed by foreign interference.

KEY FACTS

- This challenge presents a risk of fraud, waste, and abuse of NSF or other government assets.
- Federal agencies and academia have made progress in combating malign foreign influence on the U.S. research enterprise.
- NSF has implemented new proposal certifications, strengthened research security-related disclosure requirements, and established a new process to assess proposals for national security concerns.
- NSF has also expanded research security training available to the research community.

- Developed a reporting process for institutions of higher education that are direct recipients of NSF funding to disclose gifts and contracts from foreign countries of concern.
- Strengthened disclosure requirements and processes, including implementation of a pre-award requirement for senior award personnel to certify during the proposal process that they are not a party in a malign foreign talent recruitment program, and that the information contained in their Biographical Sketch and Current and Pending (Other) Support documents is accurate, current, and complete. Additionally, senior award personnel on an active NSF award made on or after May 20, 2024, must provide an annual post-award certification identifying whether they are a participant in a malign foreign talent recruitment program.
- Developed four research security training modules for federal research funding recipients. These modules identify risks and threats to the global research ecosystem and provide tools to protect against such risks.
- Developed and implemented a pilot for the TRUST process to help assess grant proposals for potential national security risks.
- Conducted pre-award research security due diligence on Small Business Innovation Research/Small Business Technology Transfer (SBIR/STTR) proposals pursuant to the *SBIR/STTR Extension Act of 2022*.
- Developed and implemented a research security data analytics capability that captures nondisclosure of foreign affiliations, sources of funding, and collaborations that present conflicts of commitment or interest.
- Communicated an express prohibition of foreign talent plan membership for all NSF staff, including rotators, to improve the vetting process.

NSF's Key Planned and Ongoing Actions

- Capturing nondisclosure of foreign affiliations, sources of funding, and collaborations that present conflicts of commitment or interest and taking appropriate action.
- Continuing to conduct and monitor mandatory research security training for staff and rotators in direct communication with recipient organizations and principal investigators.
- Continuing to educate the research community about risks presented by malign foreign talent recruitment programs and the importance of compliance with NSF policies and procedures.
- Evaluating the current implementation of the TRUST process to inform expansion to other research fields.
- Implementing a requirement for research security training certifications from proposing institutions and individuals identified as senior/key personnel.
- Implementing a requirement for institutions of higher education to certify, absent a waiver granted by the NSF Director, that they do not maintain a contract or agreement with a Confucius Institute, in accordance with the CHIPS and Science Act.
- Continuing to refine and scale up research security-related analytics capabilities and expand the TRUST pilot program to share research security-related information with the research community.
- Maintaining collaborative relationships with NSF OIG, U.S. government agencies, and other relevant stakeholders.
- Developing guidelines for strengthening research security, including those required by the CHIPS and Science Act and National Security Presidential Memorandum 33.
- Expanding the [Research-on-Research Security Program](#) to include international partners.

National Defense Authorization Act

General Notification

Pursuant to Pub. L. No. 117-263 § 5274, business entities and non-governmental organizations specifically identified in this report have 30 days from the date of report publication to review this report and submit a written response to NSF OIG that clarifies or provides additional context for each instance within the report in which the business entity or non-governmental organization is specifically identified. Responses that conform to the requirements set forth in the statute will be attached to the final, published report.

If you find your business entity or non-governmental organization was specifically identified in this report and wish to submit comments under the above-referenced statute, please send your response within 30 days of the publication date of this report to OIGPL117-263@nsf.gov, no later than January 20, 2026. We request that comments be in .pdf format, be free from any proprietary or otherwise sensitive information, and not exceed two pages. Please note, a response that does not satisfy the purpose set forth by the statute will not be attached to the final report.

About Us

NSF OIG was established in 1989, in compliance with the *Inspector General Act of 1978* (5 USC 401-24). Our mission is to provide independent oversight of NSF to improve the effectiveness, efficiency, and economy of its programs and operations and to prevent and detect fraud, waste, and abuse.

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