

# *Coalition for National Science Funding*

## **Recommendations for NSF Budget for FY 2004**

July, 2003

**The Coalition for National Science Funding supports an FY 2004 appropriation for the National Science Foundation of \$6.390 billion, the amount authorized in legislation signed by President Bush last year. This provides an additional \$1.081 billion over the 2003 appropriation of \$5.309 billion. CNSF recommends that a strategy of supporting research, education, and infrastructure—which collectively encompass the NSF’s fundamental mission—be adopted, with all but \$20 million<sup>1</sup> of the authorized increase apportioned in the three broad areas as discussed below.**

**The three broad categories encompass all the directorates. CNSF recognizes that there is considerable interdependence and overlap, and consequently, considerable interplay, among most NSF programs in these broad categories.**

**We recommend that Congress allocate approximately half of the proposed increase of \$1.081 billion—that is, \$530 million—to NSF's core research programs and priority areas.**

Currently, only 1 out of 4 highly rated proposals the NSF receives in its core science and engineering research programs is funded. Congress should strive to ensure that all highly rated NSF proposals are funded. Grant size and duration must be increased, allowing researchers to spend more of their time doing research rather than paperwork.

In addition, new and exciting multidisciplinary initiatives at the NSF must be promoted and encouraged as today’s groundbreaking research requires cooperative efforts from many disparate disciplines.

**We recommend that Congress allocate approximately \$353 million of the proposed increase to support the Foundation's education and training efforts.<sup>2</sup>**

CNSF supports increasing the NSF graduate student stipend to \$30,000 and urges additional support of graduate student research through increased funding for research awards. Additional funding should be directed to programs such as Research Experiences for Undergraduates, and other new and innovative programs enacted as part of the “Technology Talent” initiative to stimulate undergraduate involvement in research. Finally, we encourage support for programs, such as the Math and Science Partnerships initiative, which aim to improve K-12 math and science education, the building blocks of future scientific progress.

**We recommend that Congress spend approximately \$176 million of the proposed increase on upgrading and enhancing the nation's science, engineering, and technology infrastructure.<sup>3</sup>**

The National Science Board (NSB) recently suggested increasing resources to ensure that investigators have the resources and tools needed to work at the frontiers of science and engineering. These needs exist across-the-board, from small to mid-size to large-scale facilities, as well as other research infrastructure, including equipment, instruments, and databases. CNSF supports providing additional funds to the research directorates and to the Major Research Equipment account, in keeping with the recent NSB report’s recommendations.

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<sup>1</sup> The remaining \$20 million would support Salaries & Expenses, and the Office of the Inspector General.

<sup>2</sup> This amount includes funds for education from the NSF Research and Related Activities (R&RA) budget line as well as from Education and Human Resources (EHR).

<sup>3</sup> This amount includes funds from the NSF R&RA budget line as well as from EHR and Major Research Equipment and Facilities Construction.

## ORGANIZATIONS ENDORSING CNSF RECOMMENDATIONS

American Geological Institute	Massachusetts Institute of Technology
American Geophysical Union	National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges
American Mathematical Society	National Council for Science and the Environment
American Meteorological Society	Oklahoma State University
American Physical Society	The Protein Society
American Psychological Association	Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
American Society for Engineering Education	Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics
American Society for Engineering Education Dean's Council	Universities Research Association
American Society for Mechanical Engineers	University Corporation for Atmospheric Research
American Society for Microbiology	University of California
American Society of Civil Engineers	University of Cincinnati
American Society of Plant Biologists	University of Houston System
American Sociological Association	University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill
Associated Universities, Inc.	University of Pittsburgh
Association for Women in Mathematics	University of Southern California
Association of American Universities	University of Tennessee
Association of Research Libraries	University of Wisconsin-Madison
California Institute of Technology	Vanderbilt University
Coalition for Academic Scientific Computation	
Consortium of Social Science Associations	
Council on Undergraduate Research	
Ecological Society of America	
Federation of Behavioral, Psychological, & Cognitive Sciences	
Geological Society of America	
Georgia Institute of Technology	
Joint Oceanographic Institutions	
Linguistic Society of America	