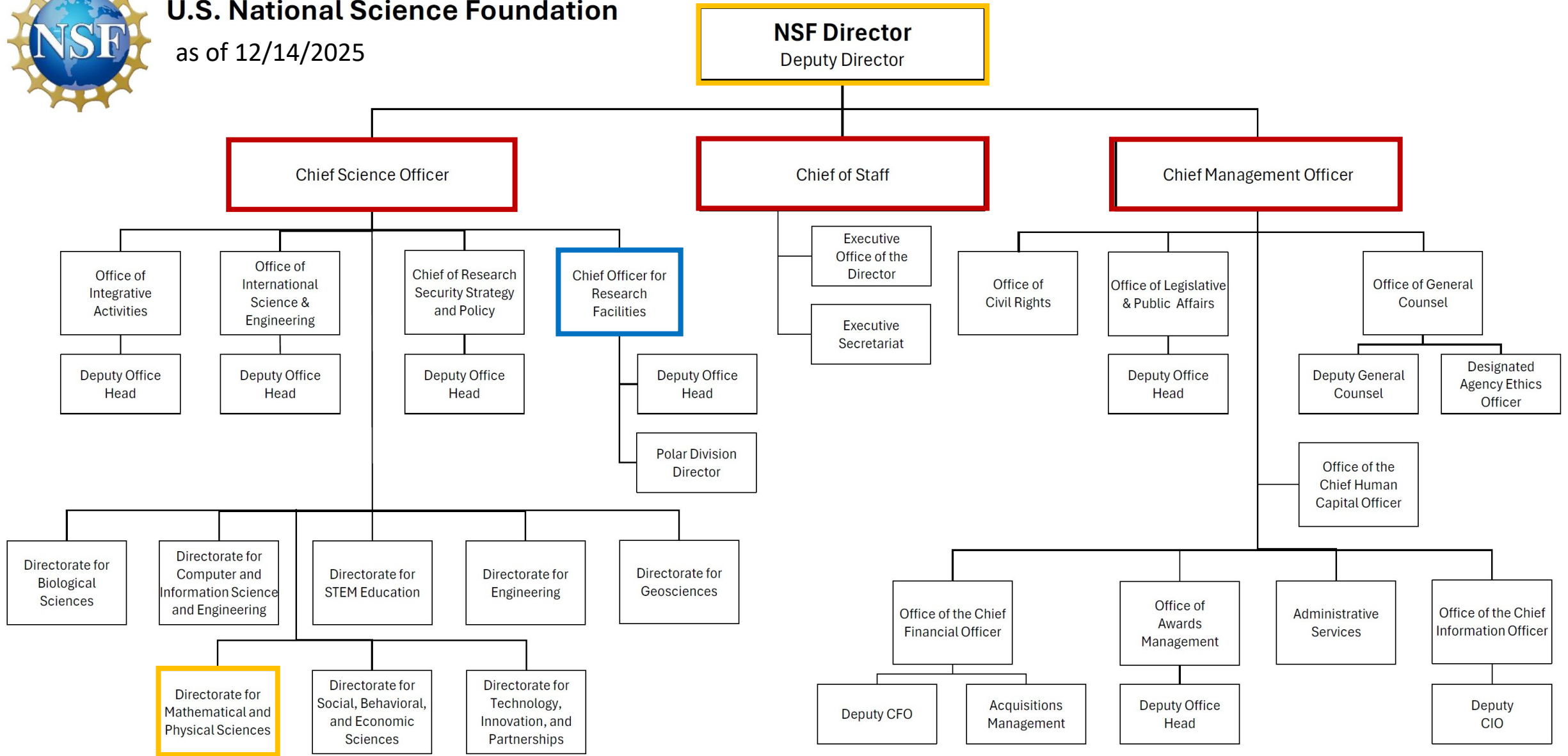




U.S. National Science Foundation

as of 12/14/2025






NSF/MPS/PHY Personnel –

- Down by > 30% wrt Dec 2025 – across Science, DGA, Policy, ...
- Director – **Director**
 - **Brian Stone (Chief of Staff) is performing the duties of the director**
- Assistant Director for MPS – David Berkowitz (IPA from U of Nebraska)
- Head of MPS – Tie Luo
- Deputy Head of MPS – Saúl González
- PHY Section Head – Michael Cavagnero
- Nuclear Theory Program Director – Bogdan Mihaila
- Nuclear Physics Program Director – Allena Opper



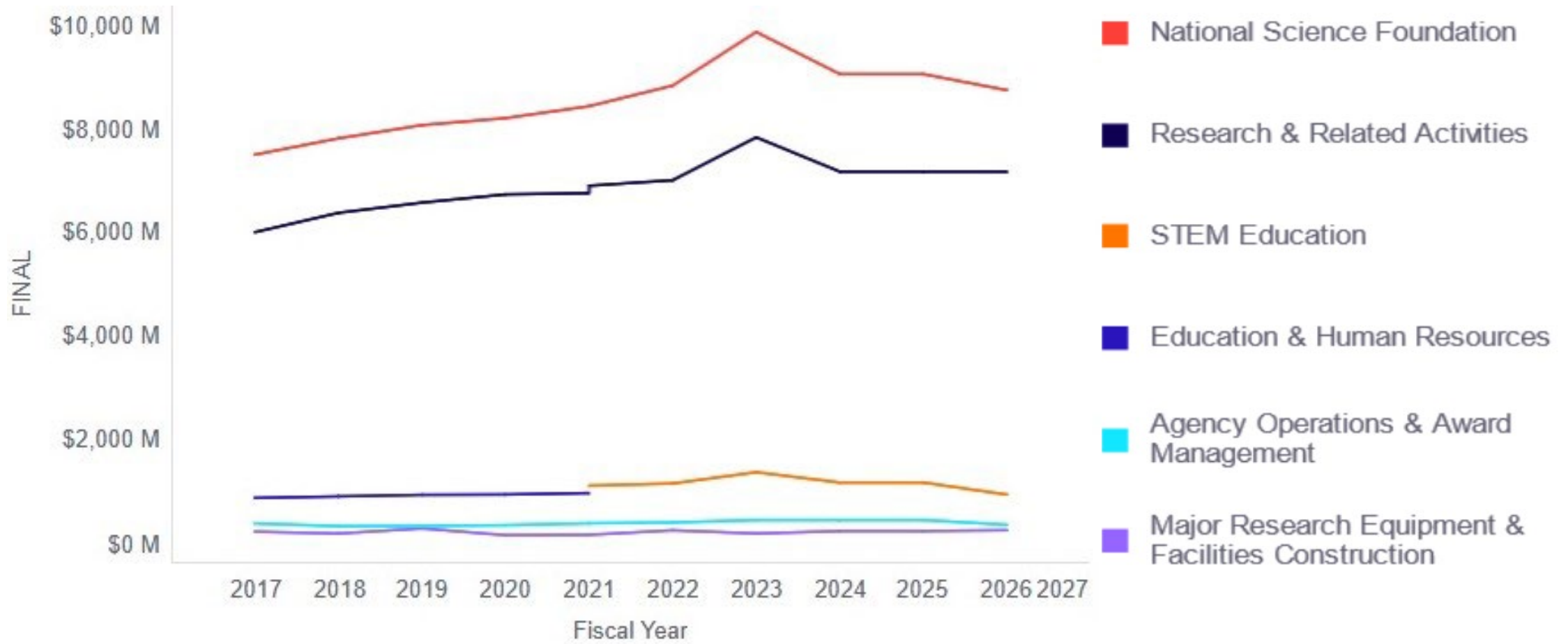
Staff Positions

- Check <https://www.nsf.gov/careers/openings>
- IPA Rotator positions in MPS
 - <https://www.nsf.gov/careers/openings/mps/mps-2026-120783>
 - Apply via email to mps-jobs@nsf.gov
- Permanent Fed also listed at <https://www.nsf.gov/careers/openings>
 - Apply through <https://www.usajobs.gov/> (not the most user-friendly) 
 - AD-3 (Assoc Program Director)
 - ❑ Posted June 15; closed June 17 after 200 applications received
 - AD-4 (Program Director)
 - ❑ Might be posted June 29; will likely close after N applications are received
- All NSF staff must be on-site unless they have an accommodation





NSF Appropriations – figure from the AIP





NSF FY26 PBR, Marks, and Final from the AIP

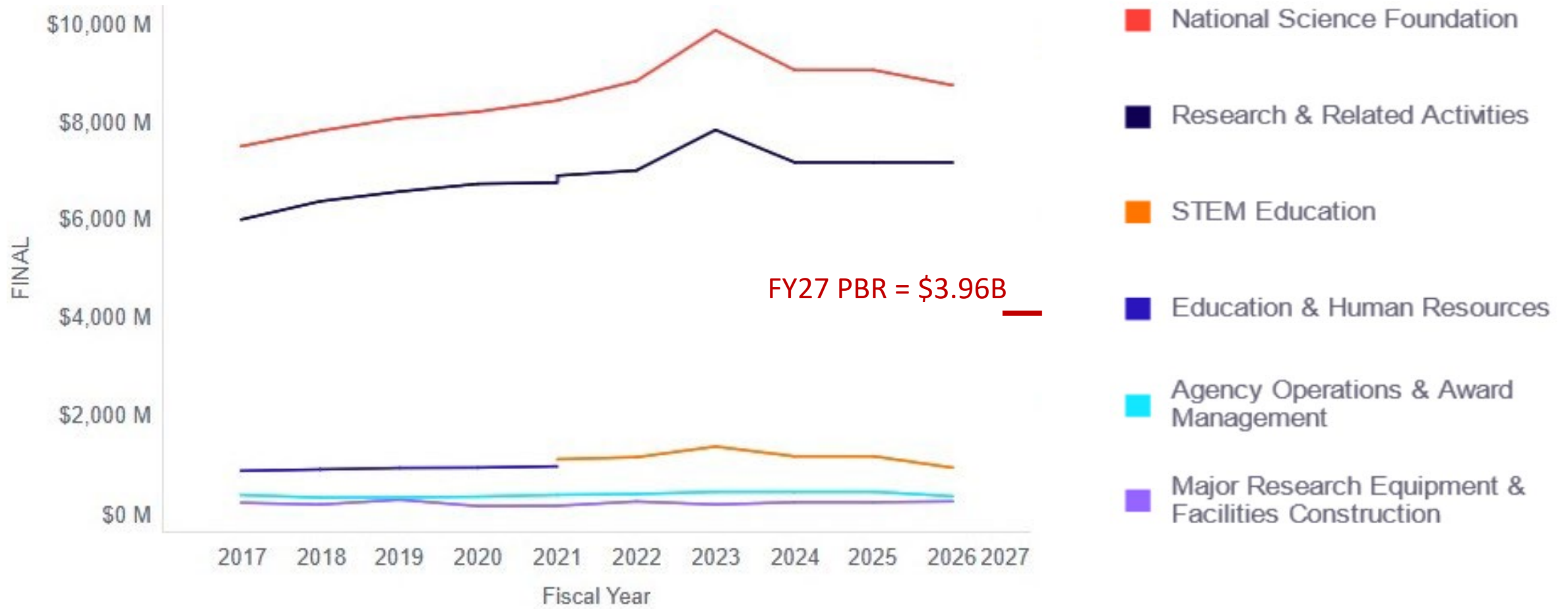


*Additional cuts possible/expected





NSF Appropriations (figure from the AIP) + FY27 PBR





Funding Announcements

PHY Investigator Initiated Research NSF 23-615 updated →

Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) to be posted soon

Deadlines → Target Dates: PIs should submit by the target date for funding consideration in the relevant fiscal year

- Second Tuesday in December for *Experimental & Theoretical Nuclear Physics*
- Submission through Research.gov or Grants.gov

Questions – contact cognizant program director.



NSF – INTERN

NSF 21-013



Non-Academic Research Internships for Graduate Students

Supplement (up to \$55k) to existing awards

- Applied, experiential training for graduate students.
- Professional development experience in preparation for multiple career pathways.
- Opportunities that encourage the participation of U.S. workers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

NSF INTERN expands students' technical expertise & builds skills and knowledge in communication, innovation, leadership and more.

Target date = April 15

Contact Program Director





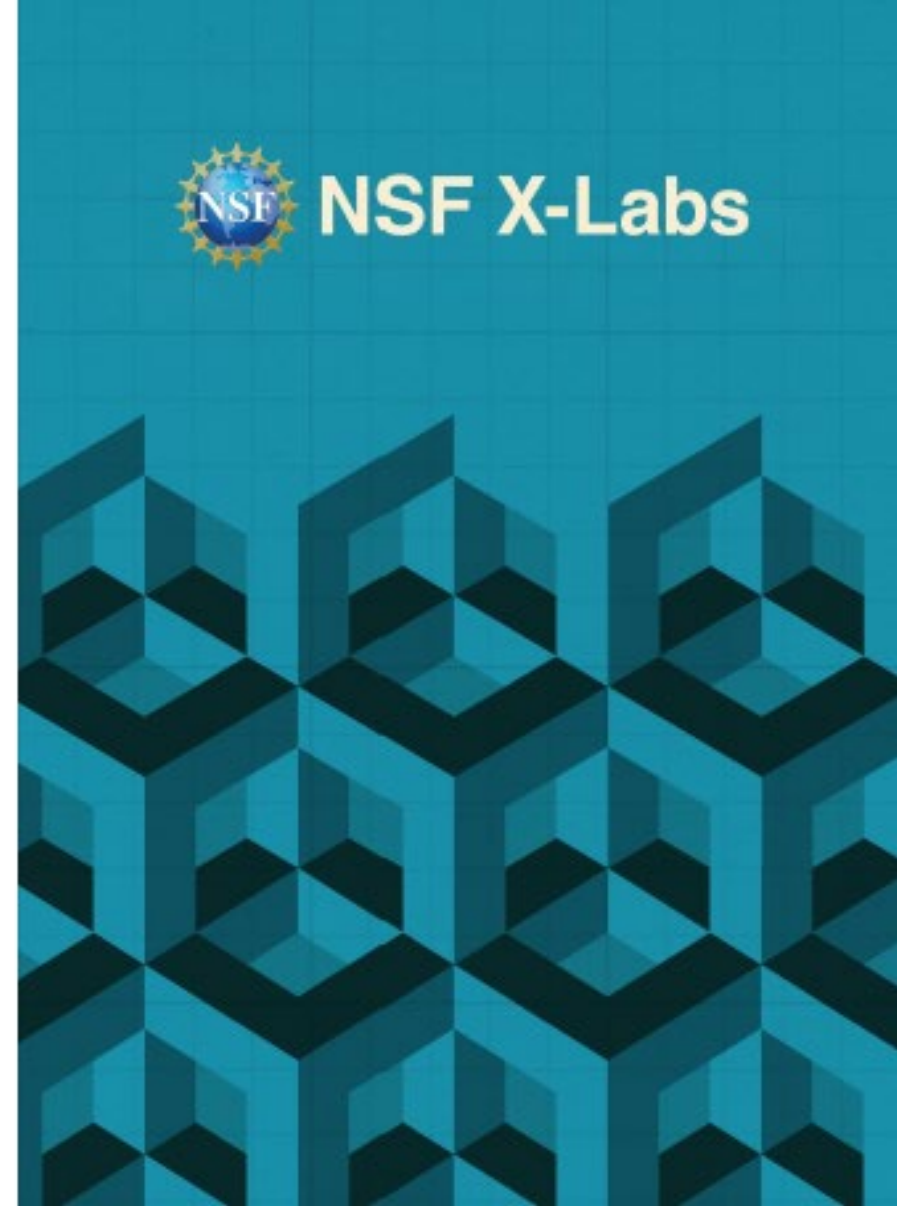
Introduction to NSF X-Labs Funding Opportunity

Quantum Systems: Interconnects and Integrated Photonics

NSF Directorate for Technology, Innovation and
Partnerships (TIP)

May 20, 2026

XLabs@nsf.gov



Summary

Objective

Provide the structure, resources, and flexibility necessary to develop breakthrough platform technologies that will accelerate breakthroughs and unlock new economic sectors.

Key Features

- **Outcome-focused teams** with the ability to adapt quickly to evolving technology
- **Other Transaction (OT) contracts** with milestone-based funding
- **Operational and funding autonomy** – flexible use of funds and independent hiring
- **Cross-sector collaboration** across academia, industry, and non-profits

Programmatic Structure



Strategic Objectives

Develop New Organizational Research Structures

Foster independent R&D organizations with the structure, resources, and flexibility necessary to tackle large-scale scientific advancements

Program's **Experimental Hypothesis**

- Traditional research structures in academia and industry labs often fail to incentivize R&D for emerging, high-risk technologies that could represent paradigm shifts in a field or technology sector
- Independent teams of full-time, interdisciplinary experts, operating with flexibility and autonomy, will cultivate breakthrough technologies faster
- The U.S. innovation ecosystem currently has ambitious experts with bold visions of the future, ready for the sustained resources and flexibility necessary to cultivate early-stage platform technologies



Topics & Missions

Topics

Announced by NSF

- Focus areas where breakthroughs could create or reshape entire scientific fields and technology sectors where U.S. competitiveness is a priority
- Examples: Scientific Instrumentation for Sensing and Imaging; Quantum Systems: Interconnects and Integrated Photonics

Missions


Proposed by Teams

- Tackles key challenge(s), gap(s), or bottleneck(s) within the Topic
- Motivated by practical use considerations that the proposing team is uniquely suited to tackle and that is currently unmet by existing funding
- Supports a clear vision of how the NSF X-Lab will be significant and advantageous



The Two-Step Evaluation Process

Written Proposal

- Maximum 8-page proposal describing the proposed team's Mission, Technology landscape, desired outcomes, qualifications of Senior/Key Personnel, and Team capabilities.
- Submit a proposal on <https://nsfgov.my.site.com/xlabs/> 

Oral Proposal

- Only invited teams advance to an oral proposal and submit an oral proposal package
- Package includes more details on the proposed X-Lab – budget, Milestone plan, Senior/Key Personnel disclosures, etc.
- Additional guidance to submit an oral proposal package will be provided to invited teams



Quantum Systems: Interconnects and Integrated Photonics

Future functional quantum systems will require advanced **quantum interconnects** and **integrated quantum photonics** to link heterogeneous quantum subsystems and enable scalable, high-performance architectures.

Key technical focus areas:

- Quantum interconnects that reliably transfer coherence and entanglement across modular subsystems
- Photonic technologies using photons as robust carriers of quantum information
- Dense, chip-scale photonic integration (sources, filters, switches, detectors)
- Foundational technologies such as quantum transducers, reconfigurable photonic circuits, low-loss waveguides, next-gen quantum light sources, and integrated single-photon detectors



Topic Timeline

JUNE 4, 2026 | NSF X-Labs Webinar: Quantum Systems Topic
2-3 PM | [Register here](#)

JUNE 30, 2026 | Q&A FOR NSF X-Labs Quantum Systems Topic
2-3 PM | [Register here](#)

JULY 24, 2026 | Written Proposal Submission 

JULY 24 - AUGUST 7, 2026 | Written Proposal Review
Internal to NSF – contracting rules apply

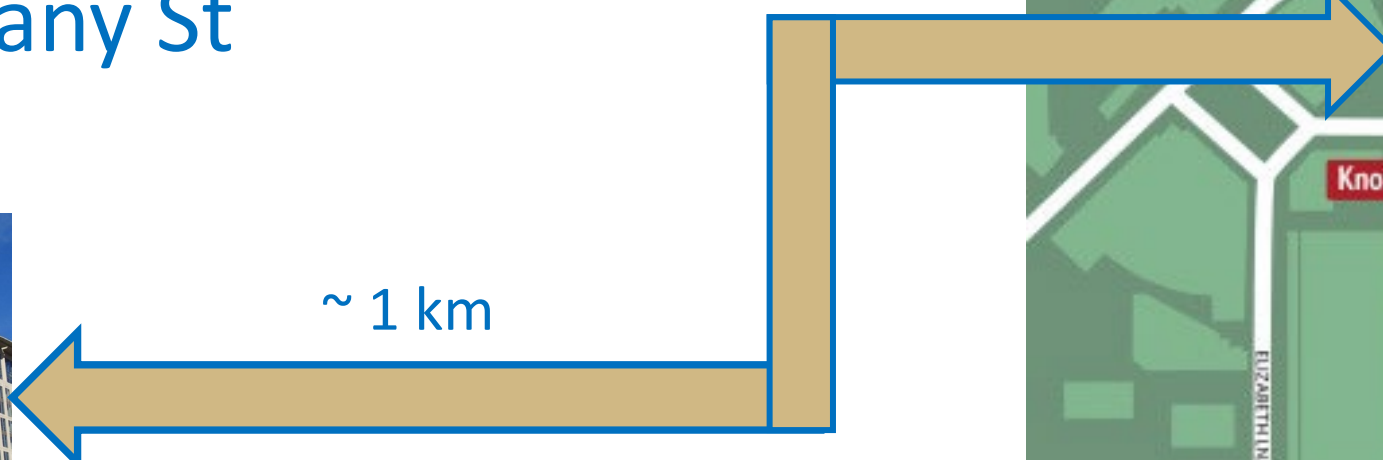
AUG 31 - SEPTEMBER 4, 2026 | Oral Proposal Review and Presentations
Teams present live before a review panel of internal and external experts

DECEMBER 2026 2026 | Beginning of Phase 0



NSF has moved to US Patent & Trade Office (USPTO) campus –
but we have been teleworking since mid-December

Randolf Building
401 Dulany St

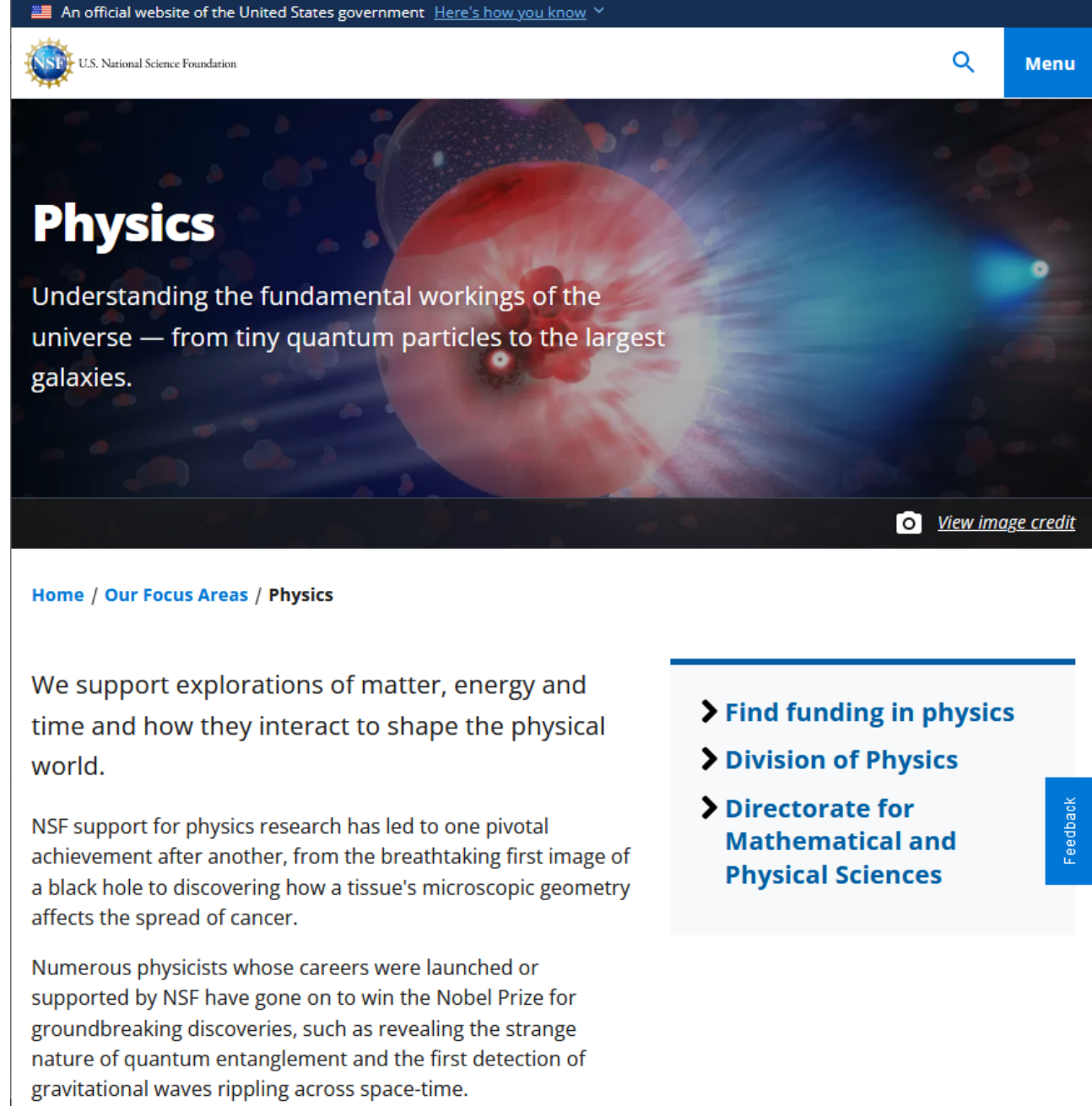


For the latest updates:

<https://www.nsf.gov/physics>

Contact us at:

- Bogdan Mihaila
bmihaila@nsf.gov or
call (703)292-8235
- Allena Opper
aopper@nsf.gov
or call (703)292-8958



The screenshot shows the NSF Physics website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the NSF logo, the text "U.S. National Science Foundation", a search icon, and a "Menu" button. The main header features a large image of a red and white particle collision with the word "Physics" in a large, bold font. Below the header, the text reads: "Understanding the fundamental workings of the universe — from tiny quantum particles to the largest galaxies." A "View image credit" link is visible in the bottom right of the header image. The main content area has a breadcrumb trail: "Home / Our Focus Areas / Physics". The text describes NSF's support for physics research, mentioning achievements like the first image of a black hole and the discovery of cancer's microscopic geometry. A sidebar on the right contains three links: "Find funding in physics", "Division of Physics", and "Directorate for Mathematical and Physical Sciences". A "Feedback" button is located at the bottom right of the sidebar.

An official website of the United States government [Here's how you know](#)

NSF U.S. National Science Foundation

Menu

Physics

Understanding the fundamental workings of the universe — from tiny quantum particles to the largest galaxies.

[View image credit](#)

[Home](#) / [Our Focus Areas](#) / [Physics](#)

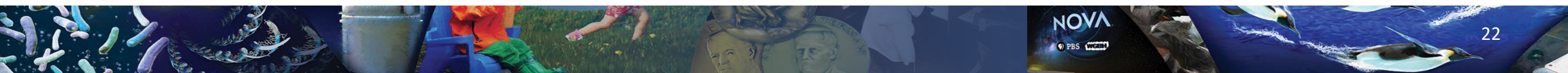
We support explorations of matter, energy and time and how they interact to shape the physical world.

NSF support for physics research has led to one pivotal achievement after another, from the breathtaking first image of a black hole to discovering how a tissue's microscopic geometry affects the spread of cancer.

Numerous physicists whose careers were launched or supported by NSF have gone on to win the Nobel Prize for groundbreaking discoveries, such as revealing the strange nature of quantum entanglement and the first detection of gravitational waves rippling across space-time.

- [Find funding in physics](#)
- [Division of Physics](#)
- [Directorate for Mathematical and Physical Sciences](#)

Feedback





Thank You!

