

## **Departments Of Commerce and Justice, Science, And Related Agencies House Appropriations Bill Overview, Fiscal Year (FY) 2026**

### **Total House CJS Appropriations Funding**

- **Recommended Total:** \$76,824,000,000
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### **Antisemitism on College Campuses**

- The Committee is alarmed and concerned by antisemitism on college campuses following the October 7, 2023, terrorist attack by Hamas, that is threatening the safety of Jewish students and faculty. This has been exacerbated by the inability shown on the part of College and University administrators to appropriately punish antisemitic behavior
  - The Committee directs the Department of Commerce, the Department of Justice, NASA, and NSF to report to the Committee, no later than 90 days after the enactment of this Act, regarding how it intends to address a United States institution of higher education that receives Federal funding from this Act that fails to take administrative action against any student, staff member, or student group that commits acts of antisemitism while utilizing the facilities, grounds, or resources of such institution.
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### **NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration)**

**Total FY 2026 Funding Recommendation:** \$5,795,048,000 (\$387,453,000 decrease from FY 2025)

**Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research ..... \$666,797,000**

**National Sea Grant College Program ..... \$80,000,000**

**Sea Grant Aquaculture Research ..... \$14,000,000**

**National Estuarine Research Reserve Systems ..... \$33,300,000**

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### **Indirect Cost Rate**

- The Committee recognizes the Administration's efforts across science agencies including the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP), the National Aeronautics and Space

Administration (NASA), and the National Science Foundation (NSF) to identify new mechanisms that reduce administrative burdens, increase transparency, and save taxpayer dollars.

- The Committee encourages the Administration to work closely with the extramural research community to develop an optimized Facilities and Administrative cost reimbursement solution for all parties ensuring the nation remains a leader in innovation.
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## **Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP)**

**Total FY 2026 Funding Recommendation: \$7,965,000** (level with FY 2025)

### **Public Access to Federally Funded Research**

- The Committee directs OSTP to provide a full analysis of implementation costs if it intends to proceed with the 2022 memo “Ensuring Free, Immediate, and Equitable Access to Federally Funded Research,” requirements and at least 60 days advance notice before issuing any actions or updates related to the memo.
  - The Committee expressed concern that the August 2022 OSTP memo “may be restricting the rights of scientists to publish results without bureaucratic bias or interference.”
  - OSTP shall provide guidance to agencies to “not limit grant recipients’ ability to copyright, freely license, or control their work.”
  - The Committee encourages OSTP and NSF, as it implements partnerships and cooperative agreements, to support research on AI’s implications on society.
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## **National Science Foundation (NSF)**

**Total FY 2026 Funding Recommendation: \$6,373,000,000** (\$803,500,000 below FY 2025, and \$3,096,850,000 above the OMB Budget request)

### **Maintaining American Leadership in Research**

- The Committee directs NSF to prioritize research that aligns with vital national security priorities, including initiatives to advance AI and quantum computing.
- The Committee encourages NSF to leverage the Technology, Innovation, and Partnerships (TIP) Directorate to expand partnerships with the private sector through cooperative agreements and consortia that strengthen the domestic science and technology ecosystem.

### **Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR)**

- The Committee provides \$250 million for EPSCoR and directs that no more than 5 percent of these funds may be allocated for administration and other overhead costs.
- The Committee supports EPSCoR and notes that EPSCoR plays a key role in spurring innovation, bolstering research capabilities at institutions that have historically received less Federal research and development funding, and strengthening the STEM workforce.
- The recommendation includes \$250,000,000 for EPSCoR and. The Committee is looking forward to reviewing more data on the impact of the pilot projects in addressing research competitiveness in EPSCoR states in the coming years. The Committee encourages NSF to continue accepting applications for the jurisdiction-wide Track 1 Research Infrastructure Improvement Program.

### **Artificial Intelligence**

- The Committee encourages NSF to continue its efforts in workforce development for AI and other emerging technologies to widen the workforce pipeline of students graduating with AI and data literacy.
- The Committee encourages NSF, as it implements partnerships and cooperative agreements, to support research on AI's implications on society.

### **National Artificial Intelligence Research Resource Pilot Program (NAIRR)**

- The Committee provides \$25 million for the NAIRR pilot program and “commends NSF on the launch of the NAIRR and notes the importance of maintaining American leadership in AI.”
- No later than 90 days after the enactment of this Act, the Committee directs NSF to provide a briefing on the progress of the pilot, planning and resources required for full realization of the NAIRR.

### **Historically Black Colleges and Universities-Excellence in Research**

- The Committee provides of \$20,00,000 for the Historically Black Colleges and Universities-Excellence in Research program.

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### **STEM Education Directorate**

- The Committee accepts OMB's request to consolidate the STEM (EDU) account within the R&RA account. Further, the Committee supports the Administration's efforts to increase American competitiveness by refocusing STEM investments into programs that serve all Americans.

### **Enhancing Graduate Education and Training**

- The Committee supports measures that improve graduate student advising and mentorship as well as funding mechanisms.
  - The Committee “encourages NSF to develop best practices that enhance graduate education, to study the impact of funding models on graduate student productivity and outcomes, and to set clear mentorship standards in Federally funded projects, including ensuring positive, productive, and learning-focused relationships between mentors and mentees, professional growth, ethics, equity, and assessment practices.”
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### **Major Research Equipment and Facilities Construction (MREFC)**

**Total FY 2026 Funding Recommendation:** \$251 million (\$17 million increase from FY 2025)

- The Committee urges NSF to continue funding already awarded projects designed to advance STEM education and technology capabilities across the country.
  - The Committee urges NSF to take a balanced approach to awarding rigorous and transformative mid-scale infrastructure projects.
  - The Committee also encourages NSF to award at least one Mid-Scale Research Infrastructure project to an institution in an EPSCoR State.
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### **Office of the National Science Board**

- The Committee recommends \$3,000,000 for the National Science Board, which is \$2,090,000 below fiscal year 2025 and equal to the OMB Budget request.
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### **Agency Operations and Award Management**

- The Committee recommends \$355 million for Agency Operations and Award Management (AOAM), which is \$93 million below fiscal year 2025 and equal to the OMB Budget request.