

House Gives NSF R&D 8 Percent Increase

(This analysis is part of a series of AAAS R&D Funding Updates on the FY 2002 congressional appropriations process. This analysis includes information on R&D in House appropriations for NSF. The complete series of AAAS R&D Funding Updates, including continually updated analyses of R&D by agency in FY 2002 appropriations, is available on the AAAS R&D Web Site (<http://www.aaas.org/spp/R&D>) in the "FY 2002 R&D" or the "What's New" sections.)

The House Appropriations Committee has drafted an FY 2002 VA-HUD appropriations bill (HR 2620) that would provide a substantial budget increase for the National Science Foundation (NSF). The House would provide NSF with \$4.8 billion in FY 2002, \$423 million or 9.6 percent more than FY 2001. This would be more than the Administration's request of \$4.5 billion, and more than the Senate proposal of \$4.7 billion. **In the House plan, NSF's R&D funding would rise 8.3 percent for a total of \$3.6 billion. NSF's research directorates would all receive increases of 9 percent, in contrast to level or declining funding in the request** (see Table). The largest increases in the request, House, and Senate plans would go to NSF's non-R&D programs in education and human resources.

The House FY 2002 VA-HUD bill would provide \$85 billion for discretionary programs, more than the Senate version of the bill (\$84 billion) and the request (\$83 billion). The bill funds science agencies including NSF, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and non-R&D programs for veterans and housing. (For information on Senate appropriations for NSF, please see the July 25 AAAS R&D Funding Update; for details of the FY 2002 request for NSF, please see Chapter 7 of *AAAS Report XXVI: R&D FY 2002*.)

There was dismay among NSF advocates in April when the Bush Administration requested only a \$56 million or 1.3 percent increase in the total NSF budget, after a 13 percent increase in FY 2001 led to high expectations of substantial increases in FY 2002. Because the Bush Administration chose to emphasize a large increase for education and human resources programs in NSF, NSF's R&D programs were actually proposed to decline 1.6 percent in the request. The House, however, would award an increase to NSF's budget and to NSF's R&D: the House VA-HUD bill would exceed the request with \$4.8 billion to NSF, an increase of \$423 million or 9.6 percent. **NSF's R&D funding, which excludes NSF's education and training activities and overhead costs, would total \$3.6 billion in the House plan, an increase of 8.3 percent or \$272 million (see Table).** The Senate would provide a more modest 4.0 percent increase.

The **Research and Related Activities (R&RA)** account, which funds most of NSF's R&D, would receive \$3.6 billion, 9.0 percent or \$300 million more than FY 2001 in contrast to a requested cut from the Bush Administration. The House would grant each of the research directorates in R&RA a 9 percent increase. The House would join the Senate in adding \$25 million to the request of \$50 million for the Major Research Instrumentation program to bring funding back to the FY 2001 level. This program provides funds to address research equipment needs of research institutions, mostly universities; the Senate bill contains language directing NSF to use the additional \$25 million specifically to fund the instrumentation needs of smaller research institutions. The House bill does not contain this provision.

The **Major Research Equipment (MRE)** account, which funds construction of large-scale scientific facilities, would receive \$135 million, \$14 million or 11.3 percent more than FY 2001 and \$39 million more than the request. The House would allocate \$9 million to the Atacama Large Millimeter Array (ALMA) radio telescope project; the request proposed to fund the project out of R&RA instead of Major Research Equipment, but both the House and the Senate would fund the project in MRE and would thus free up

R&RA funds for more astronomy research. Within MRE, the Senate would provide the requested \$55 million for the Terascale Computing Systems project, part of the Information Technology R&D initiative; the House would provide only \$35 million. The House would add \$35 million for the High-Performance Instrumented Airborne Platform for Environmental Research (HIAPER) in FY 2002 although NSF proposed to eliminate funding. The \$35 million allocation would be far above the FY 2001 funding level of \$12 million for this atmospheric research aircraft. The House bill contains a new start of \$15 million for the IceCube Neutrino Detector project, a South Pole facility recently approved by the National Science Board but not yet part of NSF's budget plans.

NSF's **Education and Human Resources** programs would receive \$886 million, 12.7 percent more than FY 2001. The heart of the Administration's request was \$200 million for a new Math and Science Partnerships program to encourage academic institutions and schools to work together to improve math and science education. Although half of the program was proposed as new money, the other half would have come out of existing EHR programs. The House would provide the full \$200 million, while the Senate would trim the request for the program to \$130 million, restoring funding to other EHR programs. The House bill would thus go along with the Administration proposal to cut most existing EHR programs.

The House and Senate versions of the VA-HUD bill are due for floor debate and approval before the August congressional recess. A House-Senate conference committee to produce the final version of the bill is not expected to meet until September. The House appropriation for NSF is higher than the Senate, so it is likely that the final funding levels for NSF will be higher than the Senate-proposed levels.

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**Table. National Science Foundation
House Appropriations Committee Action on R&D in the FY 2002 Budget
(budget authority in millions of dollars)**

	FY 2001 Estimate	FY 2002 Request	FY 2002 Senate	Action by House				
				FY 2002 House	Chg. from Request Amount	Chg. from Request Percent	Chg. from FY 2001 Amount	Chg. from FY 2001 Percent
Research and Related Activities ¹ :								
Mathematical and Physical Sciences	851	864	907	927	64	7.4%	76	9.0%
Engineering	431	431	456	470	38	8.9%	39	9.0%
Biological Sciences	485	483	507	529	46	9.5%	44	9.0%
Geosciences	562	559	575	613	54	9.7%	50	9.0%
Computer and Info. Science and Eng.	478	470	509	521	50	10.7%	43	9.0%
Social, Behavioral and Econ. Scis.	164	163	168	179	16	9.6%	14	8.8%
US Polar Programs	273	277	285	298	21	7.7%	25	9.0%
Integrative Activities	98	81	108	107	26	32.1%	9	9.0%
Total Research and Related Activities ¹	3,343	3,327	3,514	3,642	315	9.5%	300	9.0%
Major Research Equipment	122	96	109	135	39	40.5%	14	11.3%
Education and Human Resources R&D	139	139	139	139	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Less Non-R&D in R&RA ¹	-325	-336	-353	-366	-30	8.9%	-41	12.7%
Total NSF R&D	3,279	3,226	3,410	3,551	324	10.1%	272	8.3%
Non-R&D Programs and Activities:								
Non-R&D in R&RA ¹	325	336	353	366	30	8.9%	41	12.7%
Other Education and Human Res.	646	733	733	746	13	1.8%	100	15.5%
Salaries and Expenses	161	170	170	170	0	0.0%	10	5.9%
Inspector General	6	7	7	7	0	0.0%	0	7.8%
Total NSF Non-R&D Activities	1,138	1,246	1,263	1,289	43	3.5%	151	13.3%
Total NSF Budget	4,417	4,473	4,673	4,840	368	8.2%	423	9.6%

AAAS estimates based on FY 2002 appropriations bills. Includes conduct of R&D and R&D facilities.

FY 2001 and FY 2002 request figures based on OMB R&D data and supplemental agency budget data.

Figures are rounded to the nearest million. Changes calculated from unrounded figures.

¹ R&RA funds are not appropriated by directorate. The FY 2002 House directorate figures are AAAS estimates based on language in the FY 2002 House appropriations bill.

July 27, 2001 - House Appropriations Committee-approved figures.

These appropriations may be amended or rejected on the House floor.

Senate figures reflect Senate Appropriations Committee-approved figures.