



January 27, 2021

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Senate Democratic Leader
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Republican Leader
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
1236 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
House Republican Leader
2468 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leaders Schumer, McConnell and McCarthy:

As Congress develops additional legislation to implement the “American Rescue Plan” and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Coalition for National Science Funding asks that you address the challenges faced by the scientific research community, specifically the need to restore the research enterprise and safeguard our nation’s research workforce. **We encourage Congress to include \$3 billion in emergency relief for the National Science Foundation (NSF)** while providing relief to all federal science agencies.

NSF is the premier agency to address social and behavioral science, education, engineering, modeling, and fundamental biological challenges raised by the pandemic. Thanks to your leadership, Congress appropriated \$76 million in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act for the NSF to support its response to COVID-19, including through the Rapid Response Research (RAPID) and Early-Concept Grants for Exploratory Research (EAGER) funding mechanisms. As part of efforts to improve understanding of the virus, develop predictions of its spread, and help mitigate its impacts on public health, society, and the economy, NSF awarded more than 1300 grants, including more than 500 quick-response RAPIDs, to researchers across the country, demonstrating NSF’s role as a frontline agency in our nation’s push to respond to and recover from the pandemic. However, these grants only scratched the surface of research needs.

Though our nation’s scientists and research institutions have risen to the challenge of the pandemic, they are facing enormous strains on their operations and infrastructure. NSF needs additional funding to support research grants, students and post-docs, early-career faculty, and scientific facilities. Federally funded scientists and engineers are experiencing significant negative impacts to their work during the pandemic, such as delays or cessation of their research projects, an extremely challenging academic and research job market, lab closures, and uncertainty about continuing to pay salaries, extend timelines, access needed lab equipment, and



more. These impacts have disproportionately affected students, trainees, and early-career researchers, who make up an important segment of NSF award recipients. Without emergency relief, we risk many early-career researchers and STEM students leaving science altogether, losing a generation of diverse talent that is the bedrock of our national competitiveness. We would also lose the return on the investments that we have already made in the careers of U.S. scientists and engineers, the research they advance, and the research infrastructure that supports them.

Last fall, the House-revised Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions (HEROES) legislation included \$2.9 billion for NSF, largely directed toward “extensions of existing research grants, cooperative agreements, scholarships, fellowships, and apprenticeships.” Though this provision did not advance in the final relief package, we encourage you to include it in the rescue package now being drafted. NSF must be able to support its researchers at this critical time and avoid the potential loss of critical innovations and our future workforce.

We appreciate your leadership during this difficult time as Congress continues to respond to the wide-ranging fallout from this pandemic. Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,
The Coalition for National Science Funding

cc:

U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations

U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations



American Anthropological Association
American Association for the Advancement
of Science
American Association of Geographers
American Association of Physicists in
Medicine (AAPM)
American Association of Physics Teachers
American Astronomical Society
American Chemical Society
American Educational Research Association
American Geophysical Union
American Institute of Biological Sciences
American Institute for Medical and
Biological Engineering (AIMBE)
American Mathematical Society
American Physical Society
American Physiological Society
American Political Science Association
American Psychological Association
American Society for Microbiology
American Society of Agronomy
American Society of Civil Engineers
American Society for Engineering
Education
American Society of Mechanical Engineers
American Society for Pharmacology and
Experimental Therapeutics
American Society of Plant Biologists
American Sociological Association
American Statistical Association
Arizona State University
Association for Psychological Science
Association for Women in Mathematics
Association for Women in Science
Association of American Medical Colleges
Association of American Universities
Association of Public and Land-grant
Universities
Association of Science and Technology
Centers (ASTC)

Atlanta University Center Consortium
Battelle
Biophysical Society
Boise State University
Boston University
Brandeis University
Brown University
California Institute of Technology
Cavarocchi Ruscio Dennis Associates
Coalition for Academic Scientific
Computation
Computing Research Association
Consortium of Social Science Associations
Cornell University
Council of Graduate Schools
Council on Undergraduate Research
Crop Science Society of America
Dartmouth College
Duke University
Eastman
Ecological Society of America
Entomological Society of America
Eversole Associates
Federation of Associations in Behavioral &
Brain Sciences
Federation of American Societies for
Experimental Biology
Florida State University
Forge Policy Solutions
Geological Society of America
George Mason University
Georgia Institute of Technology
Harvard University
Hampton University
Incorporated Research Institutions for
Seismology (IRIS)
Indiana University
Lehigh University
Lewis-Burke Associates LLC
Linguistic Society of America



Materials Research Society
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Mathematical Association of America
Michigan State University
Michigan Technological University
Mineralogical Society of America
Museum of Science, Boston
National Association of Marine Laboratories
National Communication Association
National Postdoctoral Association
National Science Teachers Association
New York University
Northeastern University
Northern Illinois University
Northwestern University
OSA-The Optical Society
Penn State University
Population Association of America/
Association of Population Centers
Princeton University
Psychonomic Society
PsySiP: Psychology of Science in Policy
Purdue University
Research!America
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
SACNAS
SAGE Publishing
Society for American Archaeology
Society for Industrial and Organizational
Psychology
Society for Neuroscience
Society for Research in Child Development
Society for the Psychological Study of
Social Issues (SPSSI)
Soil Science Society of America
SPIE
St. Louis University
State University of New York System
(SUNY)
Stevens Institute of Technology
Stony Brook University

The Ohio State University
The Optical Society
Tufts University
UCLA
UNAVCO
University of California System
University of Cincinnati
University of Colorado Boulder
University of the District of Columbia
University of Florida
University of Illinois System
University of Iowa
University of Maryland, College Park
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University of Oklahoma
University of Oregon
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University of Vermont
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