



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  
University of Michigan  
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Vanderbilt University  
Verizon  
Washington State University  
West Virginia University  
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution  
Yale University