FORM APPROVED
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U.S. National Science Foundation
Alexandria, VA 22314

FFRDC Research and Development Survey FY 2026

Please submit your survey data by January 15, 2027.

Your participation in this survey provides important information on the national level of R&D activity. The U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF) is authorized to collect this information under the National Science Foundation Act of 1950, as amended. Your organization's response is entirely voluntary.

Response to this survey is estimated to require 14 hours. If you wish to comment on the time required to complete this survey, please contact Suzanne H. Plimpton of NSF at (703) 292-7556, or e-mail splimpto@nsf.gov.

The Web address for entering your data:

http://www.ffrdcsurvey.org

Or send completed form to Support@FFRDCsurvey.org

Questions?

Technical support

Support@FFRDCsurvey.org
(866) 936-9376

General survey questions

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National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics
U.S. National Science Foundation
mgibbons@nsf.gov
(703) 292-4590

Thank you for your participation.

What's New

- There were no changes to the survey questions from the FY 2025 version.
- In *Definitions and Instructions*, guidance was updated to clarify that R&D **does not** include training grants unless funding trainee work on organized research projects.

Definitions and Instructions

This survey collects data on research and development (R&D) activities at Federally Funded R&D Centers (FFRDCs). Please report R&D activities and expenditures for your organization's **2026** fiscal year.

Fiscal year (FY)

Please report data for your organization's 2026 fiscal year.

Research and development (R&D)

R&D activity is creative and systematic work undertaken in order to increase the stock of knowledge — including knowledge of humankind, culture, and society — and to devise new applications of available knowledge. R&D covers three activities defined below — basic research, applied research, and experimental development.

> **Basic research**
> is experimental or theoretical work undertaken primarily to acquire new knowledge of the underlying foundations of phenomena and observable facts, without any particular application or use in view.

> **Applied research**
> is original investigation undertaken in order to acquire new knowledge. It is directed primarily towards a specific, practical aim or objective.

> **Experimental development**
> is systematic work, drawing on knowledge gained from research and practical experience and producing additional knowledge, which is directed to producing new products or processes or to improving existing products or processes.

R&D Expenditures

Include all current operating expenditures for activities specifically organized to produce R&D outcomes. This includes basic research, applied research, and experimental development funded by external sponsors or separately budgeted and accounted for by your organization using internal funds.

R&D *includes*:	R&D does *not* include:
• Sponsored research (including federal and nonfederal sponsors) • Indirect costs associated with R&D projects • R&D equipment and software • R&D subcontract expenditures • Clinical trials	• Outreach or training programs (unless funding trainee work on organized research projects) • R&D conducted by staff at outside institutions that is not accounted for in your financial records • Capital projects (i.e., construction or renovation of research facilities) • Routine testing • Non-R&D program implementation or management • Policy development

Contact information and login accounts

Primary Contact Information

Please complete the contact information for the person responsible for the survey

First Name

Last Name

Job Title

E-mail address

Phone number

ext.

Organization name

Office/Department

Mailing Address

Mailing address (line 1)

Mailing address (line 2)

City, state, and ZIP Code

Other Contact Information

List individuals who should be copied on all e-mails about the survey or can create a login account.

- Check **All Email** box, if this person should be copied on all e-mails.
- Check **Can Log In** box, if this person can create a login account. After you save the information on this page, this person will receive an e-mail allowing them to create their own password.
- Job Title should include information about office/department as appropriate (e.g., Office of Finance Director).

First Name

Last Name

Job Title

E-mail address

Phone Number

ext.

All email

Can log in

First Name

Last Name

Job Title

E-mail address

Phone Number

ext.

All email

Can log in

First Name

Last Name

Job Title

E-mail address

Phone Number

ext.

All email

Can log in

1. R&D expenditures by source of funds

Question 1. How much of your total expenditures for separately budgeted research and development (R&D) came from the following sources in FY 2026?

- Report the **original source** of funds, when possible. For example, if you received federal funds from another organization, report that amount under "U.S. federal government."
- Please do not report capital construction costs.

	R&D expenditures (Dollars in thousands) (for example, report $25,342 as $25)
a. U.S. federal government Any agency of the United States government. Include federal funds passed through from another organization.	$
b. State and local government Any state, county, municipality, or other local government entity in the United States, including state health agencies.	$
c. Business Domestic or foreign for-profit organizations. (Report funds from a company's nonprofit foundation in row d.)	$
d. Nonprofit organizations Domestic or foreign nonprofit foundations and organizations, except universities and colleges. Funds from universities and colleges should be reported in row e.	$
e. All other sources Other sources not reported above, such as funds from foreign governments, and foreign or U.S. universities.	$
f. Total	$

2. R&D expenditures by federal agency source

Question 2. Of the federally funded R&D expenditures reported in Question 1, row a, which agencies funded this R&D and how much of the reported amount was from each agency?

- Report the agency that was the **original source** of funds, when possible.
- Use rows h–q to list up to 10 other agencies that funded the largest R&D expenditures. Use row r to report any remaining amount.
- See list of federal departments, agencies and subagencies on the web survey.

Funding agency	**R&D expenditures** (Dollars in thousands)
a. Department of Defense	$
b. Department of Energy	$
c. Department of Health and Human Services (including the National Institutes of Health)	$
d. Department of Homeland Security	$
e. Department of Transportation	$
f. National Aeronautics and Space Administration	$
g. National Science Foundation	$
h.	$
i.	$
j.	$
k.	$
l.	$

m. $

n. $

o. $

p. $

q. $

r. Other agencies not listed above $

s. **Total**
Should match Question 1, row a $

3. Types of R&D: Basic research, applied research, and experimental development

Question 3. What amounts of your FY 2026 R&D expenditures were for basic research, applied research, and experimental development?

- If possible, these categories defining the type of R&D should be coded at the individual project level by the principal investigator or project director. Estimates are acceptable if necessary.
- See examples of each type of research on the web survey.

Type of research	R&D expenditures (Dollars in thousands) (1) Federal	(2) Nonfederal	(3) Total
a. Basic research Experimental or theoretical work undertaken primarily to acquire new knowledge of the underlying foundations of phenomena and observable facts, without any particular application or use in view.	$	$	$
b. Applied research Original investigation undertaken in order to acquire new knowledge. It is directed primarily towards a specific, practical aim or objective.	$	$	$
c. Experimental development Systematic work, drawing on knowledge gained from research and practical experience and producing additional knowledge, which is directed to producing new products or processes or to improving existing products or processes.	$	$	$
d. Total Column 1 total should match Question 1, row a. Column 3 total should match Question 1, row f.	$	$	$

4. Cost elements of R&D

Question 4. Of the total R&D expenditures reported in Question 1, what were the amounts for the following types of costs?

- Please report only **direct costs** in rows a–e. Indirect costs should be reported in row f.

Types of costs	R&D expenditures (Dollars in thousands)
a. Salaries, wages, and fringe benefits Include compensation for all R&D personnel whether full-time or part-time, temporary or permanent. Include salaries, wages, and fringe benefits paid from internal funds and from external support.	$
b. Software purchases All payments for software. Include both purchases of software packages and license fees for systems.	$
c. Equipment Payments for movable equipment. Include ancillary costs such as delivery and setup.	$
d. Subcontracts Payments to subcontractors or subrecipients for services on R&D projects.	$
e. Other direct costs Other costs that do not fit into one of the above categories, including (but not limited to) travel, computer usage fees, and supplies.	$
f. Indirect costs Include all indirect costs (overhead) associated with R&D projects.	$
g. Total Should match Question 1, row f	$

5. Operating budget

Question 5. What was the total executed operating budget of your FFRDC in FY 2026, excluding capital construction costs?

	(Dollars in thousands)
Total operating budget	$

6. FTEs and headcount by R&D function

Question 6. How many full-time equivalents (FTEs) worked in the functions listed below throughout FY 2026, and how many personnel (headcount) are included in that calculation?

- **Functions** are defined primarily by the nature of the employee's work, not the employee's level of education.
- Exclude personnel that would be considered indirect research support such as research administration and other personnel *who were not paid for work on specific research projects*.
- Exclude subcontractors.
- Include all personnel paid from R&D accounts during the fiscal year in FTEs and headcount regardless of how much they were paid, how much time they spent on the project, or their current employment status.
- **FTEs** are calculated as the total working effort **spent on research** during your fiscal year divided by the total effort representing one full-time schedule within the same period.
- An individual cannot be more than 1.0 FTE. If an individual exceeds 1.0 research FTE based on your standard calculations, adjust down to 1.0.
- **Headcount:** include each person only once. If they performed work in two roles (e.g., researcher and technician), include them in the headcount for their predominant role. We expect headcount to be larger than FTE.
- See examples of FTE calculations and detailed descriptions of each R&D function on the web survey.

	(a) Researchers	(b) R&D technicians	(c) R&D support staff	(d) Total
a. Full-time equivalents (FTEs) (round to 1 decimal place)				
b. Headcount				

7. Fiscal year

Question 7. In what month did your organization's 2026 fiscal year end?

Select Month