BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES: AN INVESTMENT IN AMERICA’S FUTURE

Government investment in scientific research and development fuels innovation, creates jobs, and grows the economy.

BIOLOGICAL RESEARCH IS ESSENTIAL

Biological research funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF) and other federal agencies promotes national security and public well-being by solving pressing challenges, such as improving food security, combating new diseases, and wisely managing natural resources. This federal support helps the U.S. attract and educate the next generation of scientists. Students learn research skills that prepare them for the jobs of today and tomorrow.

NSF’s Biological Sciences Directorate provides about 67% of federal grant support for non-medical, fundamental biological research conducted at our universities and nonprofit research centers.

MEETING SOCIETY’S NEEDS

Research increases our understanding of the living world and provides solutions to important problems.

- Improving human health with individualized and predictive medicine.
- Predicting, mitigating, and preparing for the impacts of environmental changes.
- Sustaining biodiversity and healthy ecosystems that underpin the livelihoods of communities.
- Increasing food security by developing crops that grow in changing environments.
- Developing new tools to stimulate development of new research fields.
- Fueling the economy by improving the sustainability of domestic energy sources.
Funding for NSF's Biological Sciences Directorate (BIO) has not kept pace with the demand for research grants. Despite the large number of highly competitive and potentially transformative grant proposals submitted to BIO, **64% of applications were rejected in 2020**.

Research programs that support fundamental biological research have very low funding rates. Roughly **one in five** research proposals are funded by the National Institutes of Health and USDA’s Agriculture and Food Research Initiative.

**New investments are required to ensure that our nation is positioned to be a global leader in science and innovation. Please ensure that federal investments in the biological sciences continue to grow.**