

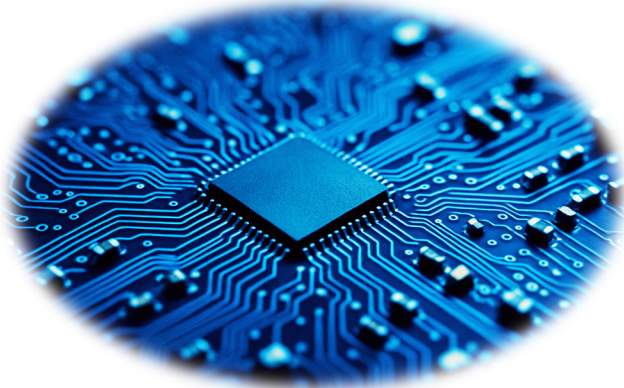
Protect the Nation's Research Enterprise

What's at Stake?

Proposed cuts to the Fiscal Year 2026 budget threaten U.S. computing and IT research, particularly at the **National Science Foundation (NSF)**, which funds 80% of fundamental computer science at US universities and faces a proposed **56% funding cut**. This would jeopardize the nation's technological leadership and innovation.

Key concerns:

- **Eroding U.S. Global Competitiveness:** China's R&D investment is growing twice as fast as the U.S. These cuts could cause the U.S. to fall behind in critical fields like AI, quantum computing, and robotics, leading to a loss of future economic benefits.
- **Disrupting the CS Talent Pipeline:** Federal funding supports the students and researchers who will become the future leaders and innovators in the tech industry. Cutting this funding would weaken the system that trains future tech talent, with consequences that could last for decades.
- **Undercutting Private-Sector Innovation:** Federal research funding has a significant return on investment, estimated at 150% to 300%. This small investment of approximately \$10 billion annually supports a tech sector that contributes over \$2 trillion to the U.S. GDP. Cutting this funding undermines the foundational research that drives private-sector growth and innovation.



What Can Be Done?

To combat the threats to U.S. computing and IT research, the following actions are necessary:

Increase Funding for Federal Research Agencies

- **Fund the NSF at the highest level possible.** Specifically, support the **Senate's proposed \$9.0 billion** for the National Science Foundation in the Fiscal Year 2026 budget and reject the Administration's cuts.
- Extend this support to other key federal research agencies, including the **DOE's Office of Science, NIST, NASA, and the DOD Research accounts**, which also conduct vital research in these fields and face long-term budget concerns.

Protect the Research Enterprise from Harmful Actions

- **Prevent the elimination of scientific advisory committees.** These committees are crucial for providing expert guidance and linking federal agencies with the research community at a minimal cost to taxpayers.
- **Reject capping facilities and administration reimbursement rates.** These caps on indirect costs would effectively be a cut to legitimate research expenses, making federally supported research too costly for institutions to perform.
- **Avoid reducing or laying off the scientific workforce.** Cuts to the federal scientific workforce would undermine the entire research enterprise, risking U.S. global leadership in technology and hindering our ability to address national challenges.