



National Science
Foundation
Office of Inspector General
Strategic Plan
FY 2022 – FY 2026

September 2021

AT A GLANCE

National Science Foundation Office of Inspector General
Strategic Plan Fiscal Years 2022 – 2026
September 2021

Mission

To provide independent oversight of the National Science Foundation to improve the effectiveness, efficiency, and economy of its programs and operations and to prevent and detect fraud, waste, and abuse.

Vision

To be a highly effective and trusted organization that promotes positive change while addressing the concerns of our stakeholders, including NSF, the NSB, Congress, research communities, and the public.

Values

Integrity

**Objectivity &
Independence**

**Innovation &
Flexibility**

**Collaboration &
Teamwork**

**Diversity &
Inclusion**

Goals

- 1. Make a Difference:** Deliver high-impact results that promote agency excellence.
- 2. Work in Partnership:** Optimize external stakeholder engagement.
- 3. Foster Great Teamwork:** Promote a diverse, skilled, and engaged workforce and cultivate an inclusive, collaborative environment.
- 4. Continuously Improve Operations:** Advance organizational effectiveness and model a culture of continuous improvement.



About the Office of Inspector General

The National Science Foundation Office of Inspector General is an independent and objective oversight authority established in 1989, in compliance with the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended. The Inspector General reports directly to the National Science Board and Congress.

We provide independent oversight by conducting audits, investigations, and other reviews of NSF's programs and operations.

- We share our findings and make recommendations to improve effectiveness, efficiency, and economy.
- We prevent and detect fraud, waste, abuse, and whistleblower reprisal within NSF or by individuals who receive NSF funding.
- We investigate allegations of research misconduct.
- We keep NSF, the National Science Board (NSB), and Congress fully informed of our findings and recommendations, as well as the agency's progress in implementing corrective action.

About This Plan

Our *Strategic Plan for FY 2022 – FY 2026* provides an overview of our organizational goals and objectives for the next 5 years.

Mission, Vision, and Values

Mission

To provide independent oversight of the National Science Foundation to improve the effectiveness, efficiency, and economy of its programs and operations and to prevent and detect fraud, waste, and abuse.

Vision

To be a highly effective and trusted organization that promotes positive change while addressing the concerns of our stakeholders, including NSF, the NSB, Congress, research communities, and the public.

Values

Integrity: We hold ourselves and each other to the highest ethical standards and take responsibility for the quality of the work we perform. We are committed to achieving excellence in everything we do.

Objectivity and Independence: We conduct our work based on supportable facts without bias or undue influence. We follow accepted technical and ethical standards of our disciplines and present our results accurately and objectively.

Innovation and Flexibility: We think creatively, adopt new ways of addressing issues tailored to unique circumstances, take reasonable risks in resolving problems, and build on successful processes to make them better. We strive to anticipate changing conditions and adjust our priorities and work methods to accommodate opportunities and obstacles.

Collaboration and Teamwork: Our success lies in working together; fostering a mutually supportive environment; and affording each team member the opportunity to contribute, learn, develop, and grow.

Diversity and Inclusion: We are committed to diversity and inclusion in our workforce, our products, and our practices. We treat each other and stakeholders with consideration, professionalism, and dignity.

Goals and Objectives

Goal 1. Make a Difference: Deliver high-impact results that promote agency excellence.

We conduct audits, investigations, and other reviews of NSF programs and operations to promote their improvement and to detect and prevent fraud, waste, and abuse within NSF or by recipients of NSF funding.

Objectives

- Focus on critical agency risks, programs, and operations as well as stakeholder concerns.
- Produce high-impact, timely products and services.
- Collaborate within OIG during the planning and delivery of products and services.
- Continually support innovation in OIG products and services.

Goal 2. Work in Partnership: Optimize external stakeholder engagement.

We have various stakeholders, including NSF; the NSB; the research community; Congress; and, ultimately, the public. To effectively engage our stakeholders, we must successfully communicate our mission, consider their concerns and input, and timely and effectively share our results.

Objectives

- Raise awareness of OIG.
- Increase understanding of OIG's role, value, and impact.
- Ensure effective communication with stakeholders.
- Use stakeholder feedback to enhance OIG products and services.

Goal 3. Foster Great Teamwork: Promote a diverse, skilled, and engaged workforce and cultivate an inclusive, collaborative environment.

We value and include perspectives from a diverse group of employees and encourage divergent viewpoints. Giving staff opportunities to learn, grow, and lead is essential to fostering employee engagement and increasing organizational performance.

Objectives

- Provide continuous learning, professional development, and leadership opportunities.
- Increase collaboration and knowledge sharing across OIG.
- Recruit, develop, and retain employees of diverse backgrounds and perspectives.
- Encourage divergent views and improve the transparency of internal decisions and communications.

Goal 4. Continuously Improve Operations: Advance organizational effectiveness and model a culture of continuous improvement.

As an OIG — which assesses how well agency programs and operations function — it is especially critical that we operate as effectively and efficiently as possible and aim to continuously improve.

Objectives

- Enhance prioritization of work activities and available resources.
- Improve the availability, integration, and use of technology.
- Develop and implement a strategy to effectively integrate a flexible work environment.
- Streamline and improve OIG processes.

Connect with Us

Visit our website at <http://www.oig.nsf.gov>. Contact us at OIGpublicaffairs@nsf.gov or 703.292.7100. Follow us on [Twitter](#) at @nsfoig.

Report Fraud, Waste, Abuse, or Whistleblower Reprisal

- File an online report: oig.nsf.gov/contact/hotline
- Anonymous Hotline: 1.800.428.2189
- Mail: 2415 Eisenhower Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22314 ATTN: OIG HOTLINE