# Office of Audits, Inspections, and Evaluations Fiscal Year 2025 Oversight Plan





## At a Glance

Office of Audits, Inspections, and Evaluations FY 2025 Oversight Plan November 21, 2024

#### WHY WE CREATED THIS OVERSIGHT PLAN

We provide independent, objective assessments of NSF's programs and operations and the awards and agreements it funds. By statute, we are required to conduct specific audits and reviews. We also identify discretionary projects through our annual planning process. This plan lists our ongoing and planned engagements and areas we are monitoring in FY 2025. We may change the plan to address higher-priority issues that arise or to respond to congressional requests.

## **REQUIRED PROJECTS**

- Audits of NSF's Financial Statements
- Audit of Compliance with the Federal Information Security Modernization Act of 2014
- Review of Compliance with the Payment Integrity Information Act of 2019
- Purchase Card Risk Assessment
- Risk Assessment of NSB's Compliance with the Sunshine Act

## **DISCRETIONARY PROJECTS**

- Audits of Subaward Management and Spending (Ongoing)
- Audits of NSF Award Recipients (Ongoing and Planned)
- Evaluation of NSF's Antarctic Occupational Safety and Health Program (Ongoing)
- Assessment of NSF's Compliance with OMB M 22-09, *Moving the U.S. Government toward Zero-Trust Cybersecurity Principles* (Ongoing)
- Review of NSF's Use of Non-Federal Employees in Supervisory Positions (Ongoing)
- Review of NSF Recipient Compliance with NSF Harassment Terms and Conditions (Ongoing)
- Reviews of the Quality of Single Audits (Ongoing and planned)
- Audit of USAP Vehicle Fleet Maintenance, Facilities Maintenance, and Antarctic Infrastructure Modernization for Science Construction Project (Ongoing)
- Audits of NSF's and Award Recipient Compliance with Research Security Requirements (Ongoing)
- Audit of NSF's Process for Vetting Staff and Contractors (Planned)
- Audit of Antarctic Support Contract Surveillance (Planned)
- Audit of Major Facilities Managed by NSF's Division of Astronomical Sciences (Planned)
- Audit of NSF's Oversight of the Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program (Planned)
- Inspection of the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research Aviation Safety Environment (Planned)
- Evaluation of NSF's Cloud Security Controls (Planned)
- Review of the National Artificial Intelligence Research Resource Program (Planned)

#### **AREAS WE ARE MONITORING**

- Procurement of the Antarctic Science and Engineering Support Contract
- Oversight of NSF's Technology, Innovation and Partnerships Directorate and its Emerging Programs

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## **Abbreviations**

AD administratively determined

AIMS Antarctic Infrastructure Modernization for Science

ARF Academic Research Fleet
ASC Antarctic Support Contract

COR Contracting Officer's Representatives

FedRAMP Federal Risk and Authorization Management Program FISMA Federal Information Security Modernization Act of 2014

FY fiscal year

IT information technology

IUCRCIndustry-University Cooperative Research CenterNoyceRobert Noyce Teacher Scholarship ProgramNCARNational Center for Atmospheric Research

NSF Engines Regional Innovation Engines

NSPM-33 National Security Presidential Memorandum 33

OMB Office of Management and Budget

PAPPG Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide

PIIA Payment Integrity Information Act of 2019
TIP Technology, Innovation and Partnerships

USAP United States Antarctic Program

## **About This Plan**

The *Inspector General Act of 1978* (5 USC 401-24) authorizes an Office of Inspector General for the National Science Foundation. As part of our oversight mission, our Office of Audits, Inspections, and Evaluations provides independent and objective assessments of NSF's programs and operations and examines grants, contracts, and cooperative agreements funded by NSF. We issue reports and other products that explain why we conducted the review, what we found, and what specific actions we recommend NSF take when applicable. We monitor recommendations and the completion of corrective actions until they are fully implemented.

By statute, we are required to conduct multiple projects annually, such as an audit of NSF's financial statements. In addition to this mandatory work, our annual planning process aims to identify the most relevant and value-added projects to prompt positive change within NSF and among recipients of the awards it funds. Our work planning process is dynamic, and we make adjustments throughout the year to meet priorities and respond to emerging issues.

## **How We Plan Our Work**

We assess relative risks in NSF programs and operations to identify areas most in need of oversight work and to set priorities. In evaluating potential projects, we consider many factors, including:

- mandatory requirements for OIG audits and engagements, as set forth in laws, regulations, or other directives;
- requests made or concerns raised by Congress or the Office of Management and Budget (OMB);
- the most significant risks to NSF management and performance, including our assessment of the top management challenges facing NSF;
- our prior oversight work, including NSF management's actions to implement our recommendations from previous work;
- input from NSF management and the National Science Board;
- referrals from our Office of Investigations;
- results from our data-driven, risk-based assessment; and
- potential for positive impact.

This work plan lists our ongoing and planned projects for FY 2025, as well as areas we are monitoring; see Table 1. However, we may change the plan to address higher-priority issues that arise or to respond to requests from Congress or other stakeholders.

**Table 1. Overview of Oversight Work for FY 2025** 

Type of Project	Project
Required	Audits of NSF's Financial Statements
Projects	Audit of Compliance with the Federal Information Security Modernization Act of
(Ongoing and	2014
Planned)	Review of Compliance with the <i>Payment Integrity Information Act of 2019</i>
	Purchase Card Risk Assessment
	Risk Assessment of NSB's Compliance with the Sunshine Act
Ongoing	Audits of Subaward Management and Spending
Discretionary	Evaluation of NSF's Antarctic Occupational Safety and Health Program
Projects	Assessment of NSF's Compliance with OMB M 22-09, Moving the U.S. Government
	toward Zero-Trust Cybersecurity Principles
	Review of NSF's Use of Non-Federal Employees in Supervisory Positions
	Review of NSF Recipient Compliance with NSF Harassment Terms and
	Conditions
	Audit of USAP Vehicle Fleet Maintenance, Facilities Maintenance, and Antarctic
	Infrastructure Modernization for Science Construction Project
	Audits of NSF's and Award Recipient Compliance with Research Security
	Requirements
Planned	Audit of NSF's Process for Vetting Staff and Contractors
Discretionary	Audit of Antarctic Support Contract Surveillance
Projects	Audit of Major Facilities Managed by NSF's Division of Astronomical Sciences
	Audit of NSF's Oversight of the Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program
	Audits of NSF Award Recipients
	Inspection of the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research Aviation
	Safety Environment
	Evaluation of NSF's Cloud Security Controls
	Review of the National Artificial Intelligence Research Resource Program
	Reviews of the Quality of Single Audits
Areas We Are	Procurement of the Antarctic Science and Engineering Support Contract
Monitoring	Oversight of NSF's Technology, Innovation and Partnerships Directorate and its Emerging Programs
Course NCE OIC	2

Source: NSF OIG

## **How We Do Our Work**

In April 2024, our Inspector General expanded the mission of the Office of Audits, creating a division to conduct inspections and evaluations and produce agile products. The newly renamed Office of Audits, Inspections, and Evaluations will use these various engagement types to conduct work depending on what statutes require or which standards best fit the project's objectives. We will also conduct reviews, which are limited scope engagements that result in faster completion times compared to audits, inspections, or evaluations. Through our various

work products, we will continue to identify value-added recommendations that further our ability to promote the efficiency, effectiveness, and integrity of NSF's programs and operations.

We perform our projects in accordance with applicable standards:

- Our audits are conducted in accordance with *Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards*, produced by the U.S. Government Accountability Office.
- Our inspections and evaluations are conducted in accordance with *Quality Standards for Inspection and Evaluation*, produced by the Council of Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE).
- Our agile engagements and reviews are conducted in accordance with *Quality Standards* for Federal Offices of Inspector General, produced by CIGIE.

We work closely with our Office of Counsel and our Office of Investigations, which addresses allegations of wrongdoing involving organizations or individuals that receive awards from, conduct business with, or work for NSF.

## **Ongoing and Planned Required Projects**

We are required by statute to conduct the following audits and reviews.

#### **Audits of Financial Statements**

NSF is required to prepare annual financial statements, which must be audited by an independent entity. An independent public accounting firm, under a contract with NSF OIG, is auditing NSF's FY 2025 and 2024 comparative financial statements.

## Audit of Compliance with the Federal Information Security Modernization Act of 2014

NSF depends on computerized information systems to process, maintain, and report essential information. The *Federal Information Security Modernization Act of 2014* (FISMA, Pub. L. No. 113-283) requires an annual independent evaluation of NSF's information security program and practices, as well as an assessment of its compliance with FISMA requirements. Under a contract with NSF OIG, an independent public account firm is performing the FY 2024 FISMA audit. We will evaluate the progress and effectiveness of NSF's corrective actions during the FY 2025 FISMA audit.

## Review of Compliance with the Payment Integrity Information Act of 2019

We will assess NSF's compliance with applicable requirements of the *Payment Integrity Information Act of 2019* (PIIA, Pub. L. No. 116-117). We will also evaluate NSF's efforts to prevent and reduce improper payments and unknown payments in compliance with PIIA.

#### **Purchase Card Risk Assessment**

Assessing risks of illegal, improper, or erroneous purchases and payments supports efforts to prevent fraud, waste, and abuse of government-wide purchase card programs. The *Government Charge Card Abuse Prevention Act of 2012* (Pub. L. No. 112-194) requires periodic risk assessments of agency purchase card programs to analyze the risks of illegal, improper, or erroneous purchases. The risk assessment results will be used to determine the scope, frequency, and number of purchase card program audits that need to be conducted.

## Risk Assessment of NSB's Compliance with the Sunshine Act

In 1976, Congress passed the *Government in the Sunshine Act* (Pub. L. No. 94-409), establishing that "the public is entitled to the fullest practicable information regarding the decision-making processes of the Federal Government." The Sunshine Act contains procedural and meeting closure requirements to help ensure transparent deliberations. Compliance with the Act is essential to ensure the public has the opportunity to understand fully the agency's decision-making process. According to the *CHIPS and Science Act of 2022* (CHIPS and Science Act), NSF OIG is required to conduct a triennial risk assessment of the NSB's compliance with the Sunshine Act. Our risk assessment will identify the NSB's risks of noncompliance with the Sunshine Act and determine whether the NSB has adequate controls in place to mitigate those risks. Based on this risk assessment, we will determine whether additional review is warranted.

## **Ongoing Discretionary Projects**

## **Audits of Subaward Management and Spending**

NSF award recipients often enter into agreements with other organizations to conduct portions of an award's objective. These agreements, known as subawards, establish a contractual relationship between the prime recipient and the subrecipient. Prior NSF OIG audits have identified subaward management as a high-risk area susceptible to misspending and noncompliance with federal regulations and NSF terms and conditions.

#### **Evaluation of NSF's Antarctic Occupational Safety and Health Program**

We are evaluating whether NSF complied with occupational safety and health standards and instituted programs to provide safe and healthy working conditions for the USAP. We are also evaluating specific complaints we received related to unsafe working and living conditions in McMurdo Station. The complaints were related to central communications staffing levels, fire department staffing levels, waste facility conditions, aircraft rescue and fire-fighting equipment, dormitory occupancy, and food quality.

# Assessment of NSF's Compliance with OMB M 22-09, Moving the U.S. Government toward Zero-Trust Cybersecurity Principles

On January 26, 2022, OMB issued memorandum M-22-09 to help move the federal government toward zero-trust cybersecurity principles. The memorandum provides a federal zero-trust architecture (ZTA) strategy, requiring agencies to meet specific cybersecurity standards and goals by the end of FY 2024. The memorandum's goals are organized using the zero-trust maturity model developed by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency. The model describes five complementary areas of effort (pillars): Identity, Devices, Networks, Applications and Workloads, and Data; with three themes that cut across these areas: Visibility and Analytics, Automation and Orchestration, and Governance. We are reviewing NSF's implementation plan and progress toward implementing the ZTA strategy, goals, and objectives outlined in M-22-09. We are also evaluating NSF's maturity based on the ZTA maturity model and whether NSF has appropriately prioritized its ZTA efforts.

## Review of NSF's Use of Non-Federal Employees in Supervisory Positions

A defining characteristic of NSF's human capital management strategy is its use of temporary staff, which includes both those brought on through authority provided by the *Intergovernmental Personnel Act*, known as IPAs, and those employed through NSF's Visiting Scientist, Engineer, and Educator (VSEE) program. These individuals — referred to as IPAs or rotators — bring fresh perspectives from all fields of science and engineering to support NSF's mission. NSF assigns some IPA staff, who are not federal employees, as supervisors, including some at the equivalent of a Senior Executive Service position in the federal government. However, in response to a June 2022 U.S. Government Accountability Office report, the U.S. Office of Personnel Management clarified its guidance, which restricts non-federal employees from performing supervisory duties and functions. We are conducting this review to determine the extent to which NSF's workforce management policies comply with federal guidance related to non-federal employees' performance of supervisory duties and functions.

## **Review of NSF Recipient Compliance with NSF Harassment Terms and Conditions**

In FY 2024, we began reviewing NSF award recipients' compliance with NSF's harassment terms and conditions. Effective October 22, 2018, NSF added an award term and condition requiring award recipients to notify the agency "...of any findings/determinations of sexual harassment, other forms of harassment, or sexual assault regarding an NSF-funded PI or co-PI." Recipients must also notify NSF if the PI or co-PI is placed on administrative leave or if the awardee has imposed any administrative action on the PI or any co-PI relating to any finding/determination or an investigation of an alleged violation of awardee policies or codes of conduct, statutes, regulations, or executive orders relating to sexual harassment, other forms of harassment, or sexual assault. Additionally, in August 2023, NSF implemented a Safe and Inclusive Working Environments for Off-Campus or Off-Site Research term and condition appliable to conference

and travel awards. We are reviewing recipients' compliance with applicable harassment terms and conditions at 100 NSF award recipients.

# Audit of USAP Vehicle Fleet Maintenance, Facilities Maintenance, and Antarctic Infrastructure Modernization for Science Construction Project

The U.S. Antarctic Program's (USAP) fleet of vehicles, vessels, and aircraft is essential to the success of the scientific mission in Antarctica. The fleet includes several hundred vehicles, including buses, vans, trucks, heavy equipment, construction equipment, traverses, and cargo handlers. USAP's infrastructure portfolio includes a wide range of facilities at its three permanent stations, which operate in one of the harshest environments on Earth. USAP's largest base, McMurdo Station, is comprised of more than 100 buildings, some of which were built more than 50 years ago. Although NSF develops master plans for the three permanent stations, including infrastructure updates and construction of new facilities, unforeseen delays and changing priorities necessitate additional maintenance for the existing buildings.

The Antarctic Infrastructure Modernization for Science (AIMS) project originally included five new buildings and upgrades to the utility and sewage systems at McMurdo Station. Initiated in 2019, the project faced setbacks during demolition of existing structures and suffered significant impacts due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, NSF prioritized two modules: Lodging and the Vehicle Equipment and Operations Center. Although construction on the Lodging module has resumed, NSF has placed the Vehicle Equipment and Operations Center module on hold. NSF has also experienced difficulties keeping the project on schedule and within budget. In June 2024, the U.S. Government Accountability Office reported that NSF's project management data showed schedule increases for the AIMS project relative to estimates from June 2023, which may also result in cost increases.<sup>1</sup>

The objectives of this audit are to assess the effectiveness of NSF's management of the USAP fleet and facilities maintenance programs and AIMS construction project. We will also follow up on previously identified issues related to vehicle fleet and facilities maintenance at McMurdo Station.

## Audit(s) of NSF's and Award Recipient Compliance with Research Security Requirements

NSF's *Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide* (PAPPG) includes provisions and procedures to comply, in part, with research security requirements established by *National Security Presidential Memorandum 33* (NSPM-33) and the CHIPS and Science Act. NSPM-33 and the CHIPS and Science Act strengthen protections of U.S. government-supported research and development against foreign government interference and misappropriation while maintaining an open environment to foster research discoveries and innovation that benefit our nation and the world. We are conducting one or more audits in which we may evaluate NSF's

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> GAO-24-107044, Five Major Facilities Projects Experienced Delays, June 12, 2024

implementation of NSPM-33, NSF's implementation of the CHIPS and Science Act, NSF's oversight of award recipients' compliance with associated PAPPG requirements, and/or award recipient compliance with other associated research security requirements.

## **Planned Discretionary Projects**

## **Audits**

## **Audit of NSF's Process for Vetting Staff and Contractors**

All new NSF employees, contractors, and temporary appointees are subject to NSF's personnel vetting process. NSF's vetting process includes background investigations to establish whether applicants are suitable or fit for the job. Proper vetting also contributes to the safety and security of NSF personnel, information technology (IT) systems, facilities, and equipment. We previously identified concerns with the vetting processes for individuals assigned to NSF under the Intergovernmental Personnel Act<sup>2</sup> and for contractors working on the USAP.<sup>3</sup> This audit will assess the effectiveness of NSF's process for vetting staff and contractors. We will follow up on those concerns and determine whether vetting issues exist on a larger scale.

## **Audit of Antarctic Support Contract Surveillance**

Contracting Officer's Representatives (CORs) use the quality assurance surveillance plan to assess contractor performance for the Antarctic Support Contract (ASC). CORs are also responsible for ensuring that contractors meet the commitments of their contracts, including the timeliness and delivery of quality goods and services as required by the contract. Although most of the work for the ASC is conducted in Antarctica, the CORs assigned to oversee the contract are not stationed in Antarctica. This audit will assess the effectiveness of the surveillance structure for the ASC.

## Audit of Major Facilities Managed by NSF's Division of Astronomical Sciences

In response to our request for input on the FY 2025 workplan, NSF recommended that we conduct an audit of budget execution for the major facilities managed by NSF's Division of Astronomical Sciences (AST). Specifically, this audit will seek to determine how budgets for major facilities under AST are managed during facility operations and/or evaluate costs claimed by the major facilities, with a focus on unplanned expenses and upward adjustments to prior estimates.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> OIG Report No. 23-2-003, Audit of NSF's Vetting Process for Individuals Assigned Under the Intergovernmental Personnel Act, January 9, 2023

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> OIG Report No. 22-6-004, NSF Vetting of the United States Antarctic Program Contractors, March 18, 2022

## Audit of NSF's Oversight of the Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program

Authorized in 2002, the Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program (Noyce) provides funding to institutions of higher education to provide scholarships, stipends, and programmatic support to address the critical need for recruiting, preparing, and retaining highly effective elementary and secondary mathematics and science teachers in high-need school districts. Noyce scholars and fellows commit to serve as a STEM teacher in a high-need local education agency for a specified number of years. If they leave before completing the program, Noyce scholars and fellows can be required to repay all or a portion of their scholarship, stipend, or fellowship. This audit will determine the sufficiency of NSF's oversight of Noyce awardees to ensure the program's success, including increasing STEM teachers in high-need local education agencies.

## **Audits of NSF Award Recipients**

We will continue to audit NSF award recipients at various universities, non-profits, and for-profit entities to detect improper spending or noncompliance with federal and NSF requirements. These audits may focus on areas such as internal controls, accounting systems, or incurred costs.

## **Inspections and Evaluations**

## Inspection of the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research Aviation Safety Environment

The University Corporation for Atmospheric Research (UCAR) is a nonprofit consortium of more than 120 North American colleges and universities that manages the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) on behalf of NSF. As part of NCAR, the Earth Observing Laboratory is an end-to-end observational enterprise dedicated to facilitating research of the Earth's atmosphere. One way that the laboratory facilitates this research is by offering observational platforms, such as aircraft, for deployment in support of research programs. Its Research Aviation Facility, located at the Rocky Mountain Metropolitan Airport in Broomfield, Colorado, houses and manages two research aircraft. The aircraft, which have been highly modified for research, are owned by NSF and operated by UCAR. The objective of our inspection is to assess how effectively UCAR ensures the safety of its aviation operations, including the safety of the NSF aircraft, employees, contractors, the public, and scientific community.

#### **Evaluation of NSF's Cloud Security Controls**

Cloud computing is internet-based computing where shared resources, software, and information are available to users "on-demand." NSF uses cloud-based services as the primary platform for its staff and contractors to communicate, collaborate, and store data. Cloud products and services must be certified through the Federal Risk and Authorization Management Program (FedRAMP). This program provides a government-wide, standardized

approach to security assessment, authorization, and continuous monitoring for cloud products and services. Cloud service providers must undergo continuous monitoring to maintain the FedRAMP certification, and NSF is required to address any risks and vulnerabilities that occur during use. Ultimately, NSF is responsible for ensuring its cloud services security settings are appropriately configured for the agency and monitoring NSF staff use of the cloud services. This evaluation will determine whether NSF has the appropriate level of security controls for its cloud-based services and applications to protect its data from unauthorized access, and if NSF has the appropriate level of security controls for its cloud-based services and applications to protect data from unauthorized access.

## **Reviews**

## Review of the National Artificial Intelligence Research Resource Program

The National Artificial Intelligence Research Resource program aims to facilitate a shared national research infrastructure for responsible discovery and innovation in artificial intelligence. The program is currently in the pilot phase and seeks to bring together computational, data, software, model, training, and user support resources. NSF leads the pilot in partnership with 12 other federal agencies and 26 non-governmental partners. The objective of our review is to determine if NSF has sufficient policies and procedures in place to manage the program's public-private partnerships, conduct oversight of the program's awards, and ensure awardees can meet program objectives.

## **Reviews of the Quality of Single Audits**

Award recipients that spend \$1 million or more of federal funds in a year<sup>4</sup> must obtain a single audit, which is an important oversight tool for federal funding agencies and pass-through entities. We will continue to review the quality of single audits of NSF award recipients for which NSF has audit cognizance or oversight — defined generally as those institutions that receive the majority of their federal funding from NSF. We will also review other award recipients when we have concerns about the NSF-related information in their single audit reports. Our reviews assess whether the audits followed federal requirements and professional audit standards. In FY 2025, we plan to conduct desk reviews of approximately 90 single audit reporting packages and quality control reviews of the work performed for two single audits.

## **Areas We Are Monitoring**

#### **Procurement of the Antarctic Science and Engineering Support Contract**

NSF primarily manages logistical and operational support for the USAP through the ASC. The ASC, which was recently extended through September 2026, is NSF's largest and most visible

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> The single audit threshold increased from \$750,000 to \$1 million for periods beginning on or after October 1, 2024.

contract, with a total obligated amount of more than \$2.6 billion, including funding for AIMS, and a period of performance of nearly 15 years. NSF is procuring the next USAP support contract, to be known as the Antarctic Science and Engineering Support Contract (ASESC), and intends the ASESC to be a single award, indefinite delivery, indefinite quantity (IDIQ) hybrid contract. NSF anticipates a 20-year contract with an \$8 billion ceiling. In FY 2025, we will monitor the procurement process for the new contract and may issue ad hoc notification memoranda during the year to alert NSF to concerns as they arise.

# Oversight of NSF's Technology, Innovation and Partnerships Directorate and its Emerging Programs

On March 16, 2022, NSF announced the creation of the Technology, Innovation and Partnerships (TIP) directorate to support use-inspired research and development, to bring new technologies to market rapidly, and to address major economic and social challenges. The CHIPS and Science Act, which formally authorized the directorate, authorized TIP's annual budget for up to \$4.1 billion by FY 2027. In FY 2025, we will monitor the directorate as it addresses the practical, logistical, and personnel challenges of establishing a new directorate, absorbing established programs, and creating controls over and managing its developing portfolio.

Specifically, we will continue to monitor NSF's flagship Regional Innovation Engines program (NSF Engines). NSF's Engines program aims to support multiple regional innovation ecosystems across the US to spur economic growth. The NSF Engines program makes awards in two categories: NSF Engines development awards (Type 1) and NSF Engines awards (Type 2). In FY 2024, NSF funded 44 Type 1 Engines development awards. NSF also awarded 10 Type 2 Engines awards, worth \$15 million each over the next 2 years, with the potential to receive up to \$160 million for up to 10 years. In late FY 2024, NSF began the preliminary solicitation process to award the next round of Type 2 Engines awards. In FY 2025 we will continue to monitor the development and evolution of the NSF Engines program.

## **About Us**

NSF OIG was established in 1989, in compliance with the *Inspector General Act of 1978* (5 USC 401-24). Our mission is to provide independent oversight of NSF to improve the effectiveness, efficiency, and economy of its programs and operations and to prevent and detect fraud, waste, and abuse.

## **Contact Us**

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## Report Fraud, Waste, or Abuse

Report violations of laws, rules, or regulations; mismanagement; and research misconduct involving NSF operations or programs via our Hotline:

• File online report: <a href="mailto:oig.nsf.gov/contact/hotline">oig.nsf.gov/contact/hotline</a>

Anonymous Hotline: 1-800-428-2189

• Mail: 2415 Eisenhower Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22314 ATTN: OIG HOTLINE

Have a question about reporting fraud, waste, or abuse? Email OIG@nsf.gov.

## **Whistleblower Retaliation Information**

All NSF employees, contractors, subcontractors, awardees, and subawardees are protected from retaliation for making a protected disclosure. If you believe you have been subject to retaliation for protected whistleblowing, or for additional information on whistleblower protections, please visit oig.nsf.gov/whistleblower.