

Understanding the Federal Budget & Enhancing Competitiveness

A Perspective from the SUNY Washington, D.C. Office

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How to Get Your Proposal Funded



THE RESEARCH FOUNDATION
The State University of New York

SUNY Federal Relations & The Washington, D.C. Office

- Work directly with campus federal relations representatives
- Work directly with SUNY System Administration
- Communicate with members of Congress and their staff
- Collaborate with others in higher education
- Assist, as appropriate, in building relationships with federal agencies



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Select Federal Research Policy Concerns

- Funding (NIH, NSF, DOD, NASA, DOE, DHS, NOAA, USDA etc.)
- Indirect Costs
- Human Subjects, Use of Animals
- Conflict of Interest
- Technology Transfer/Patent Reform
- Export Controls



Presentation Overview

- Current Status Federal Research Funding
- Advocacy for Federal Research Funding
- Understanding and Participating in the Competitive Process



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The Federal Budget Process

- President releases budget request by first Monday in February.
- This year, FY 2009 the request was for \$3.1 trillion budget.
- More than 60% goes to mandatory programs and interest payments.
- However, the largest single discretionary mission remains national defense and security:
 - \$1.212 trillion for Total Discretionary Spending
 - \$730 billion for Defense & Security Discretionary Spending
 - \$482 billion for Non-Defense Discretionary Spending

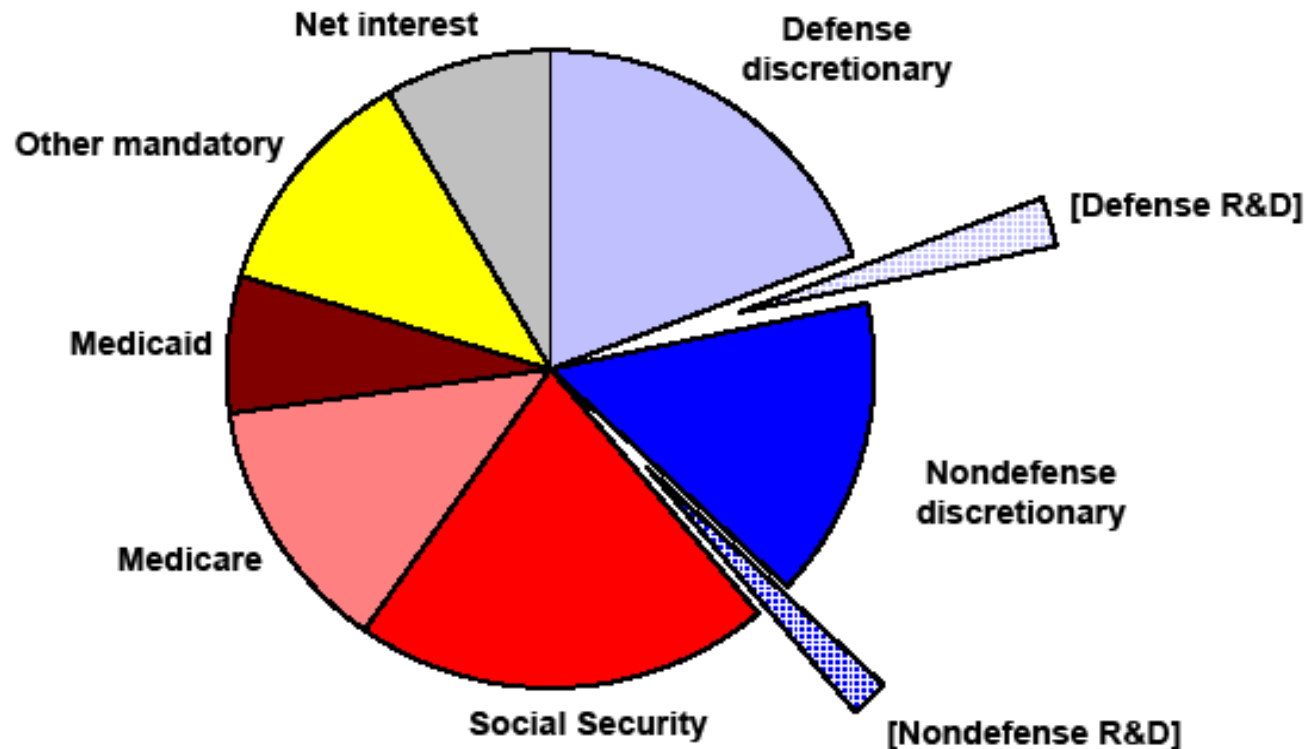


\$482 Billion for Non-Defense “Discretionary” Spending

- Except for DOD S&T, funding for research agencies comes out of this discretionary pool...as does funding for education, health, veterans, national parks, etc.
- The Bush Administration is committed to restraining growth in domestic discretionary spending—and reigning in earmarks.
- R&D is a significant but declining part of the federal budget. R&D has declined as a proportion of the total budget as the discretionary share of the budget has declined.

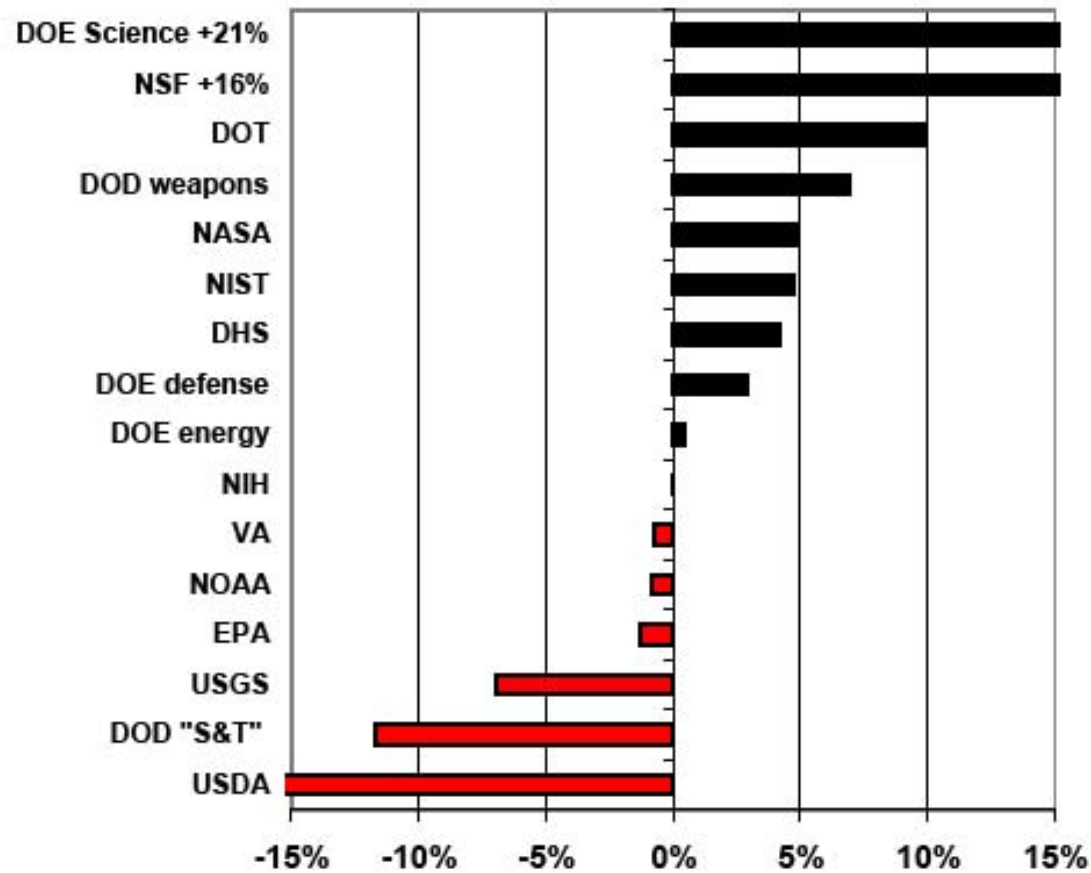


Composition of the Proposed FY 2009 Budget Total Outlays = \$3.1 trillion



Note: Projected Unified deficit is \$407 billion.
Figures exclude most Iraq and Afghanistan military costs.
Source: AAAS, based on *Budget of the United States Government FY 2009*.
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FY 2009 R&D Request Percent Change from FY 2008

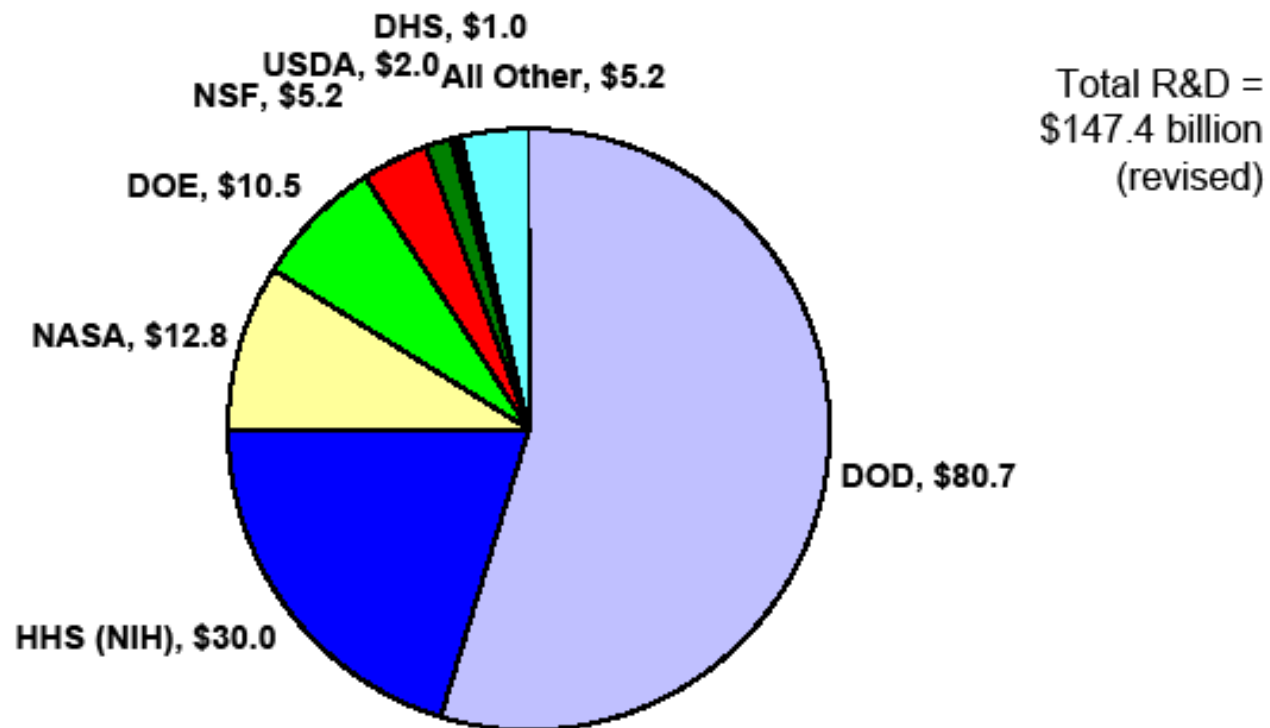


Source: AAAS, based on OMB R&D data and agency estimates for FY 2009.
 DOD "S&T" = DOD R&D in "6.1" through "6.3" categories plus medical research.
 DOD weapons = DOD R&D in "6.4" and higher categories.
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Total R&D by Agency: FY 2009 Proposed

Budget Authority in billions of dollars



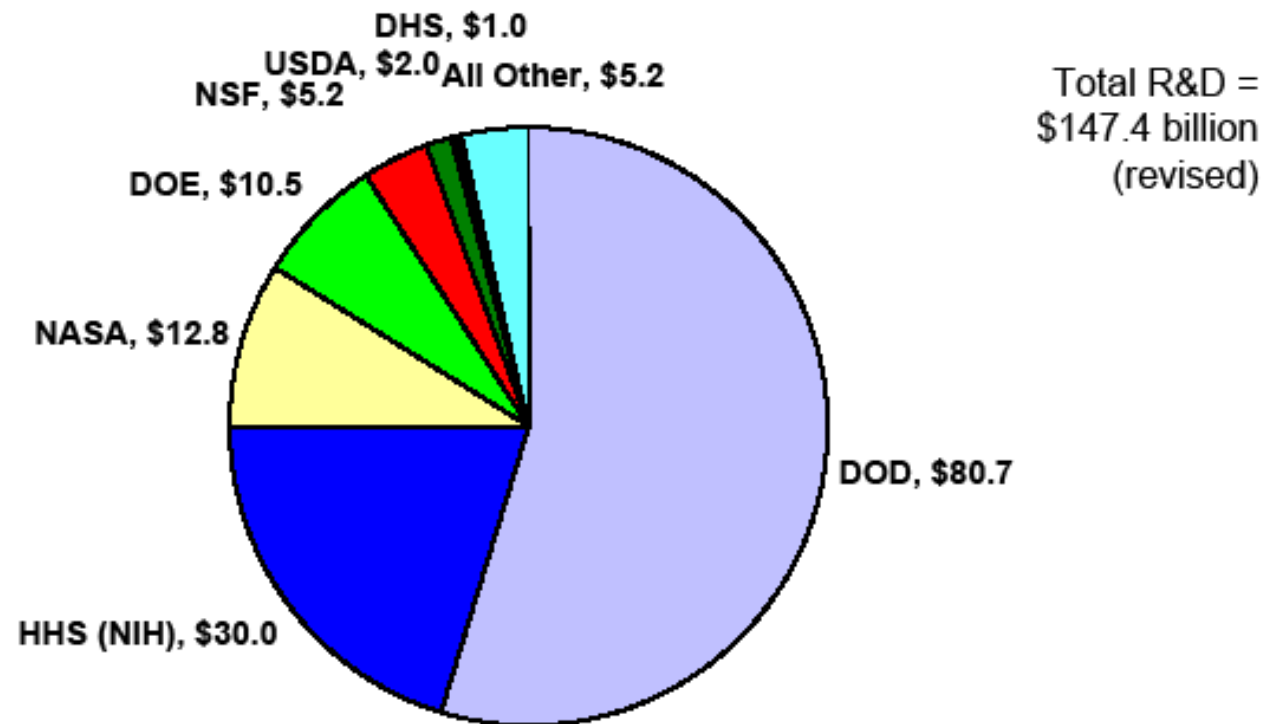
Source: AAAS, based on OMB R&D Budget Data and agency estimates for FY 2009.

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Total R&D by Agency: FY 2009 Proposed

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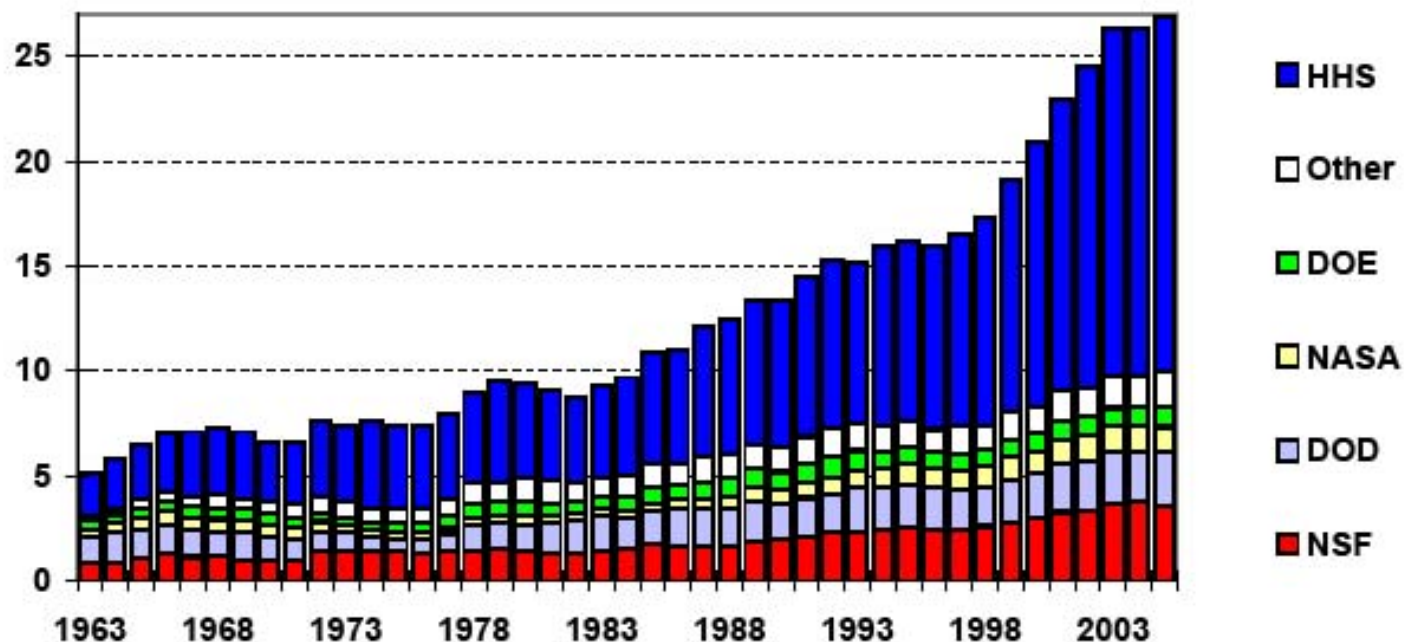
How does Congress learn that these programs are important?

- Colleges & Universities
- Higher Education Associations
- Scientific & Professional Societies
- Ad Hoc Coalitions and Organizations
 - e.g. Energy Sciences Coalition, Coalition for National Science Funding and more
- Letters, briefings, events, campus visits, media, op-eds, constituent visits



Federal R&D Funding to Colleges and Universities FY 1963-2005

Obligations by agency in billions of constant FY 2007 \$



Source: AAAS, based on NSF, *Federal Science and Engineering Support to Universities, Colleges, and Nonprofit Institutions, FY 2005, 2007.*

R&D includes research, development, and R&D facilities support. Constant-dollar conversions based on OMB's GDP deflators.

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American Competitiveness Initiative

- Announced February 2006...also moving at the time, “America COMPETES Act” and “Rising Above the Gathering Storm”
- ACI would double, over 10 years, funding for the National Science Foundation (NSF), the Department of Energy’s (DOE) Office of Science, and the National Institute for Standards and Technology (NIST)
- FY 2008...last-minute negotiations between Congress and the White House over the final FY08 omnibus appropriations bill left funding for these three agencies essentially flat



S&T in the 2008 Presidential Election

<http://election2008.aaas.org/>

- AAAS and others raising candidates' attention to S&T as it relates to national security, climate change, stem cell research, education, science & engineering workforce, adult scientific literacy, space exploration, enhanced humanity
- No matter who is elected, investment priorities will change under a new administration.



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How do I get a piece of the very competitive pie?

Faculty, Scientists & Investigators

- Do not be afraid to call a program officer
- Attend workshops & symposiums
- Volunteer as a peer reviewer
- Join a national advisory board
- Be involved with your scientific societies
- Share your success stories...with colleagues, and with university/college public relations officials



Comments from Proposal Reviewers...

- Understand the Intellectual Merit Criteria
- Understand the Broader Impact—what are the benefits to society?
- (Original) letters of support*
- Don't assume your past accomplishments are well-known
- Follow instructions (deadlines, page limits, etc.)



How do I get a piece of the very competitive pie? (continued)

Administrators, Deans, Department Heads:

- Travel to Washington or other agency offices to learn the “latest and greatest”...share information with colleagues.
- Invite federal agency officials and program officers to campus.
- Host meetings of national advisory groups, workshops, symposiums on your campus
- Encourage or develop mentoring programs
- Promote research/grant accomplishments



Additional Resources

- Grants.gov
- InfoEd/SPIN and other services
- Federal Grants & Contracts Weekly
- AASCU Grants Resource Center



Contributing Role of the Washington, D.C. Office

- Assist in organizing “workshops”
 - NSF Workshop at Binghamton University (1/2009)
- Assist in identifying contacts in federal agencies
- Additional efforts TBD...



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