



FOIA Requests <foia@democracyforward.org>

RE: [EXTERNAL] - Re: 2025-APP-00013 FOIA Appeal

1 message

Westmoreland, Megan A. <mwestmor@nsf.gov>
To: FOIA Requests <foia@democracyforward.org>
Cc: NSF FOIA <foia@nsf.gov>

Wed, Aug 12, 2026 at 9:57 AM

Good morning,

On December 23, 2025, NSF sent you an adjudication of your FOIA appeal and an initial release of documents. The remaining documents required consultation with other agencies. That consultation process is now complete, and we have attached a final release of documents. Please see the attached letter and production.

Sincerely,

Megan Westmoreland

Megan Westmoreland

Assistant General Counsel

Office of the General Counsel

Phone: 703-512-6668

From: FOIA Requests <foia@democracyforward.org>
Sent: Tuesday, December 23, 2025 4:11 PM
To: Westmoreland, Megan A. <mwestmor@nsf.gov>
Cc: NSF FOIA <foia@nsf.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] - Re: 2025-APP-00013 FOIA Appeal

This email originated from outside of the National Science Foundation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Thank you for sending this interim release. We look forward to receiving the rest of the responsive documents following consultation.

Sincerely,

Democracy Forward Foundation

On Tue, Dec 23, 2025 at 12:28 PM Westmoreland, Megan A. <mwestmor@nsf.gov> wrote:

Good afternoon, Ms. Perryman:

Attached please find the adjudication of your FOIA appeal from the NSF General Counsel along with an interim release of responsive records.

Respectfully,

Megan Westmoreland

Megan Westmoreland

Assistant General Counsel

Phone: 703-512-6668



U.S. National
Science Foundation

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From: Christian, Spencer D. <schristi@nsf.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, September 3, 2025 2:46 PM

To: foia@democracyforward.org

Subject: 2025-APP-00013 FOIA Appeal

Good Afternoon Ms. Perryman,

Your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) appeal has been logged in as FOIA appeal **2025-APP-00013**. Please reference this number in all communications regarding this request.

NSF is endeavoring to complete the adjudication of your request to appeal the adequacy of the search.

Information pertaining to the FOIA and the NSF's policies concerning records requests is available on the NSF web site <https://www.nsf.gov/policies/foia.jsp>.

If you have any additional questions about your request, please contact foia@nsf.gov.

Regards,

Spencer Christian

FOIA Officer

Office of the General Counsel

Office: 703-292-7711

U.S. NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

2415 Eisenhower Ave, Alexandria, VA 22314, USA



U.S. National
Science Foundation

2 attachments



NSF_OGC_FOIA Appeal_2025_APP_00013_adjudication letter_final release_FINAL.pdf
235K



Appeal 2025_APP_00013_final release_Redacted.pdf
1751K



National Science Foundation
Office of The General Counsel

Via email

Skye Perryman
President & CEO, Democracy Forward Foundation
P.O. Box 34553
Washington, D.C. 20043
foia@democracyforward.org

Re: FOIA Appeal 2025-APP-00013 (FOIA Request No. 2025-FOI-00309)

Dear Ms. Perryman:

This is the final release of documents in response to your FOIA appeal of September 2, 2025. On December 23, 2025, NSF responded to your FOIA appeal, in which you appealed the National Science Foundation (NSF) response to a July 2, 2025, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request. NSF stated that your appeal was granted. Your initial request had four parts, and although NSF found no records responsive to parts 1-3 of your request, we located records responsive to part 4. In its December 23, 2025 response, NSF provided an interim release of documents. We also stated that there were additional pages of records on which NSF was seeking consultation from other agencies, and that NSF would provide a final release upon the conclusion of the consultations.

The consultation process is now complete, and NSF is providing this final release of documents responsive to your request. This release includes redactions pursuant to FOIA Exemptions 5 and 6.

The Exemption 5 redactions are for deliberative and predecisional information, including requests for internal opinions from agency staff and non-final lists of awards that were presented to agency decision-makers for potential termination where there was additional deliberation before NSF made a final decision regarding termination. Additionally, some Exemption 5 redactions are applied to protect attorney-client privileged information, where the agency is seeking legal advice from agency lawyers. Release of this information would cause foreseeable harm to internal agency discussions between staff and managers as well as between the agency and agency lawyers, which would inhibit frank discussion and opinions and impair agency decision-making. In addition, public release of non-final lists of awards for potential termination would mislead the public as to what awards were terminated and the reasons for the agency's decision regarding the final terminations.

The Exemption 6 redactions are for direct contact information of NSF staff as well as certain personally identifiable information (PII) of employees of other agencies and of other individuals. To the extent that NSF is withholding contact information or other PII within these records, it has been determined that the individuals have substantial and legitimate privacy interests and that these interests are not outweighed by any public interest in the operations of the government. Public release of this information would foreseeably result in harassment, and NSF finds that disclosure would harm a privacy interest protected by Exemption 6.

Conclusion

This response to your appeal is final, and you do not have further right of administrative appeal for this request under the agency's FOIA regulations. See 45 CFR § 612.9. Your right to seek judicial review of this determination is set forth at 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4).

Additionally, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA Mediation Services they offer. The contact information is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001, email address: ogis@nara.gov; telephone: (202) 741-5770; toll free number: 1-877-684-6448; fax: (202) 741-5769.

Sincerely,

**ANGELA R
WILLIAMS**

Angela R. Williams
General Counsel

Digitally signed by ANGELA
R WILLIAMS
Date: 2026.08.12 09:10:32
-04'00'

Attachment – 37 pages

"Terrell, Zachary" (b) (6)@nsf.gov> 5/19/2025 7:12 PM

WH just sent me a list of misinformation related grants that should be terminated. I know we already did work on this but here's a list that I think we haven't terminated yet:

(b) (5)

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the content of the email body.

From: [French, Jamie H](#)
To: [Stone, Brian](#); [Marrongelle, Karen A.](#); [Malcomber, Simon](#); [Greenwell, Amanda H](#); [Coughlin-Piester, Janis A](#); [Bossie, Jason](#); [Williams, Angel R.](#); [Keiser, Rebecca Lynn](#)
Cc: [Rawald, KaiMarie N.](#); [Grant, William S.](#); [Mulch, Eric F.](#)
Subject: FW: Harvard [Contains CUI]
Date: Thursday, May 8, 2025 12:36:23 PM
Attachments: [Harvard Grants - Line Item.xlsx](#)
[Harvard Grants Excluding Hospitals - Unspent Funds \(1\).pdf](#)
[NIH Termination Letter Harvard \(2024 Grants Policy Statement\) \(5-6-25 draft\).docx](#)

— CUI —

DOGE wants terminations to happen ASAP. (b) (5)

[REDACTED]

Thanks,

From: Terrell, Zachary (b) (6) @nsf.gov>
Sent: Thursday, May 8, 2025 12:18 PM
To: French, Jamie H (b) (6) @nsf.gov>
Subject: Harvard

(b) (5)

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Grants - Unliquidated Funds from Agencies

<i>Awarding Agency Name</i>	Grants	Obligations	Current Unspent Amount
Department of Health and Human Services	695	\$2,360,790,330	\$ 346,748,383
National Science Foundation	206	\$ 216,806,462	\$ 56,214,480
Department of Defense	72	\$ 119,587,893	\$ 38,884,903
National Aeronautics and Space Administration	22	\$ 19,553,780	\$ 3,675,325
Department of Energy	18	\$ 72,534,694	\$ 6,154,908
Department of Education	13	\$ 24,988,041	\$ 10,813,135
National Endowment for the Humanities	6	\$ 1,535,986	\$ 797,368
Department of the Interior	4	\$ 843,293	\$ 150,614
Department of Agriculture	4	\$ 729,471	\$ 289,931
Department of Housing and Urban Development	3	\$ 2,058,062	\$ 622,066
Agency for International Development	3	\$ 3,753,318	\$ 1,971,518
Department of Justice	2	\$ 1,784,113	\$ 654,195
Department of Homeland Security	2	\$ 2,735,205	\$ 846,629
United States Institute of Peace	1	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000
National Endowment for the Arts	1	\$ 85,000	\$ 85,000
Institute of Museum and Library Services	1	\$ 63,945	\$ 57,648
Department of the Treasury	1	\$ 20,000	\$ 12,409
Department of State	1	\$ 15,000	\$ 9,000
Department of Commerce	1	\$ 393,645	\$ 385,067
Grand Total	1056	\$2,828,378,238	\$ 468,472,578



National Institutes of Health
Office of Extramural Research

May 6, 2025

Dr. Alan Garber
Office of the President
Harvard University
Massachusetts Hall
Cambridge, MA 02138

Dr. Garber:

NIH is hereby providing notice that funding for the projects in the attached spreadsheet will be terminated pursuant to the National Institutes of Health ("NIH") Grants Policy Statement (GPS),¹ and 2 C.F.R. § 200.340(a)(4).

As reflected in the Notices of Award for the most recent budget period of these projects, the NIH Grants Policy Statement is incorporated as a term and condition of award. The GPS "includes the terms and conditions of NIH grants and cooperative agreements and is incorporated by reference in all NIH grant and cooperative agreement awards."² According to the GPS, "NIH may ... terminate the grant in whole or in part as outlined in 2 CFR Part 200.340."³ At the time the Notices of Award were issued for the most recent budget period, 2 C.F.R. § 200.340(a)(4) permitted termination "[b]y the Federal awarding agency or pass-through entity, to the greatest extent authorized by law, if an award no longer effectuates the program goals or agency priorities."

These awards no longer effectuate agency priorities. NIH is obligated to carefully steward grant awards to ensure taxpayer dollars are used in ways that benefit the American people and improve their quality of life. Your project does not satisfy these criteria.

NIH is responsible for ensuring that its limited resources are appropriately allocated. NIH policy is that grant dollars should support institutions that foster safe, equal, and healthy working and learning conditions conducive to high-quality research and free inquiry.⁴ NIH policy is also that grant dollars should only support institutions that comply with principles and laws of nondiscrimination.

¹ <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/nihgps/nihgps.pdf>.

² NIH GPS, Section 3.

³ *Id.* at Section 8.5.2.

⁴ NIH GPS, Section 4.

As relevant to NIH's policies, NIH understands that Harvard continues to engage in race discrimination including in its admissions process, and in other areas of student life, such as access to the Law Review at Harvard Law School.

NIH is also aware of recent events at Harvard University involving antisemitic action that suggest the institution has a disturbing lack of concern for the safety and wellbeing of Jewish students. Harvard's ongoing inaction in the face of repeated and severe harassment and targeting of Jewish students has ground day-to-day campus operations to a halt, deprived Jewish students of learning and research opportunities to which they are entitled, and brought shame upon the University and our nation as a whole. Indeed, as the Harvard Presidential Task Force on Combating Antisemitism and Anti-Israeli Bias concluded, actions at Harvard during the 2023-2024 academic year resulted in widespread abuse of Jewish and Israeli students by an institution "that mainstreamed and normalized what many Jewish and Israeli students experience as antisemitism and anti-Israeli bias."

Supporting research in such an environment is plainly inconsistent with NIH's priorities and *raison d'être* of funding and championing the very best American research and educational institutions.

Although "NIH generally will suspend (rather than immediately terminate) a grant and allow the recipient an opportunity to take appropriate corrective action before NIH makes a termination decision,"⁵ no corrective action is possible here. That is because, upon being made aware of systematic institutional failures to address deeply rooted antisemitism and racial discrimination, the University has refused to take appropriate action. NIH perceives these categorical rejections to manifest the University's unwillingness to take corrective action or implement necessary reforms. Therefore, no modification of the projects could align the projects with agency priorities.

Costs resulting from financial obligations incurred after termination are not allowable.⁶ Nothing in this notice excuses either NIH or you from complying with the closeout obligations imposed by 2 C.F.R. §§ 200.344. NIH will provide any information required by the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act or the Office of Management and Budget's regulations to *USAspending.gov*.⁷

⁵ NIH GPS, Section 8.5.2.

⁶ See 2 C.F.R. § 200.343.

⁷ 2 C.F.R. § 200.341(c).

Administrative Appeal

You may object and provide information and documentation challenging these terminations.

You must submit a request for such review to Director Bhattacharya no later than 30 days after this letter is received, except that if you show good cause why an extension of time should be granted, Dr. Bhattacharya may grant an extension of time.

The request for review must include a copy of this decision, must identify the issue(s) in dispute, and must contain a full statement of your position with respect to such issue(s) and the pertinent facts and reasons in support of your position. In addition to the required written statement, you shall provide copies of any documents supporting your claim.

Sincerely,

From: [French, Jamie H](#)
To: [Pearl, Jennifer S.](#); [Keiser, Rebecca Lynn](#); [Misawa, Eduardo A.](#)
Cc: [Malcomber, Simon](#); [Marrongelle, Karen A.](#); [Stone, Brian](#); [Bossie, Jason](#); [Coughlin-Piester, Janis A](#); [Scott-Morring, Lisa](#)
Subject: New grant terminations
Date: Friday, May 30, 2025 11:24:10 AM
Attachments: [Copy of USF DEI Grants \(1\).xlsx](#)

Hi all,

There are two on this list that have not been terminated.

(b) (5)
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Thanks!

From: Bub, Kim (b) (6)@nsf.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 30, 2025 8:34 AM
To: French, Jamie H (b) (6)@nsf.gov>
Subject: RE: Grant IDs and descriptions - document 1

Hi – 2 of the 12 NSF awards were not terminated:

(b) (5)
[REDACTED]

The attached shows date of termination for the others.

Thanks,
Kim

From: French, Jamie H (b) (6)@nsf.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 30, 2025 8:04 AM
To: Bub, Kim (b) (6)@nsf.gov>
Subject: FW: Grant IDs and descriptions - document 1

Hey there,

Can we run these against our terminated lists?

Thanks!

From: Terrell, Zachary (b) (6) <[REDACTED]@nsf.gov>
Sent: Thursday, May 29, 2025 8:49 PM
To: French, Jamie H (b) (6) <[REDACTED]@nsf.gov>
Subject: Fw: Grant IDs and descriptions - document 1

Hey Jamie,

Here's a few more DEI grants that Florida found. Let me know if any of these are still active and let's cancel.

Zach

From: Terrell, Zachary (OS/IOS) (b) (6) <[REDACTED]@hhs.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 23, 2025 11:25 AM
To: Terrell, Zachary (b) (6) <[REDACTED]@nsf.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] - FW: Grant IDs and descriptions - document 1

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From: (b) (6) <[REDACTED]>
Date: Friday, May 23, 2025 at 12:28 AM
To: Terrell, Zachary (OS/IOS) (b) (6) <[REDACTED]@hhs.gov>
Subject: Fw: Grant IDs and descriptions - document 1

From: Soskin, Eric (b) (6) <[REDACTED]@eog.myflorida.com>
Sent: Monday, May 19, 2025 11:53:27 AM
To: (b) (6) <[REDACTED]>
Subject: RE: Grant IDs and descriptions - document 1

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of DHS. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you recognize and/or trust the sender. Contact your component SOC with questions or concerns.

(b) (6)

This was revised to remove one grant.

Thanks for your patience,
Eric

From: Soskin, Eric

Sent: Friday, May 16, 2025 11:40 AM

To: (b) (6) [@hq.dhs.gov](mailto:(b) (6)@hq.dhs.gov)

Subject: Grant IDs and descriptions - document 1

(b) (6)

Here is the first of several tables of grants we will be sending.

Best,
Eric

Please note that under Florida law correspondence sent to the Governor's Office, which is not confidential or exempt pursuant to chapter 119 of the Florida Statutes, is a public record made available upon request.

Grant ID	Terminated	Date	Awarding Agency
2142714	Yes	5/28/2025	National Science Foundation
2149059	No		National Science Foundation
2204552	Yes	4/25/2025	National Science Foundation
2218100	Yes	4/18/2025	National Science Foundation
2238389	Yes	4/25/2025	National Science Foundation
2244380	Yes	4/25/2025	National Science Foundation
2306104	Yes	5/28/2025	National Science Foundation
2322122	Yes	5/2/2025	National Science Foundation
2344964	No		National Science Foundation
2408967	Yes	5/28/2025	National Science Foundation
2411933	Yes	4/25/2025	National Science Foundation
2513528	Yes	4/25/2025	National Science Foundation
K01DA052679			Department of Health and Human Services

PHEPA000010			Department of Health and Human Services
R21HL172124			Department of Health and Human Services
R25DA050735			Department of Health and Human Services
R25DA059073			Department of Health and Human Services

Descriptions
developing an “equitable and inclusive” curriculum for civil and environmental engineers that “build[s] on authentic partnerships with community stakeholders,” particularly minority groups. In addition, it is premised on the existence of “anti-black-racism” in the existing curriculum.
This grant takes a DEI-based approach to studying “migrant communities,” including by examining “how experiences related to racial identity” affect migrants. It also segments research by gender, ethnicity, and “documentation racial, ethnic, and gender identity groups, and that of “community-engaged research” as a purportedly-undervalued component of science and engineering studies. This grant is premised on the idea “justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion” (JEDI) needs to be advanced so that a group labeled “underrepresented racial and ethnic minority women” can achieve “full participation and advancement” as engineering faculty.
(embodiment) of racism.” The research is conducted by targeting a specific subgroup of women based on race and is premised on the DEI concept that the “qualitative exploration of the contexts of racism” will help better understand reproductive outcomes and other “health disparities.”
excluded racial and ethnic groups.” It seeks to embed DEI concepts into the study of cybersecurity, including by seeking to “transform[]” authentication systems so that “historically excluded racial and ethnic groups” can overcome purported “underrepresentation” and “reduced opportunities” in cybersecurity.
This grant funds research into climate change and so-called “environmental justice,” and is targeted at a “diverse and underrepresented group of students,” with a goal to “encourage and engender social, cultural, political, and the Doctorate (BD) Activity at the University of South Florida. As suggested by the name, this is a DEI-centric program, and “particular emphasis is placed on transforming undergraduate STEM education . . . in support of racial and ethnic groups historically underrepresented.” This thereby funds a direct effort to remake scientific education in favor of DEI principles.
particularly “differential impacts based on students’ race, ethnicity, gender,” etc. It is described as “a step towards transforming the postsecondary system” of education in favor of diversity and equity goals, particularly those based on dividing students by race and ethnicity.
in support of the DEI goal of “transformative inclusive communities.” The DEI component of the training is that “experiential education activities” are needed in STEM education “to appeal to a diverse student population . . . thereby broadening participation in STEM.”
vulnerable populations” by “prioritizing the needs of subsistence fishermen.” It is premised on the DEI/ESG concept that pollution mitigation needs to be focused on groups segmented by race, ethnicity, and other similar factors and that “historically underrepresented” communities need special attention for protection from purported climate change risks.
the idea that “Black and Latinx students” of “lower socioeconomic status” have “adverse team experiences” . . . “rooted in racial bias.” The goal of this research is to redesign engineering and computer science education around “promoting equity in team experiences” and to directly teach DEI concepts such as “conscious and unconscious bias, intercultural conflict, and culturally responsive communication.”
school and the workforce.” It is built around DEI concepts such as intersectionality and the idea that participation in the engineering profession among underrepresented groups needs to be promoted through “inclusive engineering environments.” It therefore looks at how “persistence” will “likely vary for engineers with a range of identities, including race/ethnicity, binary gender, gender diverse, and sexuality.”
justice-involved adolescents (JIA). It investigates “disparities . . . due to unequal distribution of stressors and resources . . . linking race/ethnicity and sex” to outcomes such as “harsher consequences” and greater substance use in the juvenile justice system.

involved youth” in Florida and Georgia. It targets the research and development of programming specifically for “justice-involved youth,” “LGBTQ+,” “dis/ability,” and “BIPOC individuals.” It incorporates numerous DEI concepts such as to “acknowledg[ing] systems of oppression” like “racism, misogyny, homophobia, transphobia, ableism,” and is based on the idea that “structural systems of oppression” are central to teen pregnancy, sexual violence, and other issues.

ethnic identity groups, such as “Caribbean Latinx,” should be understood to treat asthma. The goal of this research is to address “health disparities” by examining the extent to which “a distinct set of SDOH exposures within racial or ethnic groups” drives asthma outcomes.

address substance abuse in “underrepresented minority and disadvantaged communities.” It therefore funds the SMART program at the University of South Florida to train specific identity groups – including gender, gender identity, and sexual orientation – to engage in research careers.

idea that there are “domino effects throughout one’s career” that are rooted in “training gaps” and historical and social disadvantages faced by minority undergraduates. It therefore funds a program to train underrepresented and underserved scholars in substance misuse research.