Program Direction

Overview

The Office of Science (SC) Program Direction (PD) budget supports the highly skilled federal workforce needed to develop and oversee SC investments and Administration priorities in basic research on climate change and clean energy, advanced computing, cybersecurity, fundamental science to transform manufacturing, quantum information sciences, artificial intelligence and machine learning (AI/ML), biopreparedness, critical materials, fusion energy, isotope research and production, and construction and operation of scientific user facilities, all critical for the American scientific enterprise.

SC continues to increase investments in sophisticated and experienced scientific and technical program and project managers, as well as experts in acquisition, finance, legal, construction management, and environmental, safety, and health oversight. SC continues to update its business processes for awards management and research related activities to ensure its extramural research programs are inclusive, broadening participation, especially from underserved communities and emerging research institutions (as defined in the Creating Helpful Incentives to Produce Semiconductors [CHIPS] and Science Act), from across the nation.

Headquarters

The SC Headquarters (HQ) includes the seven SC program offices (Advanced Scientific Computing Research, Basic Energy Sciences, Biological and Environmental Research, Fusion Energy Sciences, High Energy Physics, Nuclear Physics, and Accelerator R&D and Production), Isotope R&D and Production, Workforce Development for Teachers and Scientists, Project Assessment, and Small Business Innovation Research/Small Business Technology Transfer (SBIR/STTR) Offices, as well as several human resource (HR) management functions including Shared Service Center (SSC), and HQ-based field management functions.

Consolidated Service Center

The Consolidated Service Center (CSC) provides business management to support SC's federal responsibilities, including financial management and grant and contract processing.

Site Offices

SC Site Offices provide contract management and critical support for the scientific mission execution at the ten SC national laboratories. This includes day to-day business management; approvals to operate hazardous facilities; safety and security oversight; leases; property transfers; sub-contracts; and activity approvals required by laws, regulations, and DOE policy.

Office of Scientific and Technical Information

Office of Scientific and Technical Information (OSTI) fulfills the Department's responsibilities for providing public access to the unclassified results of its research investments and limited access to classified research results. DOE researchers produce over 50,000 research publications, datasets, software, and patents annually. OSTI's physical and electronic collections exceed one million research outputs from the 1940s to the present, providing access to the results of DOE's research investments.

Highlights of the FY 2025 Request

The FY 2025 Request is $246.0 million and will support a total level of approximately 845 full-time equivalents (FTEs). The Request supports a pay raise of 2 percent. The Request focuses on increasing federal staff at Headquarters and Field to meet the challenges of the significant increase in workload associated with current and new initiatives, the broad scope of emerging science and technology, new security requirements, improved oversight, innovative outreach and communication, and the incorporation of data analytics into existing business systems. SC will continue to review, analyze, and prioritize mission requirements and identify those organizations and functions aligning with Administration and Department program objectives and SC strategic goals.

Program Direction
Funding

(dollars in thousands)

	FY 2023 Enacted	FY 2024 Annualized CR	FY 2025 Request	FY 2025 Request vs FY 2023 Enacted
Program Direction				
Salaries and Benefits	159,319	178,985	183,910	+24,591
Travel	3,076	3,500	4,000	+924
Support Services	28,517	31,005	32,960	+4,443
Other Related Expenses	14,344	16,000	17,920	+3,576
Working Capital Fund	5,955	7,210	7,210	+1,255
Total, Program Direction	**211,211**	**236,700**	**246,000**	**+34,789**
Federal FTE	800	835	845	+45

Activities and Explanation of Changes

(dollars in thousands)

FY 2023 Enacted		FY 2025 Request	Explanation of Changes FY 2025 Request vs FY 2023 Enacted
Program Direction	**$211,211**	**$246,000**	**+$34,789**
Salaries and Benefits	$159,319	$183,910	+$24,591
The funding supports 800 FTEs to perform scientific oversight, program and project management, essential operations support associated with science program portfolio management, and support for the Office of the Chief Human Capital Officer operating the SSC and supporting HR Advisory Offices. The funding supports costs associated with Federal employee benefits, including health insurance costs and retirement allocations in Federal Employees Retirement System.		The Request will support salaries and benefits costs associated with 845 FTEs to perform scientific oversight, program and project management, essential operations support associated with science program portfolio management, and support for the Office of the Chief Human Capital Officer operating the SSC and supporting HR Advisory Offices.	The increase will support a 2 percent pay raise and the projected salary and benefit requirements for the requested FTE levels to meet the challenges of the significant increase in workload associated with increased mission demands.
Travel	$3,076	$4,000	+$924
The funding supports facility visits where the use of electronic telecommunications is not practical for mandated on-site inspections and facility operations reviews. Ensuring scientific management, compliance, safety oversight, and external review of research funding across all SC programs requires staff to travel, since SC senior program managers are not co-located with grantees or at national laboratories.		The Request will support facility visits where the use of electronic telecommunications is not practical for mandated on-site inspections and facility operations reviews. Ensuring scientific management, compliance, safety oversight, and external review of research funding across all SC programs requires staff to travel, since SC senior program managers are not co-located with grantees or at national laboratories.	The increase in travel reflects the return to work with travel to conferences and site visits while continuing videoconferencing instead of travel, where possible.

(dollars in thousands)

FY 2023 Enacted	FY 2025 Request	Explanation of Changes FY 2025 Request vs FY 2023 Enacted
The funding also supports travel for the SC Federal Advisory Committees, which will include over 170 representatives from universities, national laboratories, and industry, representing a diverse balance of disciplines, professional experience, and geography. Each of the six advisory committees provides valuable, independent advice to the Department regarding the complex scientific and technical issues that arise in the planning, management, and implementation of SC programs. The funding continues to support the PCAST advisory committee travel.	The Request will support travel for the SC Federal Advisory Committees, which will include over 170 representatives from universities, national laboratories, and industry, representing a diverse balance of disciplines, professional experience, and geography. The Request will support the PCAST advisory committee travel.	
Support Services $28,517	$32,960	+$4,443
The funding supports select administrative and professional services including: support for the SBIR/STTR program; grants and contract processing and close-out activities; accessibility to DOE's corporate multi-billion dollar R&D program through information systems managed and administered by OSTI; travel processing; correspondence control; select reports or analyses directed toward improving the effectiveness, efficiency, and economy of services and processes; and safeguards and security oversight functions. The funding supports essential information technology infrastructure; necessary upgrades to SC's financial management system; ongoing operations and maintenance of information technology systems; and safety management support.	The Request will support select administrative and professional services including: support for the SBIR/STTR program; grants and contract processing and close-out activities; accessibility to DOE's corporate multi-billion dollar R&D program through information systems managed and administered by OSTI; travel processing; correspondence control; select reports or analyses directed toward improving the effectiveness, efficiency, and economy of services and processes; and safeguards and security oversight functions. The Request will support essential information technology infrastructure; necessary upgrades to SC's financial management system; ongoing operations, maintenance, and enhancement of information technology systems; and safety management support.	The increase will support the projected support service contract requirements.

(dollars in thousands)

FY 2023 Enacted	FY 2025 Request	Explanation of Changes FY 2025 Request vs FY 2023 Enacted
The funding supports federal staff training and education to maintain appropriate certification and update skills.	The Request will fund federal staff training and education to maintain appropriate certifications and update skills.	
Other Related Expenses $14,344	$17,920	+$3,576
The funding supports fixed requirements associated with rent, utilities, and telecommunications; building and grounds maintenance; computer/video maintenance and support; IT equipment leases, purchases, and maintenance; and site-wide health care units. The funding also supports miscellaneous purchases for supplies, materials, and subscriptions.	The Request will support fixed requirements associated with rent, utilities, and telecommunications; building and grounds maintenance; computer/video maintenance and support; the purchasing, leasing and maintenance of IT equipment and systems to support customers' evolving needs; and site-wide health care units. It will also include miscellaneous purchases for supplies, materials, and subscriptions.	The increase will support the projected fixed requirements for FY 2025.
Working Capital Fund $5,955	$7,210	+$1,255
The funding supports a portion of the SC contribution to the Working Capital Fund for business lines: building occupancy, supplies, printing and graphics, health services, corporate training services, and corporate business systems. SC research programs also contribute to Working Capital Fund.	The Request will support a portion of the SC contribution to the Working Capital Fund for business lines: building occupancy, copy services, supplies, printing and graphics, health services, corporate training services, mail and translation, pension studies, procurement management, and Program Management Career Development. SC research programs also will contribute to the Working Capital Fund.	The increase will support the projected Working Capital Fund requirements for FY 2025.

Program Direction
Funding Detail

(dollars in thousands)

	FY 2023 Enacted	FY 2024 Annualized CR	FY 2025 Request	FY 2025 Request vs FY 2023 Enacted
Technical Support				
System review and reliability analyses	1,421	1,450	1,670	+249
Management Support				
Automated data processing	11,638	13,060	14,100	+2,462
Training and education	705	710	815	+110
Reports and analyses, management, and general administrative services	14,753	15,785	17,055	+2,302
Total, Management Support	**27,096**	**29,555**	**31,970**	**+4,874**
Total, Support Services	**28,517**	**31,005**	**33,640**	**+5,123**
Other Related Expenses				
Rent to GSA	847	909	1,043	+196
Rent to others	2,220	2,370	2,720	+500
Communications, utilities, and miscellaneous	3,537	3,709	4,050	+513
Other services	927	1,689	1,835	+908
Operation and maintenance of facilities	1,389	1,496	1,610	+221
Supplies and materials	651	691	745	+94
Equipments	4,773	5,136	5,837	+1,064
Total. Other Related Expenses	**14,344**	**16,000**	**17,840**	**+3,496**
Working Capital Fund	**5,955**	**7,210**	**7,210**	**+1,255**

Public Access

The Department of Energy fulfills Legislative and Executive requirements to provide public access to scholarly publications and digital data resulting from DOE research funding. Enabling authorization and subsequent legislation requires DOE to provide public access to unclassified R&D results through SC's Office of Scientific and Technical Information (OSTI). The DOE Public Access Plan, originally required by a 2013 Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) memorandum, added peer-reviewed, final accepted manuscripts to the types of unclassified scientific and technical information already made publicly accessible. The Plan also required the submission of data management plans and provided guidelines for preserving and ensuring access to digital research data. In 2022, OSTP updated its public access guidance to agencies, requiring new agency plans for providing immediate access to accepted manuscripts, rather than the 12-month embargo in the 2013 memorandum; immediate access to data underlying publications; and wide adoption of persistent identifiers (PIDs) for research outputs, research awards and contracts, and researchers themselves. PIDs promote research integrity, reproducibility, and discoverability.

DOE will implement its new data management and sharing plan[a] requirements through internal policy directive, with requirements specified in national labs' management and operating contracts and annual performance plans, and in the terms and conditions of DOE financial assistance awards. DOE-funded researchers are required to submit final accepted manuscripts, which will be publicly accessible via the official agency repository, DOE PAGES (Public Access Gateway for Energy and Science), developed and hosted by OSTI. DOE is among the top agencies implementing public access, with over 180,000 scholarly publications added to DOE PAGES since 2014. DOE is a leader in the federal government in assigning persistent identifiers and will expand PIDs for researchers, their outputs, and organizations.

[a] https://www.energy.gov/sites/default/files/2023-07/DOE%20Public%20Access%20Plan%202023%20-%20Final.pdf