

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 advanced computing, cybersecurity, quantum information sciences, artificial intelligence and machine learning (AI/ML), 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 employ and contract with 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 meet to the priorities of the Administration.

Headquarters

The SC Headquarters (HQ) includes the six Science program offices (Advanced Scientific Computing Research, Basic Energy Sciences, Biological and Environmental Research, Fusion Energy Sciences, High Energy Physics, and Nuclear Physics), 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 statutory responsibilities for providing public access to the unclassified results of its research investments and limited access to classified research results. DOE-funded researchers produce over 50,000 research publications, datasets, software, and patents annually. OSTI's publicly accessible databases exceed 4 million research outputs from the 1940s to the present, providing accountability for and transparency to the results of DOE's research investments.

Highlights of the FY 2026 Request

The PD FY 2026 Request is \$226.8 million, which is flat with the FY 2025 Enacted level and will support a total level of approximately 600 full-time equivalents (FTEs). The Request focuses on SC's federal staff at Headquarters and in the Field to meet the challenges of the significant increase in workload associated with 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. The Request supports the cost associated with the move of federal staff in the CSC out of the Federal Building to a new location in Oak Ridge, Tennessee per GSA instructions. The Request also supports SC portion of the new DOE initiative of Trusted Workforce. 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 2024 Enacted	FY 2025 Enacted	FY 2026 Request	FY 2026 Request vs FY 2025 Enacted
Program Direction				
Salaries and Benefits	172,141	175,070	161,621	-13,449
Travel	4,400	2,000	2,500	+500
Support Services	28,137	27,051	35,500	+8,449
Other Related Expenses	14,943	15,500	20,000	+4,500
Working Capital Fund	7,210	7,210	7,210	—
Total, Program Direction	226,831	226,831	226,831	—
Federal FTE	825	825	600	-225

Program Direction

Activities and Explanation of Changes

(dollars in thousands)

FY 2025 Enacted	FY 2026 Request	Explanation of Changes FY 2026 Request vs FY 2025 Enacted	
Program Direction	\$226,831	\$226,831	\$ —
Salaries and Benefits	\$175,070	\$161,621	-\$13,449
Funding supports salaries and benefits costs associated with 825 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 Request will support salaries and benefits costs associated with 600 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 Request will support the FTE levels to meet the challenges of the significant increase in workload associated with increased mission demands.	
Travel	\$2,000	\$2,500	+\$500
Funding supports facility visits where the use of electronic telecommunications is not practical for mandated on-site inspections and facility operations reviews.	The Request will support facility visits where the use of electronic telecommunications is not practical for mandated on-site inspections and facility operations reviews.	The Request will support mission critical travel while continuing videoconferencing instead of travel, where possible.	
Funding supports the PCAST advisory committee travel.	The Request will support the PCAST advisory committee travel.		
Support Services	\$27,051	\$35,500	+\$8,449
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 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 the projected support service contract requirements to include move of the CSC staff out of the Federal Building to a new location in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, and SC's portion of the DOE Trusted Workforce initiative.	
Funding supports essential information technology	The Request will support essential information technology		

(dollars in thousands)

FY 2025 Enacted	FY 2026 Request	Explanation of Changes FY 2026 Request vs FY 2025 Enacted
infrastructure; necessary upgrades to SC's financial management system; ongoing operations, maintenance, and enhancement of information technology systems; and safety management support.	infrastructure; necessary upgrades to SC's financial management system; ongoing operations, maintenance, and enhancement of information technology systems; and safety management support.	
Funding supports federal staff training and education to maintain appropriate certifications and update skills.	The Request will fund federal staff training and education to maintain appropriate certifications and update skills.	
Other Related Expenses		
\$15,500	\$20,000	+\$4,500
Funding supports 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 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 Request will support the projected fixed requirements for FY 2026.
Working Capital Fund		
\$7,210	\$7,210	\$ —
Funding supports 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 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.	No change.

**Program Direction
Funding Detail**

(dollars in thousands)

	FY 2024 Enacted	FY 2025 Enacted	FY 2026 Request	FY 2026 Request vs FY 2025 Enacted
Technical Support				
System review and reliability analyses	1,450	1,670	1,670	—
Management Support				
Automated data processing	11,700	11,700	13,340	+1,640
Training and education	742	400	500	+100
Reports and analyses, management, and general administrative services	14,245	13,281	15,990	+2,709
Total, Management Support	26,687	25,381	29,830	+4,449
Total, Support Services	28,137	27,051	31,500	+4,449
Other Related Expenses				
Rent to GSA	875	900	1,000	+100
Rent to others	2,300	2,300	2,400	+100
Communications, utilities, and miscellaneous	3,600	4,050	4,150	+100
Other services	1,000	1,835	1,850	+15
Operation and maintenance of facilities	1,400	1,610	1,845	+235
Supplies and materials	675	675	675	—
Equipments	5,093	4,130	8,080	+3,950
Total. Other Related Expenses	14,943	15,500	20,000	+4,500
Working Capital Fund	7,210	7,210	7,210	—

Public Access

The Department of Energy fulfills Legislative and Executive requirements to provide public access to outputs resulting from DOE's research and development (R&D), including journal article accepted manuscripts, technical reports, data, and software. DOE-funded R&D outputs are stewarded and made available by SC's Office of Scientific and Technical Information (OSTI). OSTI collects these outputs and descriptive information from national laboratories and grantees, provides long-term preservation, and makes them widely discoverable through OSTI [search tools](#) and by enabling indexing of this content by major commercial search engines.

In addition to existing Legislative requirements, Executive branch requirements were originally included in a 2013 Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) memorandum which required peer-reviewed, journal article accepted manuscripts to be made publicly available and for each sponsoring research office to ensure funded research activities have an associated data management plan. In 2022, OSTP updated its public access guidance, requiring agencies to provide immediate access to accepted manuscripts, rather than the 12-month embargo in the 2013 memorandum; immediate access to data underlying publications as described in data management and sharing plans; and wide adoption of persistent identifiers (PIDs) for R&D outputs, awards, researchers, and organizations.

Building on the 2013 Public Access Plan, DOE published a new Plan^a in June 2023 to address the expectations in the 2022 guidance memo. Implementation of the new plan is underway, which included revising and issuing [DOE O 241.1C](#), "Scientific and Technical Information Management," with requirements for immediate access to accepted manuscripts, developing data management and sharing plans, and adoption of PIDs. These requirements will be 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 accepted manuscripts, which are made publicly accessible via the official agency repository, [DOE PAGES](#) (Public Access Gateway for Energy and Science). DOE is among the top agencies implementing public access, with over 240,000 scholarly publications made publicly available in DOE PAGES (developed and hosted by OSTI) since 2014. DOE is also a federal government leader in assigning and using persistent identifiers to promote research transparency and reproducibility as well as research security. By expanding the use of PIDs for researchers, their outputs, and organizations, DOE will better enable identification of agency support for given investments, the scientists who conduct that research, the organizations they are associated with, and the R&D outputs stemming from that support.

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