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IN FOCUS

National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) FY2027 Funding

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The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) is a federal agency within the U.S. Department of Commerce with a mission to "promote U.S. innovation and industrial competitiveness by advancing measurement science [i.e., metrology], standards, and technology in ways that enhance economic security and improve [Americans'] quality of life." Regular appropriations for NIST are provided through the annual Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies (CJS) Appropriations Act. NIST discretionary funding is provided through three accounts:

- **Scientific and Technical Research and Services (STRS)**, which typically supports the majority of the agency's research portfolio, including seven laboratory programs, corporate services, and standards coordination, among other activities;
- **Industrial Technology Services (ITS)**, which supports two extramural programs, the Manufacturing USA and Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership programs; and
- **Construction of Research Facilities (CRF)**, which supports construction activities, including maintenance, repairs, improvements, and major renovations of facilities NIST occupies or uses.

This In Focus provides an overview of FY2027 funding proposed by the President and Congress for each of NIST's appropriations accounts (see **Table 1**). It also provides analysis of FY2027 funding proposed for selected agency programs and activities (at the subaccount level). This In Focus will be updated as additional appropriations actions occur.

FY2027 Budget Request

For NIST in FY2027, the Trump Administration requests $853.9 million, a decrease of $993.2 million (-54%) from the FY2026 enacted amount ($1,847.1 million as provided by P.L. 119-74). Under the FY2027 request, each of NIST's three appropriations accounts would face reductions. Compared with FY2026 enacted levels, the STRS account would see the largest dollar amount decrease—down $520.0 million (-42%) to $729.2 million for FY2027. This comparative decrease includes the removal of FY2026 funding for "one-time congressionally directed projects" (totaling $405.3 million as provided by P.L. 119-74 for community project funding [CPF]/congressionally directed spending [CDS]). ITS would see the largest percentage decrease, with a requested 83% reduction from FY2026, which amounts to a decrease of $175.0 million to $37.0 million for FY2027. This reduction is due to the proposed elimination of the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) program. The requested amount for CRF would decrease by $298.1 million (-77%) to $87.8 million for FY2027, largely owing to the removal of FY2026 funding for one-time congressionally directed projects (totaling $257.9 million, as provided by P.L. 119-74).

FY2027 Appropriations

The 119th Congress has not completed action on FY2027 appropriations for NIST as of this In Focus's publication. On September 2, 2026, the President signed into law the Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2027 (P.L. 119-103). Division A of P.L. 119-103 provides continuing appropriations for NIST through the earlier of December 11, 2026, or the enactment of subsequent appropriations at a rate based largely on the amounts, authorities, and conditions provided for FY2026 in P.L. 119-74. For FY2026, P.L. 119-74 provided $1,847.1 million to NIST, including $1,249.2 million for STRS, $212.0 million for ITS, and $385.9 million for CRF.

As reported by the House Committee on Appropriations (House Committee) on May 15, 2026, the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2027 (H.R. 8845 and H.Rept. 119-652), would provide a total of $1,299.8 million for NIST, a decrease of $547.3 million (-30%) from the FY2026 enacted level and $445.8 million (52%) more than the Administration's FY2027 request.

Under the House Committee's bill, the CRF account would see the largest dollar and percentage decrease (down $298.1 million, or 77%) compared with the FY2026 enacted level. The House Committee's proposed $87.8 million for CRF does not include CPF. For STRS, the House Committee proposes $1,000.0 million (including $274.6 million for CPF) in FY2027 (down $249.2 million, or 20%; including a reduction of $130.7 million for CPF compared with FY2026) and, for ITS, $212.0 million (the same enacted amount in FY2026).

Compared with the President's FY2027 request, the House Committee's bill would increase funding for STRS (up $270.8 million, or 37.1%) and ITS (up $175 million, or 473.0%). For CRF, the House Committee proposes the same amount requested by the President for FY2027 ($87.8 million).

FY2027 Proposals for Selected Priority Areas

The Administration's FY2027 request would reduce funding for most accounts and program-level activities in NIST. Exceptions include the Critical and Emerging Technology (CET) Measurement and Standards program activities within the STRS account, which would see increased funding for artificial intelligence (AI) activities.

The House Committee's FY2027 bill would also provide funding for NIST's AI work, in addition to providing funding for quantum and biotechnology activities—two areas slated for cuts under the President's FY2027 request. The House Committee's bill would restore funding for the MEP program, which the President's proposal would eliminate.

AI Research and Standards

For FY2027, the President requests $73.0 million for AI-related measurement and standards development activities, a $17.0 million increase compared with the FY2026 enacted level. The requested increase would "expand efforts within the Center for AI Standards and Innovation (CAISI) that will accelerate AI innovation, global adoption of American AI, and America's technological and marketplace dominance over foreign competitors, as outlined in the President's AI Action Plan." Specifically, the Administration requests $11 million to expand CAISI efforts to "evaluate evolving AI systems developed both in the U.S. and abroad to identify their performance capabilities, vulnerabilities, and national security threats" and $5 million for CAISI's focus on "research and the publishing of evaluations of frontier models, promoting frontier AI that protects free speech and American values."

H.Rept. 119-652 would direct funding amounts within the STRS account for agency activities related to AI testing, evaluation, and standards development. For CAISI, the committee would provide up to $15.0 million to support AI research, standards development, and testing capabilities as well as the administration of a grant program "for hardware security and secure location verification for AI chips."

Quantum and Biotechnology Research and Standards

Compared to FY2026 enacted amounts, funding for quantum and biology-related measurement and standards activities would see reductions under the FY2027 request, with quantum funding declining by $28.0 million to $62.0 million and biotechnology and biomanufacturing funding declining by $19.4 million to $38.0 million.

H.Rept. 119-652 would direct not less than the FY2026 enacted level for "Quantum Information Science." H.Rept. 119-652 would also direct up to $6 million for the development and validation of technical standards and best practices for "biosecurity screening of synthetic nucleic acid sequences" and $5.0 million to "equip NIST partners to develop reference materials, validated methods, and bioprocess measurement tools" for biomanufacturing

MEP Program

The MEP program is a national network of centers established by the Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act of 1988 (P.L. 100-418). NIST provides funding to support MEP center operations, with matching funds provided by nonfederal sources (e.g., state governments, fees for services). MEP centers provide custom services to small and medium-sized manufacturers to improve production processes, upgrade technological capabilities, and facilitate product innovation.

For FY2027, the Administration proposes terminating the MEP program, which would constitute a reduction of $175.0 million compared with the FY2026 enacted level. The request proposes that carryover funds from FY2026 be used to cover costs associated with an "orderly shutdown of the program" and indicates that centers would be required to change to "an entirely self-supporting basis." The Administration also proposed eliminating the MEP program in its FY2026 budget request.

The House Committee's bill would reject the President's proposed elimination of the MEP program, continuing funding at the FY2026 enacted level ($175.0 million). H.Rept. 119-652 further specifies that the committee's proposal would continue the direction provided in the joint explanatory statement accompanying P.L. 119-74, which required NIST to continue the MEP program under the same terms and conditions as were directed in FY2024, among other policy requirements.

Table 1. National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Funding, FY2026-FY2027 Request

(budget authority, in millions of current dollars)

Account or Program	FY2026 Enacted	FY2027 Request	FY2027 H. Cmte.
Scientific and Technical Research and Services	1,249.2	729.2	1,000.0
Community project funding/congressionally directed spending	*405.3*	*0*	*274.6*
Industrial Technology Services	212.0	37.0	212.0
Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership	*175.0*	*0*	*175.0*
Manufacturing USA	*37.0*	*37.0*	*37.0*
Construction of Research Facilities	385.9	87.8	87.8
Community project funding/congressionally directed spending	*257.9*	*0*	—
NIST Total	**1,847.1**	**854.0**	**1,299.8**

Source: FY2026 enacted amounts from the explanatory statement to accompany the FY2026 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act (Division A of P.L. 119-74). FY2027 requested amounts from NIST, *NIST and National Technical Information Service Fiscal Year 2027 Congressional Budget Submission*, April 2026. FY2027 House Committee (H. Cmte.) amounts were taken from H.R. 8845, as reported by the House Committee on Appropriations on May 15, 2026, and H.Rept. 119-652.

Notes: Italics indicate amounts provided for subaccount activities; an em dash (—) indicates accounts without funding in a specific proposal. Components may not sum to totals because of rounding.

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