

Program Direction

Overview

The Office of Science (SC) Program Direction (PD) budget is instrumental in supporting the highly skilled federal workforce essential for developing and overseeing SC investments and advancing critical Administration priorities. This includes foundational research in areas such as advanced computing, cybersecurity, quantum information sciences, artificial intelligence and machine learning (AI/ML), critical materials, fusion energy and isotope research and production. Furthermore, SC's efforts are vital for the construction and operation of scientific user facilities, all of which are paramount to bolstering the American scientific enterprise and national competitiveness.

SC continues to attract, retain, and contract sophisticated and experienced scientific and technical program and project managers, along with experts in acquisition, finance, legal, construction management, and environmental, safety, and health oversight. These dedicated professionals are crucial in ensuring SC's operations are efficient and effective. Moreover, SC is continually updating its business processes for awards management and research-related activities to meet and advance the strategic priorities set forth by the Administration.

Headquarters

The SC Headquarters (HQ) encompasses a broad range of critical functions, including its six Science program offices: Advanced Scientific Computing Research, Basic Energy Sciences, Biological and Environmental Research, Fusion Energy Sciences, High Energy Physics, and Nuclear Physics. Additionally, HQ oversees Isotope R&D and Production, Workforce Development for Teachers and Scientists, and Project Assessment. Integral to its operational effectiveness, HQ also manages several human resource (HR) management functions such as the Shared Service Center (SSC), and provides essential HQ-based field management support.

Consolidated Service Center

The Consolidated Service Center (CSC) plays a pivotal role in providing comprehensive business management, underpinning SC's federal responsibilities through robust financial management and streamlined grant and contract processing.

Site Offices

SC Site Offices are integral to the success of the ten SC national laboratories. They provide essential contract management and critical support for the execution of the scientific mission, including day-to-day business oversight, approvals for hazardous facilities operations, comprehensive safety and security oversight, management of leases and property transfers; administration of sub-contracts, and ensuring compliance with all activity approvals mandated by laws, regulations, and DOE policy.

Office of Scientific and Technical Information

Office of Scientific and Technical Information (OSTI) plays a crucial role in fulfilling the Department's statutory responsibilities by ensuring public access to the unclassified results of its extensive research investments and providing limited access to classified research results. Annually, DOE-funded researchers produce over 50,000 research publications, datasets, software, and patents. OSTI's publicly accessible databases exemplify accountability and transparency, housing more than 4 million research outputs from the 1940s to the present, showcasing the profound impact of DOE's research investments.

Highlights of the FY 2027 Request

The PD FY 2027 Request totals \$206.9 million, reflecting a reduction of \$20 million from the FY 2026 Enacted level, and will support approximately 568 full-time equivalents (FTEs). The Request strategically focuses on fortifying SC's federal staff at Headquarters and in the Field to effectively address the challenges presents by a

significant increase in workload. This expanded workload stems from the broad scope of emerging science and technology, new security requirements, enhanced oversight, innovative outreach and communication strategies, and the integration of advanced data analytics into existing business systems. The Request allocates resources to SC's contribution to the new DOE initiative of Trusted Workforce. SC will remain committed to rigorously reviewing, analyzing, and prioritizing mission requirements, ensuring that all organizations and functions are aligning with Administration and Department program objectives and SC overarching strategic goals.

**Program Direction
Funding**

(dollars in thousands)

	FY 2025 Enacted	FY 2026 Enacted	FY 2027 Request	FY 2027 Request vs FY 2026 Enacted
Program Direction				
Salaries and Benefits	175,070	160,621	147,240	-13,381
Travel	2,000	2,500	3,000	+500
Support Services	27,051	36,000	28,500	-7,500
Other Related Expenses	15,500	20,500	17,775	-2,725
Working Capital Fund	7,210	7,210	10,363	+3,153
Total, Program Direction	226,831	226,831	206,878	-19,953
Federal FTE	825	600	568	-32
Technical Support				
System review and reliability analyses	1,670	1,670	1,670	–
Management Support				
Automated data processing	11,700	16,840	12,200	-4,640
Training and education	400	500	500	–
Reports and analyses, management, and general administrative services	13,281	16,990	14,130	-2,860
Total, Management Support	25,381	34,330	26,830	-7,500
Total, Support Services	27,051	36,000	28,500	-7,500
Other Related Expenses				
Rent to GSA	900	900	900	–
Rent to others	2,300	3,400	3,400	–
Communications, utilities, and miscellaneous	4,050	4,050	4,050	–
Other services	1,835	1,850	1,850	–
Operation and maintenance of facilities	1,610	1,645	1,700	+55
Supplies and materials	675	675	675	–
Equipments	4,130	7,980	5,200	-2,780
Total. Other Related Expenses	15,500	20,500	17,775	-2,725
Working Capital Fund	7,210	7,210	10,363	+3,153

Program Direction

Activities and Explanation of Changes

(dollars in thousands)

FY 2026 Enacted	FY 2027 Request	Explanation of Changes FY 2027 Request vs FY 2026 Enacted	
Program Direction	\$226,831	\$206,878	-\$19,953
Salaries and Benefits	\$160,621	\$147,240	-\$13,381
Funding supports 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 salaries and benefits costs associated with 568 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. The Request will incorporate the transfer of SC staff to the Office of Technology Commercialization and Office of Strategy and Technology Roadmaps as part of the DOE reorganization.	
Travel	\$2,500	\$3,000	+\$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	\$36,000	\$28,500	-\$7,500
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	The Request will support select administrative and professional services including: support for grants and contract processing and close-out activities; accessibility to DOE's corporate multi-billion dollar R&D program through information	The Request will support the projected support service contract requirements to include SC's portion of the DOE Trusted Workforce initiative.	

(dollars in thousands)

FY 2026 Enacted	FY 2027 Request	Explanation of Changes FY 2027 Request vs FY 2026 Enacted
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.	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.	
Funding supports 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 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.	
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		
\$20,500	\$17,775	-\$2,725
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, and materials.	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, and materials.	The Request will support the projected fixed requirements for FY 2027.

(dollars in thousands)

FY 2026 Enacted	FY 2027 Request	Explanation of Changes FY 2027 Request vs FY 2026 Enacted	
Working Capital Fund	\$7,210	\$10,363	+ \$3,153
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.	The Request will support the projected charges to support SC requirements.	

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>