The NIH Service and Supply Fund (SSF) was established on July 3, 1945, under 42 U.S.C. 231. The SSF was created to finance a variety of centralized research support services and administrative activities that are required for the efficient and effective operation of all NIH programs and facilities. The SSF provides a single means for consolidating the financing and accounting of business-type operations, including the sales of services and commodities to customers. The services provided through the SSF include mainframe computing, enterprise IT software planning and development, facilities engineering, planning, and design, facility use and maintenance including leased buildings, printing, telecommunications, procurement, shipping and receiving, motor pool, research animals, fabrication and maintenance of scientific equipment, utilities and plant maintenance, finance and accounting operations, government-wide contracting for IT, biomedical engineering, security, consolidated human resources, and other administrative support services.