FAIRBANKS, Alaska — The University of Alaska Fairbanks says it's been awarded $16.3 million by the National Science Foundation in support of the Toolik Field Station.

The station 370 miles north of Fairbanks on the southeast shore of Toolik Lake has been an Arctic research site since 1975.

It's operated by the UAF Institute of Arctic Biology. The grant is third from the National Science Foundation since 2000.

The university in a release says the money will allow improve housing, utilities and meals as well as communications, laboratory space, transportation and common-use science equipment.

The station is home to the NSF's Arctic Long-Term Ecological Research and Arctic Observatory Network programs.

The station in 2010 hosted 569 participants from 68 universities and research institutions working on 61 funded research projects.

Story Tags: Environment, Education, National Science Foundation, UAF Institute of Arctic Biology, University of Alaska Fairbanks