Research funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) that comes to institutions in Kentucky has a significant impact across the commonwealth — extending far beyond the immediate recipients of that funding.

**Economic Impact of NIH Research Funding in Kentucky**

- $560M New Economic Activity
- 3,743 Jobs
- $49M Tax and Fee Revenue
- $170M Statewide Household Earnings

$1 NIH Funding = $2.3 KY Economic Activity

23 ORGANIZATIONS IN KENTUCKY RECEIVED A TOTAL OF 467 AWARDS

- University of Kentucky
- University of Louisville
- Enepret, Inc.
- Naprogenix, Inc.
- Fetal Life, LLC

This state snapshot accompanies the UMR report, *How Rural States Benefit From Strong NIH Funding*.
THE IMPACT OF 7 YEARS OF NIH BUDGET INCREASES ON KENTUCKY

From 2016–2022, Kentucky BENEFITED from a total of:

- $1.529B NIH Research Awards
- $3.552B New Economic Activity (sales)
- 23,757 Jobs
- $1.080B Statewide Household Earnings
- $310M Tax and Fee Revenue

If the NIH budget had stayed flat at FY15 levels from 2016–2022, the cumulative impact to Kentucky would have been the LOSS of:

- $402M NIH Research Awards
- $938M New Economic Activity (sales)
- 6,268 Jobs
- $289M Statewide Household Earnings
- $82M Tax and Fee Revenue

Congress has increased the NIH budget each year since 2016, which has had a significant, positive impact on Kentucky’s economy and prevented the negative economic impacts that flat funding would have caused.

Public Health Considerations

Improving Health
Kentuckians have a lot to gain from NIH-funded medical research that results in improved treatment of disease. Improved health can also help ease the fiscal burden of spending on public health programs.

- 52% KY enrollment in Medicare and Medicaid
- 10% KY GDP spent on public health programs
- 41% Rest of U.S. enrollment in Medicare and Medicaid
- 6% Rest of U.S. spending on public health programs

HOW KENTUCKY RANKS COMPARED TO OTHER STATES

Life Expectancy
5th lowest life expectancy
13th highest infant mortality

Chronic Conditions
3rd for cardiovascular disease
10th for diabetes
2nd for obesity

Deaths
29th for Alzheimer’s disease
3rd for cancer
8th for heart disease
5th for opioid overdose
17th for suicide
Boosting the Labor Force

NIH-funded research boosts an important sector of the labor force

Jobs in the R&D sector in Kentucky pay 2X more than jobs in other sectors. Moreover, the R&D sector has seen far greater growth over the last seven years than other sectors in the state — 45% vs 5%.

These facts, combined with strong pay growth help attract highly skilled workers and businesses to the commonwealth.

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<tr>
<td>R&amp;D</td>
<td>All Sectors</td>
<td>Ratio</td>
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I realized down through the years that the way we make progress is through these types of studies,” said Jim, a retired pediatrician who received an Alzheimer’s diagnosis in 2020. “So it’s very important.”

Biomedical Innovation in Kentucky

MEET JIM JACKSON

Every two weeks, Jim and Sharon Jackson travel an hour from Morehead to Lexington to help scientists better understand how to treat Alzheimer’s disease.

Jim is a study participant in a clinical trial called AHEAD, and the University of Kentucky is one of about 75 study sites around the country.

During regular visits, Jim, 83, gets an infusion in his left arm — in a favorite vein that’s a “pretty easy one to get.” Other times, less frequently, he gets MRIs, PET scans, memory testing. The brain scans are meant to measure the size of the brain and its changes over time. Sharon, 74, goes with him to help answer questions about his mind and note any changes over time.

During their days in Lexington, the couple tries different restaurants, trying never to eat the same place twice. They described their trips for the trial — their first — as a rewarding experience.
The AHEAD study is the first-ever clinical trial to test the effect of lecanemab in people who have no cognitive symptoms of Alzheimer’s disease, but in whom biomarker tests indicate amyloid is present in the brain, known as “preclinical” Alzheimer’s disease. Lecanemab, marketed as Leqembi, has been shown to slow the progression of Alzheimer’s and was approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in July 2023 for the treatment of Alzheimer’s disease. The AHEAD study will test whether these effects in symptomatic patients are similar to those with preclinical Alzheimer’s disease.

The University of Kentucky’s Sanders-Brown Center on Aging is one of more than 100 sites worldwide participating in the AHEAD study. The study seeks to enroll 1,165 participants from North America.

The AHEAD study is funded by the NIH and Eisai Inc. It is being conducted by the NIH-funded Alzheimer’s Clinical Trials Consortium (ACTC), a network of leading academic Alzheimer’s research centers.

Thermo Fisher is investing $59 million in the expansion and renovation of its central lab for its PPD clinical research business to provide increased testing of pharmaceutical products. New jobs created through the project will include PhD-level scientists, analytical laboratory staff and other scientific professionals. Thermo Fisher currently employs approximately 700 people across its two sites in Kentucky.

Thermo Fisher’s expanding footprint and the accompanying creation of more than 200 total jobs are huge wins for Kentucky.”