



2026  
UPDATE

# NIH'S ROLE IN SUSTAINING THE U.S. ECONOMY

Creating Jobs and Strengthening  
Local Economies

**#keepNIHstrong**



*Produced with support from*





# NIH: A Proven Reliable Investment

There is no question that 2025 brought unprecedented challenges to patients, researchers and institutions that rely on research funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH). However, the NIH successfully spent its FY2025 budget and awarded \$36.58 billion in research grants to organizations in the 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia.

This research funding supported **390,863 jobs** and drove **\$94.15 billion in new economic activity** nationwide last year, illustrating once again the critical role the NIH plays not only in fueling life-saving discoveries but also in driving the U.S. economy. **For every \$1 invested in NIH research, there was a 250% return.**



## A 250% ROI

**\$1**  
NIH Funded  
Research  
=  
**\$2.57**  
Economic  
Activity



**\$94.15B**  
New Economic Activity



**390,863**  
Jobs Supported



# The Link Between NIH Funding and Economic Impact

## Strong Funding Drives Strong Results

	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	FY2020	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025
<b>Total NIH appropriations</b>	\$32.31 billion	\$34.30 billion	\$37.31 billion	\$39.31 billion	\$41.69 billion	\$42.94 billion	\$45.18 billion	\$47.68 billion	\$47.35* billion	<b>\$47.49* billion</b>
<b>NIH research funds awarded, U.S.</b>	\$24.59 billion	\$26.10 billion	\$28.05 billion	\$30.82 billion	\$34.65 billion	\$35.73 billion	\$36.68 billion	\$37.81 billion	\$36.94 billion	<b>\$36.58** billion</b>
<b>NIH research grants awarded, U.S.</b>	52,470	54,128	57,110	59,421	61,993	62,996	64,657	65,454	64,359	<b>58,795**</b>
<b>Total jobs supported, U.S.</b>	332,225	337,419	347,247	365,122	393,370	387,774	399,620	412,041	407,782	<b>390,863</b>
<b>Total economic activity, U.S.</b>	\$63.07 billion	\$66.35 billion	\$70.66 billion	\$76.96 billion	\$85.81 billion	\$87.68 billion	\$90.17 billion	\$92.89 billion	\$94.58 billion	<b>\$94.15 billion</b>

\*Number does not include funding for ARPA-H

\*\*Data obtained from NIH Research Portfolio Online Reporting Tools (RePORT) Jan. 12, 2026

**About this data:** UMR's annual economic calculations assume that the research funding awarded each fiscal year works its way into the economy in that same year. However, as this report notes, the NIH made substantially increased use of multi-year funding in FY2025, whereby it obligates the full amount of the award in the year it was funded rather than only the amount for that year. According to calculations by the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), approximately 7% of total grant funding in FY2025 was to multi-year funded awards compared to 5% in FY2024. UMR's calculations for FY2025 do not attempt to separate out the multi-year-funded grants from those funded in the traditional manner. As in past years, the calculations assume all funding was spent in the fiscal year.

The analysis for this report was performed by Ronald Horst, Ph.D., Inforum. Calculation of the jobs and economic activity resulting from NIH research awards in each state relies heavily on the Regional Input-Output Modeling System (RIMS) parameters maintained by the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA). BEA updates the RIMS parameters annually, although the economic data used lags by two years. Additionally, BEA does a major, "benchmark," revision to RIMS parameters every five years. UMR's data for FY2025 was calculated in January 2026 using the most recently published RIMS parameters at that time, which rely on economic data for calendar year 2023. The data shown here for years FY2016-FY2024 were calculated using earlier versions of BEA's RIMS parameters or approximations for those years. Given the way the RIMS parameters change over time, the data presented here should be viewed as a series of snapshots of the economic effects of NIH funding in each year.

## Thank You

UMR is grateful to the congressional champions who were tireless in their efforts to push the NIH to spend its full, appropriated budget and release FY2025 research awards. If not for their efforts, the economic impact attributable to this funding might have been significantly different last year. As this report illustrates, there is a direct relationship between strong funding for the NIH and the creation of jobs and economic activity vital to local communities across the United States.

# How NIH Research Funding Supports the Broader Economy

Before any discoveries are made or medical innovations move to the marketplace, the money invested in medical research through the NIH is busy supporting local economies nationwide.

## EVERY STATE BENEFITS

Researchers in every state receive NIH research funding. That funding supports jobs and the purchase of research-related goods and services, driving further economic activity and benefits.



In FY2025, NIH research funding supported **390,863 jobs** nationwide and drove **\$94.15 billion** in new economic activity. At the state level, this led to:



### Job Creation

<b>39</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>5</b>
states with <b>1,000+</b> jobs	states with <b>5,000+</b> jobs	states with <b>10,000+</b> jobs	states with <b>20,000+</b> jobs



### Economic Activity

<b>47</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>5</b>
states with <b>\$100M+</b>	states with <b>\$500M+</b>	states with <b>\$1B+</b>	states with <b>\$5B+</b>

[Jump to the state-by-state impact of NIH research funding in FY2025 >](#)

# The Research Ripple Effect



When the NIH funds a research project, the impact of that funding reaches far beyond its original recipients.



University Lab



Local Economy



Medical Innovations



Clinical Trials



Lab Supply Company



Technology Park



Research funding directly supports jobs, the purchase of supplies and equipment and the upkeep and operation of lab space.

Money from jobs and purchases cycles through the economy, supporting local businesses and creating new jobs and economic activity.

Ultimately, research leads to new technologies and treatments, improved quality of life, and new industries.

Download This Graphic >



# The Impact of Multi-Year Funding

There were significant disruptions to NIH research funding in 2025, including delays in reviewing and making awards. As of mid-June, research funds awarded by the NIH were about 30% below prior-year levels.<sup>1</sup> Yet, by the end of the fiscal year, the NIH had made up this shortfall and met the September 30 deadline to spend its budget.

## HOW MULTI-YEAR FUNDING RESULTS IN FEWER GRANTS

**\$2 million**

4-year Research Project Grant

To do this, the NIH made significant use of a budget mechanism called **multi-year funding** whereby it obligated the full amount of a multi-year grant in the year it was awarded (2025) rather than in annual increments. While this enabled the agency to spend its budget quickly, it also resulted in **a substantial reduction in total awards funded**. This is because the funds allocated for the remaining years of the multi-year funding awards were set aside and reserved, making them unavailable for other new awards. In FY2025, 5,564 fewer grants were funded than in FY2024.

### TRADITIONAL FUNDING APPROACH

NIH pays the grant out **over 4 years**



### MULTI-YEAR FUNDING APPROACH

NIH obligates the full grant amount **at once**

### \$2 MILLION FUNDS MULTIPLE GRANTS



### \$2 MILLION FUNDS ONE GRANT



	FY2024	FY2025	CHANGE
Total Funding	\$36,938,400,000	\$36,580,900,000	-1.0%
Total Grants	64,359	58,795	-8.6%

## States With Greatest Decrease In Number of Awards

Location	Awards FY2024	Awards FY2025	Number Change FY24 to FY25	Percent Change FY24 to FY25*
North Dakota	34	27	-7	-20.6%
West Virginia	89	71	-18	-20.2%
Montana	82	66	-16	-19.5%
District Of Columbia	447	367	-80	-17.9%
South Dakota	41	34	-7	-17.1%
Alaska	24	20	-4	-16.7%
Iowa	469	391	-78	-16.6%
Mississippi	101	85	-16	-15.8%
South Carolina	538	462	-76	-14.1%
Louisiana	373	321	-52	-13.9%
Maine	171	148	-23	-13.5%
Kentucky	469	406	-63	-13.4%
Maryland	2760	2410	-350	-12.7%
Nebraska	301	263	-38	-12.6%
Illinois	2364	2071	-293	-12.4%
Alabama	722	641	-81	-11.2%
Utah	679	605	-74	-10.9%
Michigan	1978	1774	-204	-10.3%
Kansas	264	237	-27	-10.2%
Wyoming	20	18	-2	-10.0%

\*White text indicates states that also saw a decrease in overall NIH funding in FY2025



## Drop in NIH Funding Rates

A concern with the NIH's increased use of multi-year funding is that it reduces the amount of money available to fund promising research and researchers. In fact, **NIH funding rates** — a measure of how many researchers seeking support were successful — **dropped to about 17%** in FY2025.<sup>2</sup> This is the lowest level in nearly 30 years and compares to 26% in 2024 and 30% in 2023.<sup>3</sup>

**Nineteen states and the District of Columbia saw at least a 10% decrease in the number of awards received in FY2025 compared to the previous year.**

Given congressional appropriators' "strong concern" about the negative impact of multi-year funding on research application success rates and the resulting reduction in the number of grants NIH can fund, the final FY2026 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies [funding bill](#) includes specific language limiting NIH's future use of the funding strategy.<sup>4</sup>



“”

I am proud of the broad, bipartisan effort that has gone into building up this critical institution that brings hope to millions of American families — as well as patients around the world.

**Representative Rosa DeLauro**

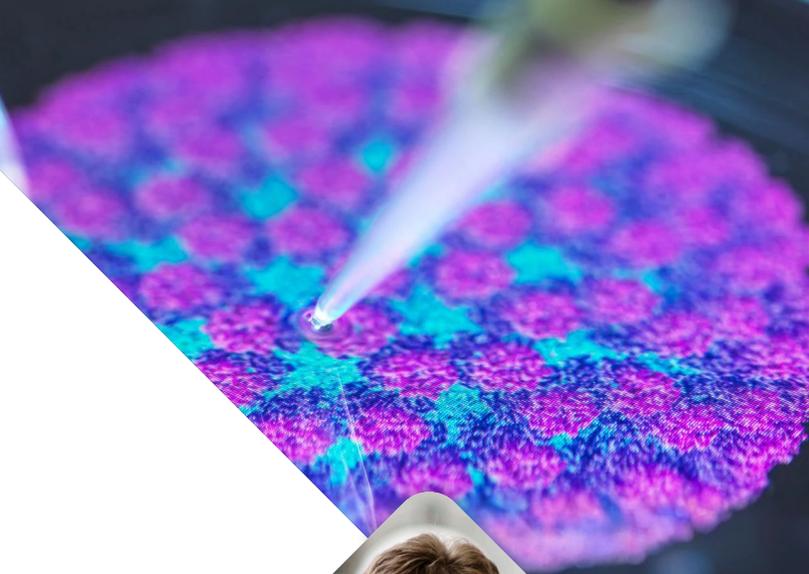
Ranking Member,  
House Appropriations  
Committee  
November 19, 2024 >

## A BIPARTISAN PRIORITY

# Keeping the NIH Strong

In the last decade, thanks to strong, bipartisan congressional support, NIH research funding has driven more than **\$822 billion in economic activity** and supported more than **3.7 million jobs**. This is in addition to supporting research that has:

- Saved countless lives and improved health
- Produced doctors, researchers and contributed to a highly skilled workforce
- Strengthened America’s national security
- Supported critical American industries
- Helped America maintain its global leadership in biomedical research and innovation

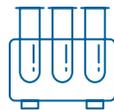


“”

There is no investment more worthwhile than our nation’s investment in biomedical research.

**Senator Susan Collins**

Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee  
December 5, 2025 >



With China and other nations investing heavily in their biomedical research programs, now is not the time to let up on U.S. investment. The benefits of a strong, sustainably funded National Institutes of Health are too great to surrender to other nations.

# Economic Impact of NIH Research by State FY2025

Click on a state for more information

## ABOUT UMR

UMR is a coalition of leading research institutions, patient and health advocates and private industry seeking strong and sustainable increases in funding for the National Institutes of Health to save and improve lives, advance innovation and fuel the economy. UMR members include: AdvaMed, Alzheimer's Association, American Association for Cancer Research, American Association for the Advancement of Science, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, American Society of Hematology, Association of American Cancer Institutes, Association of American Universities, Association of Public and Land-grant Universities, Harvard University, Johns Hopkins University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Northwestern University, Stanford University, Texas A&M University Health, Thermo Fisher Scientific, University of Pennsylvania, Vanderbilt University, and Vanderbilt Health.

(As of March 2026)

[UnitedforMedicalResearch.org](http://UnitedforMedicalResearch.org)

@UMR4NIH

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	NIH AWARDS (\$M)	Jobs Created per \$1M NIH Awards	Intrastate Jobs	Added Interstate Activity (Jobs, %)	Interstate Jobs	TOTAL EMPLOYMENT	TOTAL ECONOMIC ACTIVITY (\$M)
<a href="#">Alabama</a>	351.6	9.2	3,251.3	24.5	796.9	4,048.1	865.8
<a href="#">Alaska</a>	16.3	7.8	127.5	137.4	175.3	302.8	64.8
<a href="#">Arizona</a>	397.1	10.2	4,045.5	34.4	1,392.1	5,437.6	1,166.4
<a href="#">Arkansas</a>	95.3	8.8	841.9	58.4	492.0	1,333.9	267.5
<a href="#">California</a>	5,243.9	8.8	46,138.8	17.7	8,187.0	54,325.7	14,070.9
<a href="#">Colorado</a>	579.5	9.6	5,578.3	21.9	1,224.3	6,802.5	1,623.1
<a href="#">Connecticut</a>	825.7	7.6	6,300.6	11.1	696.4	6,997.0	1,878.1
<a href="#">Delaware</a>	94.4	5.5	517.3	35.5	183.4	700.8	222.1
<a href="#">District of Columbia</a>	206.0	1.6	338.7	31.2	105.7	444.4	406.0
<a href="#">Florida</a>	928.3	11.2	10,437.4	43.5	4,544.7	14,982.0	2,981.8
<a href="#">Georgia</a>	788.6	11.8	9,306.1	24.9	2,317.2	11,623.3	2,316.2
<a href="#">Hawaii</a>	66.7	9.1	607.4	48.5	294.5	901.9	188.7
<a href="#">Idaho</a>	30.1	9.2	277.7	116.9	324.5	602.2	125.4
<a href="#">Illinois</a>	1,255.8	9.9	12,381.7	20.1	2,489.7	14,871.4	3,592.4
<a href="#">Indiana</a>	409.2	8.8	3,616.1	32.8	1,187.3	4,803.4	1,100.9
<a href="#">Iowa</a>	197.4	7.9	1,555.8	40.3	626.7	2,182.5	484.8
<a href="#">Kansas</a>	143.2	8.1	1,161.8	43.9	510.4	1,672.1	395.6
<a href="#">Kentucky</a>	231.4	8.6	1,982.5	34.4	681.4	2,663.9	604.9
<a href="#">Louisiana</a>	200.3	9.8	1,970.5	45.2	890.1	2,860.6	554.2
<a href="#">Maine</a>	120.3	9.3	1,122.4	22.7	255.2	1,377.7	280.4
<a href="#">Maryland</a>	2,136.8	8.4	17,960.4	6.5	1,169.3	19,129.7	4,679.4
<a href="#">Massachusetts</a>	3,410.6	7.9	26,853.0	5.6	1,514.2	28,367.3	7,639.7
<a href="#">Michigan</a>	1,001.2	9.7	9,730.0	16.9	1,640.3	11,370.3	2,550.7
<a href="#">Minnesota</a>	725.0	9.1	6,587.2	17.4	1,148.1	7,735.3	1,791.8
<a href="#">Mississippi</a>	57.7	8.9	512.7	80.5	412.6	925.3	185.8
<a href="#">Missouri</a>	882.1	8.6	7,574.0	12.8	968.1	8,542.1	2,074.0
<a href="#">Montana</a>	50.3	9.2	464.4	44.8	208.1	672.5	132.8
<a href="#">Nebraska</a>	140.9	9.2	1,290.1	37.3	481.8	1,771.9	364.6
<a href="#">Nevada</a>	41.9	8.7	365.3	174.0	635.7	1,001.0	221.9
<a href="#">New Hampshire</a>	144.8	7.0	1,020.4	21.8	222.2	1,242.6	349.6
<a href="#">New Jersey</a>	465.4	8.8	4,106.3	41.4	1,700.1	5,806.4	1,513.5
<a href="#">New Mexico</a>	133.0	7.8	1,036.2	33.1	343.3	1,379.4	309.6
<a href="#">New York</a>	3,500.6	7.1	24,975.6	17.3	4,318.2	29,293.8	8,251.9
<a href="#">North Carolina</a>	1,713.2	9.7	16,624.6	11.5	1,912.7	18,537.3	4,285.9
<a href="#">North Dakota</a>	20.9	7.4	155.1	118.8	184.3	339.4	77.2
<a href="#">Ohio</a>	1,007.6	9.9	9,984.7	22.6	2,251.7	12,236.4	2,627.8
<a href="#">Oklahoma</a>	165.3	10.5	1,742.2	42.2	735.2	2,477.4	465.5
<a href="#">Oregon</a>	420.9	8.8	3,723.3	20.4	759.2	4,482.6	1,021.4
<a href="#">Pennsylvania</a>	2,268.4	8.5	19,255.9	10.7	2,063.5	21,319.5	5,454.6
<a href="#">Rhode Island</a>	241.8	7.4	1,791.2	9.1	163.6	1,954.7	503.2
<a href="#">South Carolina</a>	259.2	10.3	2,680.9	33.3	891.5	3,572.4	749.5
<a href="#">South Dakota</a>	28.8	8.3	238.6	80.9	193.1	431.7	89.9
<a href="#">Tennessee</a>	826.3	10.0	8,292.4	15.2	1,262.8	9,555.2	2,224.4
<a href="#">Texas</a>	1,888.2	11.8	22,354.2	30.9	6,900.7	29,254.9	6,150.8
<a href="#">Utah</a>	299.2	11.5	3,426.5	23.6	808.4	4,234.9	821.8
<a href="#">Vermont</a>	52.4	7.5	395.6	25.2	99.6	495.2	120.5
<a href="#">Virginia</a>	614.5	8.5	5,235.1	30.7	1,608.0	6,843.1	1,698.1
<a href="#">Washington</a>	1,264.3	7.8	9,844.5	17.2	1,692.8	11,537.4	3,056.0
<a href="#">West Virginia</a>	50.3	7.7	387.0	65.8	254.7	641.8	140.5
<a href="#">Wisconsin</a>	576.6	9.4	5,415.3	21.1	1,140.2	6,555.5	1,365.2
<a href="#">Wyoming</a>	11.6	7.8	89.8	147.2	132.2	222.0	45.3
50 states plus DC	\$36,580.9	8.9	325,671.9	20	65,190.8	390,862.7	\$94,153

# THANK YOU to Our Sponsors

We greatly appreciate the support of the organizations below who have contributed financially to making this year's report possible. The content of the report was developed by United for Medical Research with the underlying data provided by Inforum.

## PLATINUM SPONSORS



## GOLD SPONSOR



<sup>1</sup> Molteni M, Parker JE. Despite resumption of NIH grant reviews, research funding gap grew. STAT News. June 27, 2025. <https://www.statnews.com/2025/06/27/despite-resumption-of-nih-grant-reviews-research-funding-gap-grew/>

<sup>2</sup> National Institutes of Health, Office of Extramural Research. NIH Support for Early Stage Investigators in FYs 2024 and 2025. NIH Extramural Nexus News. February 10, 2026. <https://grants.nih.gov/news-events/nih-extramural-nexus-news/2026/02/nih-support-for-early-stage-investigators-in-fys-2024-and-2025>.

<sup>3</sup> National Institutes of Health. NIH Data Book: Report 30 — R01-Equivalent Grants: Awards as a Percentage of All Research Grants. 2025. Available from: <https://report.nih.gov/nihdatabook/report/30>.

<sup>4</sup> United States Senate Committee on Appropriations. FY 2026 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations: Joint Explanatory Statement. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Publishing Office, 2026. Available at: [https://www.appropriations.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/fy26\\_lhhs\\_jes.pdf](https://www.appropriations.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/fy26_lhhs_jes.pdf) (see p. 42).

