

Report to the National Advisory Environmental Health Sciences Council

Rick Woychik, Ph.D.
Director

National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences and
National Toxicology Program

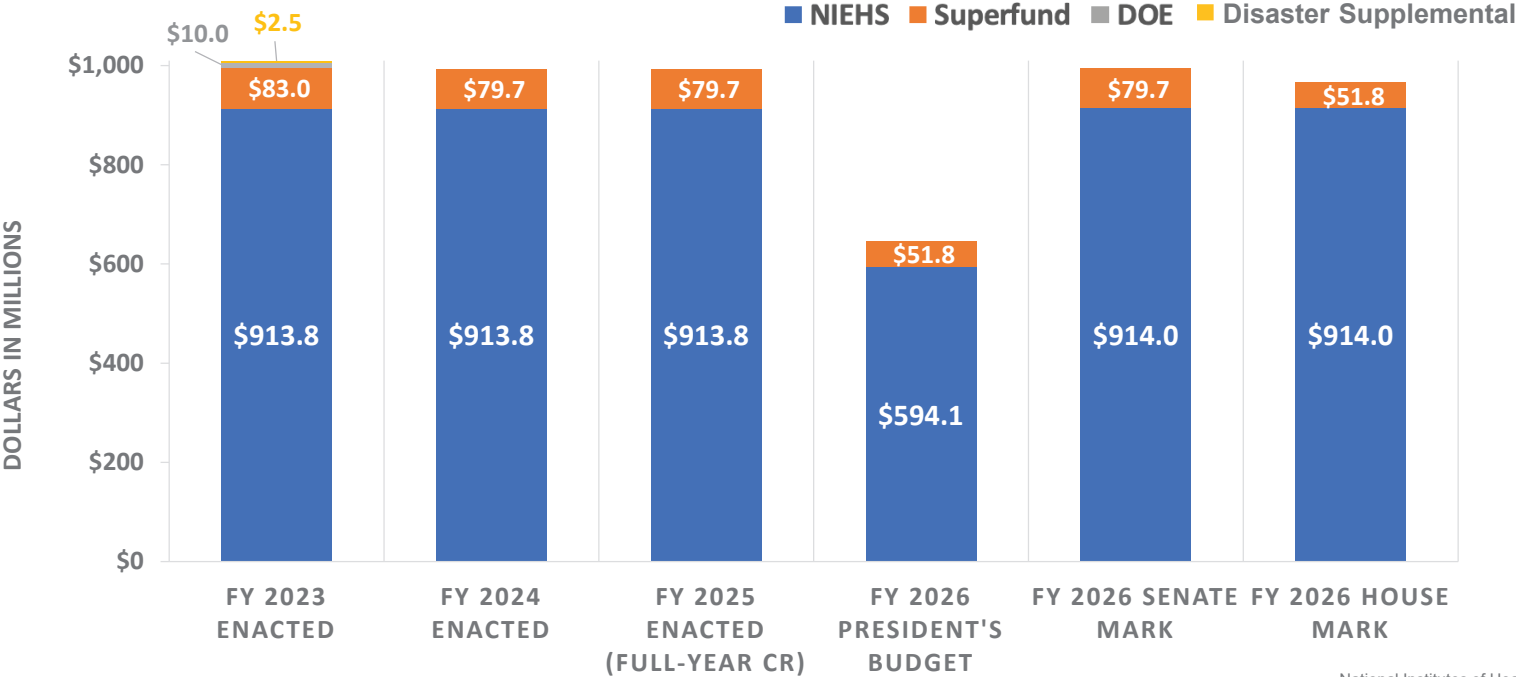
September 10, 2025



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Budget Update and Congressional Activities

FY 2023-2026 Funding Summary



Enacted appropriations levels for NIEHS (FY23-FY25) are post-AIDS transfer. FY 2026 President's Budget, Senate, and House Mark reflect pre-AIDS transfer levels.

National Institutes of Health
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

FY26 President's Budget Request

- **Proposed President's Budget HHS reorganization changes to NIEHS:**
 - **Moves NIEHS to the new proposed agency**, the Administration for a Healthy America (AHA)
 - NIEHS would be a part of the Environment Health account with NIOSH and other parts of CDC
 - Additionally, **AHA combines** the work of the:
 - Office of Assistant Secretary for Health (**OASH**)
 - Health Resources and Services Administration (**HRSA**)
 - Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (**SAMHSA**)
 - Several centers and programs formerly in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (**CDC**)
- **Proposed reorganization of NIH ICs**
 - NIH's current **27 Institutes and Centers would be consolidated into 8**, including the **elimination of NINR, NIMHD, FIC, and NCCIH**.

Senate FY26 Appropriations Bills for NIEHS to Date (Passed Committee)

Senate FY26 Labor-HHS

- NIEHS: \$913,799,000 (**flat funding from FY25/24**)
- Report language relating to: **Environmental-related health conditions, understanding environmental triggers of inflammatory bowel disease (IBD), indoor air, microplastics, PFAS, and wildfire smoke**
- **No language on NIH reorganization** but refers to the Public Health Service Act for requirements to restructure or reorganize NIH ICs.

Senate FY26 Interior, Environment and related Agencies

- NIEHS Superfund-related Activities: \$79,714,000 (**flat funding from FY25/24**)
- Report language relating to: **PFAS and other contaminants of emerging concern, abandoned uranium mine waste, and WTP/DOE nuclear worker training program.**

House FY26 Appropriations Bills for NIEHS to Date

House FY26 Labor-HHS

- NIEHS: \$913,979,000 (**flat funding from FY25/24**)
- Report language relating to: **Microplastics, wildfire smoke health research, diet and chronic disease research, community water fluoridation.**
- Any large-scale restructuring proposal remains under the jurisdiction of the Committee on Energy and Commerce - recommendation for **fiscal year 2026 reflects the NIH structure under current law.**

House FY26 Interior, Environment and related Agencies

- NIEHS Superfund-related Activities: \$51,814,000 (**matches President's FY26 Budget request; \$27.9M less than FY25**)
- Report language: Commends WTP and encourages them to keep supporting **communities' capacity to respond to pandemics and disasters.**

NIEHS's Recent Congressional Activities

- **Congressional Staff Lunch and Learns** hosted weekly by NIH OLPA.

- **NIEHS 101** (Dr. Woychik)
- **Asthma** (Dr. Zeldin and Dr. Fessler)
- **Microplastics** (Dr. Balshaw)
- **Heat Stress** (Drs. Miller, Quinn, Tuyishime)



- **Research!America Alliance Discussion: Speeding Solutions for Chronic Diseases**

- **Dr. Rick Woychik**, NIEHS and NTP Director
- **Dr. Josh Denny**, CEO of All of Us research program
- **Dr. Holly Nicastro**, Coordinator for Nutrition for Precision Health

HHS Leadership Engagement

NIEHS Recent HHS and NIH Briefings

- Secretary Kennedy
 - Topics: Role of the environment in health and chronic disease
- Dr. William Reyn Archer, Chief Advisor to the Secretary on Health
 - Topics: PFAS, Micro and Nanoplastics, EMRs
- Dr. Dorothy Fink, Acting ASH
 - Topics: National Toxicology Program
- Dr. Jay Bhattacharya and Dr. Matt Memoli
 - Biweekly IC Director's meetings

Continuing to Deliver on the NIEHS Mission

- **Goal:** Ensure advancement of the **NIEHS mission**, with a focus on long-term effectiveness and impact.
 - Positioning NIEHS within HHS leadership priorities
- **HHS and NIH leadership remain strongly supportive**
 - NIEHS mission is recognized as critical to national public health priorities
 - Ongoing collaboration at the highest levels
- **NIEHS Senior Leadership Committee is fully engaged**
 - Committed to protecting what makes NIEHS unique and working to position the institute for continued success



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NIH Priorities & Initiative on Human-based Research Technologies

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Dr. Bhattacharya's Vision for NIH Building Blocks to Improving Health

- **Improve Population Health**

- NIH must address the health needs of the American people and find better ways to prevent, treat, and cure chronic diseases.

- **Ensure reliable results**

- NIH-supported science should be replicable, reproducible, and generalizable.

- **Make big advances**

- NIH must invest in innovation, and embrace new technologies, new ideas, and new approaches to old problems.



Dr. Jay Bhattacharya
NIH Director

Dr. Bhattacharya's Vision for NIH Building Blocks to Improving Health

- **Maintain safety and transparency**
 - Research should meet the highest ethical standards and should not endanger human populations.
- **Encourage academic freedom**
 - NIH will foster a culture in which scientists can express disagreement respectfully.



Dr. Jay Bhattacharya
NIH Director

NIH Funding for International Research

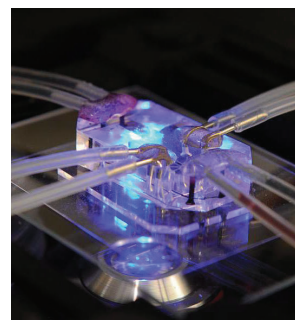
- **NIH must continue strong engagement with the international research community**
- International projects may also improve health abroad, but **NIH's mission is improving the health of Americans**
- Support for foreign work should meet two criteria:
 - **Research cannot be conducted in the U.S.**
 - **Research informs American health priorities**
- This approach strengthens defensibility to Congress and the American public, who fund the work
- **Overall:** continued commitment to supporting international collaboration

NIH Updates: Center for Scientific Review (CSR)

- **Centralization of peer review** - [announced March 6, 2025](#)
- **Retirement of Noni Byrnes, PhD, CSR Director**
 - [August 7, 2025 - NIH Director's Statement](#)
- **CSR managing peer review of draft NTP reports** when done by an external scientific panel.
- Further discussion on peer review in DERT updates

NIH to Prioritize Human-based Research Technologies

- NAMs offer unique advantages that can enhance research capabilities:
 - Focus on **human-specific data**
 - **Streamline** the research process
 - **Reduced reliance on animal testing**
- NIH investment in these technologies has been increasing over time:
 - Advisory Committee to the Director (**ACD**) **Working Group on Catalyzing the Development and use of NAMs** to Advance Biomedical Research
 - Supporting the ICCVAM
 - **Common Fund Complement Animal Research In Experimentation (Complement-ARIE) Program**
 - **Advances funded across NIH**, e.g., NCATS 3-D Tissue Bioprinting Program, NIBIB tissue engineering, intramural organoid models



NIH intends to **develop, validate, and scale the use of NAMs**

NIH Funding Announcements to Align with NIH Initiative to Prioritize Human-based Research

- **Change:** All new Notices of Funding Opportunity (**NOFOs**) that relate to animal models **must now also support human-focused approaches** such as clinical trials, real world data, or new approach methods (NAMs).
 - Applicants may continue to propose research exclusively involving human participants, laboratory animals, [alternative approaches](#), or a combination of different models.
 - NIH will continue to support grants that use animal models if they are scientifically appropriate, justifiable, and have [appropriate animal welfare](#) oversight.
- **Intent:** Ensure that investigators consider the models most appropriate for understanding human states of health and disease and are not constrained by the NOFO.
- **Example:** A NOFO previously titled “Improved Mouse Models of X” will be titled “Improved Models of X” and include language on NAMs.

For more information, see the [April 29 announcement](#) and [July 10 / July 18](#) posts on Extramural Nexus.



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NIH Grant Policy Updates

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Simplifying the Landscape of Applying for NIH Funding

- NIH had over **800 active NOFOs** on January 1, 2025
- Opportunity to **streamline and simplify the process**
- Three overall goals:
 - **Empower more investigator-driven projects**
 - **Reduce overly narrow / specific NOFOs**
 - **Increase efficiency by reducing the administrative burden**



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IMPROVING OVERSIGHT OF
FEDERAL GRANTMAKING

Executive Orders | August 7, 2025

Simplifying the Landscape of Applying for NIH Funding

Coming Soon: Reducing the Number of NOFOs

- Enhanced Parent Announcements
 - Develop NIH-wide parent announcements to reduce the large number of IC specific announcements
 - Consolidate related grant mechanisms in new Parent Announcements
- Non-parent notices
 - Required to move a particular initiative/ specific area forward
 - Are not be able to be addressed by current parent announcements
- Highlighted Topics
 - Areas of emphasized priorities



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**IMPROVING OVERSIGHT OF
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NIEHS Awardees and Recognition

Mike Fessler, MD Elected to the Association of American Physicians (AAP)

- Selection to membership in AAP is an indication of the pre-eminence and the highest caliber of physician-led science accomplishments and scientific leadership.
- An AAP member has led through innovative science to improve health and medical care, in a sustained and impactful trajectory of transformational contributions.



Dr. Mike Fessler



ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN PHYSICIANS
for the advancement of scientific and practical medicine

Carmen Williams, MD, PhD

Society for the Study of Reproduction Research Award

- This award recognizes a member of the Society for outstanding research published over the previous six years.
- A credit to her creativity and the effort of the members of her present and past research group.



Dr. Carmen Williams



Benedict Anchang, PhD

Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers

- The PECASE is the highest honor bestowed by the U.S. Government to outstanding scientists and engineers who are beginning their independent research careers and who show exceptional promise for leadership in science and technology.
- Adjunct Investigator in the Cancer Data Science Laboratory (awarded 2020)
 - Recognized for his work in uncovering how receptors inside and outside cells are affected by drugs, endocrine disruptors, viruses and environmental chemicals/agents.
 - Awardees from the classes of 2018 through 2020 received their awards in 2025.



Dr. Benedict Anchang

Thank you!

