

PUBLIC INVESTMENTS IN NIH YIELD A POSITIVE RATE OF RETURN



The National Institutes of Health (NIH) is the largest public funder of biomedical research in the world, with every U.S. state and almost every congressional district receiving a share of NIH funding. NIH-funded research has boosted public health, increasing life expectancy by six years between 1970 and 2020 and contributing to major breakthroughs, including a 33% drop in cancer mortality since 1991 and a nearly 50% decline in heart disease deaths since 1924. NIH support also enabled gene editing advances that are now making it possible to treat life-threatening genetic diseases such as sickle cell anemia.

NIH fuels economic growth—generating **\$2.56** in economic activity for every **\$1** invested. Its investments in human genomics alone support over 850,000 jobs and contribute \$265 billion annually to the U.S. economy, with a \$4.75 return on every dollar spent.

64K

Number of research and training grants awarded by NIH in FY 2024

300K

Number of researchers supported by NIH grants in FY 2024

2.5K

Number of universities, medical schools, and other research institutions in every state that receive NIH funds

\$1T

Economic growth resulting from NIH's Human Genome Project — a 178-fold return on investment

408K

Jobs supported by NIH research in every state in FY 2024

\$95B

Economic activity driven by NIH research in FY 2024

Funding for NIH has not kept pace with the demand for research grants. Despite the large number of highly competitive and potentially transformative grant proposals submitted to NIH, the agency is only able to fund **one in five** promising research proposals.

Sustained, predictable investments are needed to ensure our nation's leadership in biomedical research. Please provide NIH with at least \$51.3 billion in FY 2026. Any funding for ARPA-H should supplement, rather than supplant, the essential foundational investment in NIH.