

Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP): At a Glance



Background

The Office of Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP) was established by the Department of Defense (DOD) in 1993 to eliminate breast cancer. Over the years, it has added numerous other cancers and disease programs to better understand conditions that affect military servicemembers, veterans, and the American public. CDMRP is a collection of 38 programs that target research funding to specific diseases like cancer. CDMRP grants fund innovative, rigorous research to spur advancements in clinical interventions, medical treatments, and new drug products. Since its inception, in breast cancer alone CDMRP-funded research has led to 19,416 scientific research papers, 1,383 patents, and 222 clinical trials¹. The work CDMRP funds – and the collaborative approach that it undertakes with impacted communities – improves outcomes for Americans with cancer and does not overlap with projects funded by other federal agencies.

Funding

Congress funds the CDMRP on an annual basis in the Defense Appropriations Act as “Undistributed Medical Research,” with conference reports typically specifying the funding of individually named research programs based on constituent and advocacy group input. In FY24, Congress appropriated \$1.546 billion across the 38 research programs. This includes a total of **\$593 million for research on a variety of cancer types and the Peer Reviewed Cancer Research Program (PRCRP)**,² equivalent to roughly 8% of funding received by the National Cancer Institute in FY24.

Other major non-cancer disease allocations in FY24 CDMRP funding include peer-reviewed medical at \$370 million, psychological health/ traumatic brain injury at \$175 million, and spinal cord injury and ALS each at \$40 million.

FUNDING PROGRAM	FY24	FY 25 CR	CUT
Breast cancer	150	130	20
Peer-reviewed cancer	130	130	0
Prostate cancer	110	75	35
Kidney cancer	50	0	50
Ovarian cancer	45	15	30
Melanoma	40	40	0
Lung cancer	25	0	25
Rare Cancers	17.5	17.5	0
Pancreatic cancer	15	0	15
Glioblastoma	10	0	10
Total	592.5	407.5	185

Funding Update: Reductions to Cancer Research

- In FY24, Congress appropriated \$1.546 billion for all of CDMRP and a total of \$593 million for cancer-specific programs.
- **Unfortunately, the FY25 continuing resolution cut \$859 million (57%) from the overall FY24 CDMRP program levels, including a cut of \$185 million (31%) from cancer programs.**
- Programs for four cancer types will not receive any funding in FY25.

¹ https://cdmrp.health.mil/bcrp/research_highlights/24Sukumar_highlight.aspx

² Congressional Research Service, “Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs Funding for FY2024,” accessed March 17, 2025 <https://www.congress.gov/crs-product/IF10349>