Increase Research Funding in FY27

Cancer Research Delivers Breakthroughs & Hope

Increased investment at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the National Cancer Institute (NCI), and level funding for Advanced Research Projects for Health (ARPA-H), in the fight against cancer year over year have been key to reducing the nation's cancer mortality rate by 34% since 1991. The 5-year relative survival rate for all cancers combined is now 70%, up from 49% in the mid-1970s, and there are 18.6 million cancer survivors in the U.S.[1] Congress can help bring us closer to ending cancer as we know it, for everyone.

To ensure that the research being supported today yields the cancer treatments of tomorrow, ACS CAN urges Congress to expand support in FY27 so that progress can continue.

NIH	NCI	ARPA-H
$51.3 Billion	**$7.99 Billion**	**$1.5 Billion**
($4.1 billion increase over FY26)	($637 million increase over FY26)	(Same level as FY26)

The burden of cancer is unacceptably high[1]

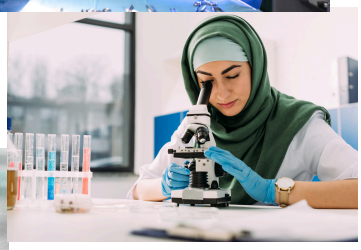
2 Million+
new cancer cases projected in 2026

1 out of every 3 people in the U.S. will develop cancer during their lifetime

626,000
estimated deaths due to cancer in 2026... equivalent to 1700 deaths per day

Recent milestones thanks to research support:

- Targeted radioligand therapy tested as a breakthrough treatment in a range of cancers[2]
- New optical imaging technologies combined with AI screening ensures complete removal of tumor tissue during surgery (an ARPA-H project)[3]
- Molecular testing for hundreds of genetic alterations doubles early diagnostic sensitivity in bile duct cancer[4]



Breakthrough opportunities with FY27 funding:

- Addressing the rise of colorectal cancer diagnoses in individuals under 50
- Regaining U.S. role in drug development through expansion of rural clinical trial infrastructure
- Understanding the role of nutrition and environment in development of cancer
- Personalized cellular therapies

The demand for NCI research grants exceeds capacity

- Only 9% of new research grant applications were funded by NCI in 2025, a significant reduction from 13% in 2024 and 15% in 2023[5]
- Individual grant award amounts have increased only 4% on average since FY2000 when adjusted for inflation[6]

ARPA-H has a unique role in discovery and cures

- ARPA-H supports breakthrough, transformational technologies and resources for medicine and health not addressed via traditional funding mechanisms[7]
- ARPA-H funding supports:
  - Health Science Futures: Expanding what's technically possible
  - Scalable Solutions: Reaching everyone quickly
  - Proactive Health: Keeping people from being patients
  - Resilient Systems: Building integrated health care systems

NIH and NCI funding drive U.S. economic growth[8]

- **Investment fuels the U.S. economy and benefits every state and D.C.**
- **NIH generated $94.15 billion in new U.S. economic activity in FY25**
- **Every $1 invested in NIH research generated a 250% return**
- **NIH funding supported 390,863 jobs and 58,795 research grants**
  - **39 states with 1000+ jobs**
  - **22 states with 5000+ jobs**
  - **13 states with 10,000+ jobs**

Forward Funding Reduced Grants

Forward funding (or multi-year funding) obligates all years of a grant term up-front, in the first year. The increased use of this mechanism in FY25 **reduced new grants at NIH and NCI by about 19%.**[9]

19 states and the District of Columbia experienced at least a **10% decline** in number of awards.

Overall, NIH funded 3,669 fewer grants in FY25 compared to FY24.[10]

U.S. competitiveness

- In 2024, China hosted approximately 3 times more single-country trials than the U.S.[11]
- China exceeds the U.S. in science and engineering publications and patent applications, demonstrating leadership in the end stages of the R&D pipeline.[12]
- The per patient clinical trial cost is less in China than in the U.S.[13]
- The U.S. is the world's largest funder of research and development, but China is close behind. On the current path it will draw level with the U.S. before 2030.[14]
- Increasingly, grant seekers are going to the EU or China for research opportunities.[15]

1. American Cancer Society. Cancer Facts & Figures 2026. Atlanta: American Cancer Society; 2026. https://www.cancer.org/research/cancer-facts-statistics/all-cancer-facts-figures/2026-cancer-facts-figures.html
2. Ninatti G, Lee ST, Scott AM. Radioligand Therapy in Cancer Management: A Global Perspective. Cancers (Basel). 2025 Oct 23;17(21):3412. doi: 10.3390/cancers17213412. PMID: 41228206; PMCID: PMC12607575.
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