Cancer Research Delivers Breakthroughs and Hope

American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network℠

Protect and Increase National Institutes of Health and National Cancer Institute Funding in FY2026

Increased and sustained investment at NIH and NCI in the fight against cancer year over year has been key to reducing the nation's cancer mortality rate by 34% since 1991 and will bring us closer to ending cancer as we know it, for everyone.

We can't afford to lose momentum

14.2 million life-years added

NCI-supported clinical trials added 14.2 million life-years to patients with cancer, at an average cost of $326 per life-year gained.[1]

407,782 jobs and $94.58 billion in 2024

In 2024, NIH research grants supported 407,782 jobs and generated $94.58 billion in new economic activity in all 50 states and DC.[2]

18 million+ cancer survivors in the U.S.[3]

Advances realized thanks to NIH and NCI funding...

- ✓ Outsmarting drug-resistant tumors
- ✓ New drug combinations for aggressive breast cancer
- ✓ Early identification of lung and pancreatic cancers
- ✓ Treating pediatric brain tumors with CAR-T
- ✓ Effective early treatment for aggressive colorectal cancer
- ✓ Blood tests for multi-cancer screening
- ✓ Breakthroughs in immunotherapy

Every cancer cure starts with federally funded research. Cuts have consequences.
Cutting federally funded cancer research endangers the lives of cancer patients by stalling critical breakthroughs just as they near clinical application. Patients rely on these innovations, and without sustained investment, research momentum will halt, delaying or derailing lifesaving therapies and diagnostics. Clinical trials will vanish, particularly in rural areas where cancer outcomes are already worse, and a generation of early-career scientists could be lost, weakening future discovery. These setbacks are not easily reversible and threaten both America's global leadership in biomedical innovation and the health of millions now and in the future.

1 Unger JM et al. Population, Clinical, and Scientific Impact of National Cancer Institute's National Clinical Trials Network Treatment Studies. J Clin Oncol. 2023 Apr 10;41(11):2020 2028. https://doi.org/10.1200/JCO.22.01826.

2 United for Medical Research. NIH's Role in Sustaining the U.S. Economy: FY2024 Update. March 2025. https://www.unitedformedicalresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/UMR_NIH-Role-in-Sustaining-US-Economy-FY2024-2025-Update.pdf.

3 Miller, Kimberly D., Arif S. Kamal, A. Blythe Ryerson, et al. "Cancer Treatment and Survivorship Statistics, 2024." CA: A Cancer Journal for Clinicians 74, no. 3 (2024): 170–195. https://doi.org/10.3322/caac.21731.