The ACADEMY for Radiology & Biomedical Imaging Research
Advancing Innovation in Imaging Science

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On Friday, May 30, President Trump released his detailed budget request. The budget follows the skinny budget. It proposes to cut NIH funding by $17 billion. Under the plan, the NIH would be reorganized by maintaining three institutes, eliminating four institutes, reassigning an institute, and merging the remaining into five new institutes.

The budget proposes a new Administration for a Healthy America which plans to absorb several HHS agencies. Additionally, new agencies proposed to meet the MAHA goals include the Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and the Assistant Secretary for a Healthy Future. The latter will absorb ARPA-H among other programs.

President Budget's Request Highlights

National Institutes of Health

The FY2026 budget funds NIH at $27.5 billion; in FY 2025 NIH received $45.5 billion. That's a cut of $17.96 billion.

The budget caps indirect cost rates at 15 percent.

The budget supports the proposed reorganization of NIH's Institutes and Centers.

- The plan retains the National Cancer Institute, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, and National Institute on Aging.
- It eliminates the National Institutes for Nursing Research, National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health, Fogarty International Center, and National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities.
- It moves the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences into the new Administration for a Healthy America.

The consolidated structure is proposed as follows:

- **National Institute on Body Systems** includes these current ICs: National Heart, Lung, & Blood Institute; National Institute on Diabetes, & Digestion, & Kidney Disease; National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal & Skin Disease
- **National Institute on Neuroscience & Brain Research** includes these current ICs: National Institute of Dental & Craniofacial Research; National Institute of Neurological Disorders & Stroke; National Eye Institute.
- **National Institute of General Medical Sciences** includes these current ICs: National Institute of General Medical Sciences; National Human Genome Research Institute; National Library of Medicine; National Institute of Biomedical Imaging & Bioengineering; National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences.
- **National Institute for Child and Women's Health, Sensory Disorders, and Communications** includes these current ICs: National Institute of Child Health and Human Development; National Institute on Deafness & Other Communications Disorders.
- **National Institute of Behavioral Health** includes these current ICs: National Institute on Alcohol Abuse & Alcoholism; National Institute on Drug Abuse; National Institute of Mental Health.

Budget Detail

Institute or Center	**FY2026 Proposed**	**FY 2025 Passed**
National Cancer Institute	$4.5 billion	$7.4 billion
National Institute of Allergies and Infectious Disease	$4.2 billion	$6.6 billion
National Institute of Aging	$2.7 billion	$4.4 billion
National Institute on Body Systems	$4.2 billion	
National Institute on Neuroscience and Brain Research	$2.45 billion	
National Institute of General Medical Sciences	$3.7 billion	
National Institute for Child and Women's Health, Sensory Disorders, and communication	$1.4 billion	

National Institute of Behavioral Health	$2.8 billion	
Office of the Director	$1.65 billion	$2.612 billion
21st Century Cures	$31 million	
Buildings and Facilities	$210 million	$350 million
Special Type 1 Diabetes	$159 million	
Total Program Level	**$27.9 billion**	

The proposed funding for each of these new institutes is less than the combined budgets of the centers that they'd be forged from, as seen in the chart below.

Institute or Center		**FY 2024 Actual**	**FY 2025 Est**	**FY 26 Proposed**
National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute		3.99	3.99	
National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Disease		2.314	2.313	
National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Disease		0.688	0.688	
National Institute on Body Systems		*6.99*	*6.99*	**4.2 billion**
National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke		2.314	2.313	
National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research		0.520	0.520	
National Eye Institute		0.896	0.896	
National Institute on Neuroscience & Brain Research		*3.73*	*3.729*	**2.45 billion**
National Institute of General Medical Sciences		1.832	1.832	
National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering		0.442	0.441	
National Human Genome Research Institute		0.660	0.660	
National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences		0.930	0.928	
Library of Medicine		0.495	0.495	
National Institute of General Medical Sciences		*4.359*	*4.356*	**3.7 billion**

National Institute of Child Health and Human Development		1.758	1.758	
National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorder		0.534	0.534	
National Institute for Child and Women's Health, Sensory Disorders, and Communications		*2.292*	*2.292*	**1.4 billion**
National Institute of Mental Health		2.278	2.323	
National Institute on Drug Abuse		1.633	1.633	
National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism		0.597	0.597	
National Institute of Behavioral Health		*4.508*	*4.553*	**2.8 billion**
NIH Office of the Director		2.612	2.598	1.65
NIH Buildings and facilities		0.321	0.350	0.210
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences		0.994	0.994	relocated to AHA Account
National Institute of Nursing Research		0.198	0.198	proposed to eliminate
National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health		0.171	0.171	proposed to eliminate
National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities		0.535	0.525	proposed to eliminate
John E. Fogarty International Center		0.095	0.095	proposed to eliminate
Total Savings from Eliminated ICs		**0.999**	**0.989**	

The HHS document assumes NIH will have nearly 16,300 full-time employees in 2026. Before Trump's inauguration, that figure was closer to 20,000, but a combination of layoffs and staff voluntarily taking buyouts and retiring early has thinned the agency's ranks.

The budget lists the following priorities for NIH research in FY26:

- Advancing nutrition research for younger Americans
- Understanding the root causes of autism
- Restoring public trust in science
- Ensuring replicability, reproducibility, and transparency of results
- Championing academic freedom
- Investing in bold ideas
- Improving safety and security

Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H)
ARPA-H will now be part of the newly formed Assistant Secretary for a Healthy Future. The FY 2026 budget provides $945 million to ARPA-H, which was funded at $1.5 billion in FY 2025.

The new Assistant Secretary for a Healthy Future (ASHF) will "Make America Healthy Again" by supporting the development of high-impact solutions to society's most challenging health problems, and by preparing for and responding to public health emergencies and disaster.

The ASHF will include the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority; Project Bio Shield; Pandemic Influenza; Strategic National Stockpile; Program Management; Pandemic Preparedness and Biodefense; and Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health.

The budget proposed five priorities for ARPA-H that align with the Administration's goals:
1) Addressing chronic diseases.
2) America-made manufacturing and rural access.
3) Proactive approaches to healthy well-being.
4) Healthcare security, efficiency, and transparency.
5) American leadership in frontier health technologies.

Administration for a Healthy America
HHS plans to combine multiple agencies— including the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health (OASH), National Institute for Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), and some programs from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)—into a new, unified entity called the Administration for a Healthy America, or AHA. AHA proposed to receive $14 billion in the FY2026 budget.

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