

Cancer Research Saves Lives



Congress Must Increase Funding for NIH & NCI in FY26

Federal funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Cancer Institute (NCI) represents the U.S. government at its best—saving lives, driving innovation, strengthening our medical workforce, and fueling economic growth. One Voice Against Cancer (OVAC) calls on Congress to continue its strong, bipartisan support for cancer research in the FY26 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill.

FOR FY26, OVAC RECOMMENDS

NIH

\$51.3 billion

(\$4.2 billion increase)

NCI

\$7.934 billion

(\$710 million increase)

ARPA-H

\$1.5 billion

(Same level as FY25)

We're making progress...

18 MILLION+

cancer survivors in the U.S.—the most ever

33%

decrease in the cancer death rate from 1991 to 2021, with 4.1 million fewer cancer deaths

2 OUT OF 3

patients live five years longer after diagnosis; 40 years ago, it was just 1 out of 2

...But there's much more to do *Cancer is still the nation's #2 killer*

2 MILLION+

new cancer cases estimated in 2025

618,120

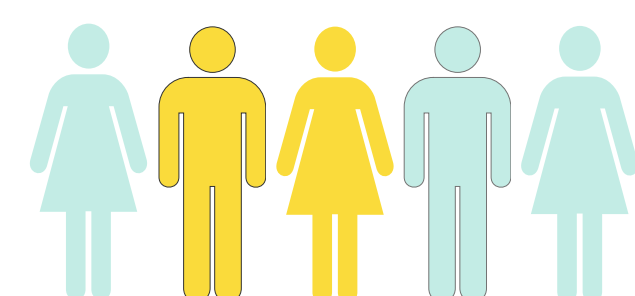
estimated cancer deaths in 2025

1,690

cancer deaths per day in 2025

In the U.S., the lifetime risk of developing cancer is:

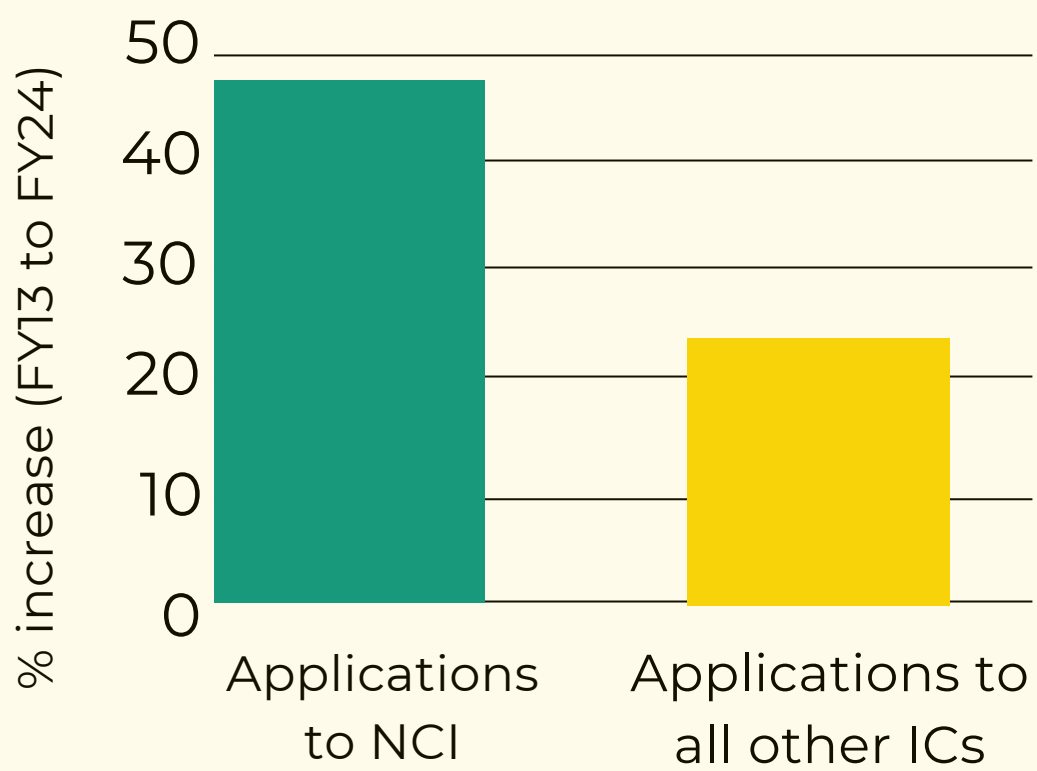
2 OUT OF 5



Unmet Demand at NCI

Because of funding constraints, NCI can award only 1 out of every 8 research applications

NCI vs. All Other NIH Institutes and Centers



Between FY 2013 and FY 2024, the number of unique R01/R37 grant applications to NCI rose by 48%, compared to 23% at all other ICs.

Thanks to the incredible promise of cancer research, NCI receives more grant applications than any other Institute or Center at NIH, by far. The scientific demand is so great that NCI must reject 7 out of every 8 research proposals, meaning that many promising proposals go unfunded. The only way to meet this demand is by boosting funding for NCI.

NIH & NCI Funding Drives U.S. Economic Growth¹

Across all 50 states and D.C., NIH's budget provides almost:

60,000

Grants to more than

300,000

Researchers at more than

2,500

Universities, medical schools, and other research institutions.

IN FY24, NIH GENERATED

\$94.6 BILLION

in new economic activity nationwide

SUPPORTED MORE THAN

400,000

jobs

PROVIDED

\$2.56 of economic activity for every **\$1** of research funding

How NIH & NCI Are Saving Lives

NIH- and NCI-funded research has contributed to countless discoveries that have improved human health around the world. Among the highlights, this research:

- Pioneered the development of immunotherapy, a treatment that helps a person's own immune system fight cancer
- Laid the groundwork for the mRNA vaccines for COVID-19 that saved millions of lives
- Proved that low-dose CT scans can cut mortality rates for lung cancer
- Identified harmful gene mutations associated with breast and ovarian cancer, and developed screening tests for them in patients
- Led to a vaccine for HPV, the leading cause of cervical cancer

