

The Mounting Toll of Multi-Year Funding on American Biomedical Research

The FY 2027 President's Budget proposes to expand multi-year funding to 100 percent of all new awards, dramatically reducing the number of new, promising scientific applications that NIH can fund.

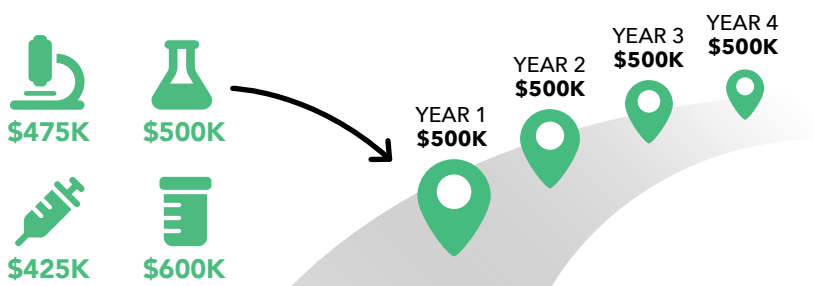


Rapid implementation of multi-year funding without significant increases to the NIH budget means:
fewer grants awarded = fewer shots on goal = fewer discoveries.

Typically, NIH funds each four-year grant (e.g., \$2 million) one year at a time as the research is conducted.

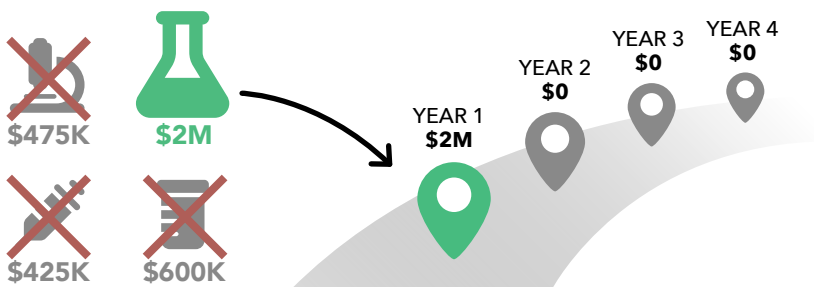
Traditional Funding Approach

NIH can fund four grants at once with \$2 million in the same fiscal year.

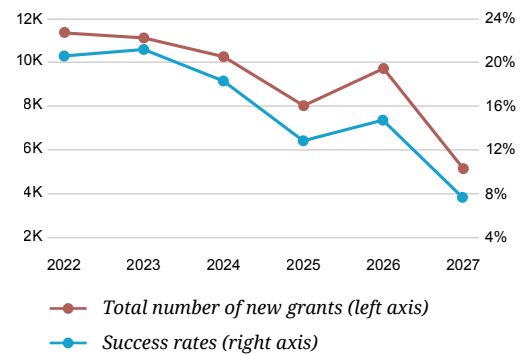


Multi-Year Funding Approach

Under the policy to increase the use of multi-year funding, NIH obligates the entire cost of the \$2 million grant in the first year, but cannot fund the other three grants in the same fiscal year.



NIH Grant Proposal Success Rates & Total Number of New Grants from FY22-27 President's Budget



Success rates and new grants plummeted in FY25 due to increased use of multi-year funding – NIH estimates an even greater drop by FY27.

Between FY24 and FY25, the number of new competing grants **decreased by over 21.8%**

- **44.6% decrease** in new Alzheimer's disease & other aging-related grants
- **22.5% decrease** in new Type 1 diabetes grants
- **21.2% decrease** in new cancer grants
- **19.6% decrease** in number of early-stage investigators supported



Congress must maintain Sec. 240 of the FY26 L/HHS appropriations law – which caps NIH's multi-year award obligations at FY25 levels – in the FY27 bill to protect the broad research portfolio needed to discover new treatments and cures.

Sources: NIH FY 2027 Congressional Justification Overview. NIH.; Fiscal Year 2025 By the Numbers: Extramural Grant Investments in Research. NIH.; NIH Support for Early Stage Investigators in FYs 2024 and 2025. NIH.; Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2026, Pub. L. No. 119-75 (2026); NIH Institute and Center Submissions. Congressional Justifications. NCI, NIA, & NIDDK. NIH.