

ASHG

American Society of Human Genetics

ADVOCATE UPDATE

February 2026

ASHG Updates

- We recently signed a community letter supporting the *Mikaela Naylor Give Kids a Chance Act* (S.932/H.R.1262), which includes reauthorization of the Rare Pediatric Disease Priority Review Voucher program. Read the full letter [here](#).
- We are preparing comments on NIH's proposed revisions to its controlled-access data policy and genomic data sharing policy. Read more about the proposed changes and submit your own comments by March 18, 2026 [here](#).
- Applications for our 2026-2027 Advocacy Certificate for Human Genetics and Genomics Trainee (ACGT) program will be opening this spring. Read up on the program and eligibility requirements [here](#), and keep an eye on your inboxes for more information to come soon!

ASHG Signs on to Fiscal Year 2027 Funding Request



ASHG, along with over 423 other organizations, recently signed on to the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research's latest letter recommending at least \$51.303 billion for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in Fiscal Year (FY) 2027. This funding level, an 8.7% increase over the enacted funding level for NIH in FY 2026, would allow NIH to continue funding foundational work in biomedical research while also supporting meaningful growth, ensuring that the United States remains a global leader in scientific competitiveness and promotes the health of all Americans.

NIH Funding Finalized for FY2026



Following a brief partial government shutdown at the start of this month, Congress has now finalized FY2026 funding for NIH, the National Science Foundation (NSF), the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H), and the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP). ASHG is grateful to Congress for their bipartisan commitment to funding biomedical research in the FY26 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (L-HHS) appropriations bill, which supports NIH at a total level of \$48.7 billion, an increase of \$415 million over the FY25 funding level. The bill also includes a compromise limiting the proportion of NIH competing Research Project Grants (RPGs) that may be issued as multi-year awards to FY25 levels. ASHG looks forward to continuing to collaborate with our coalition partners and Congress to secure sustained, bipartisan support for biomedical research for FY27 and beyond. To further explore the impact on funding levels, check out this [appropriations dashboard](#) from the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS).

In Other Policy News

- On Tuesday, February 24, President Trump held his annual State of the Union, where he outlined his policy priorities for the upcoming year. You can dive deeper into his discussion on health [here](#), or read a play-by-play summary of the full speech [here](#).
- The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) will host a March 9-10 hybrid workshop, "Policy Issues for Integrating Artificial Intelligence in Cancer Research and Care." To learn more and register, click [here](#).
- Research!America will present its 2026 Advocacy Awards on March 10. Learn more about the 2026 honorees [here](#).
- TraineeHub launched its new series, ELSI Career Pathways, with recordings available online. Watch a recording of the first session and learn more about developing your career path in ELSI [here](#)!
- A new *Science* analysis reported that more than 10,000 STEM PhDs left the federal workforce over the past year. You can read the full article [here](#).
- In case you missed it, ELSIHub's recent Friday Forum, featuring *AJHG* Editor-in-Chief Dr. Kiran Musunuru, is available for viewing [here](#), and the next Friday Forum, "Constrained Choice: Autonomy and Reproductive Genomics in Pregnancy Outcomes," will be held on March 13.

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