



Support Strong Federal Investments in Pediatric Research

The **Pediatric Policy Council (PPC)**, representing thousands of academic pediatricians including members of the *Academic Pediatric Association*, *American Pediatric Society*, *Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs*, and the *Society for Pediatric Research*, is dedicated to advocating for funding for research and programs to help unlock lifesaving treatments and improve the health and well-being of young people. The PPC urges Congress to prioritize sustained, robust investments in pediatric research.

Investments in pediatric research improve child health, yielding lifelong dividends.

- In recent decades, investments in pediatric research through the National Institutes of Health (NIH) have led to major advances in child health care that have translated directly into improved health outcomes for children through the development of new therapies, preventive interventions, and diagnostic tests.
- Scientific breakthroughs enabled by federal investments in pediatric research mean that children today survive previously fatal conditions.
 - Pediatric research has led to a dramatic reduction in mortality among premature infants by developing a drug that helps underdeveloped lungs breathe.
 - New treatment protocols developed through clinical trials mean that 90% of young people survive a common childhood cancer that was once incurable.
- Research funded by the NIH has also made significant strides toward treating and preventing childhood chronic disease. For instance, improved care for children with cystic fibrosis has led to better quality of life and increased life expectancy.
- Because the costly diseases of adulthood often have their roots in childhood, improvements in child health born out of pediatric research set up the children of today to be the healthy adults of tomorrow.

Future pediatric research advances depend on robust federal support.

- Children are not just little adults. Research in children poses challenges that can increase costs, making federal investments essential. These include unique ethical considerations that require special care and additional hurdles to recruiting and enrolling pediatric patients in research studies.

- Because **pediatric research is a smaller field** relative to biomedical research overall, it can be more difficult for researchers to obtain funding. As a result, children have been underrepresented or excluded altogether from important research.
- There is more **limited commercial interest** in pediatric research due to higher costs and smaller market size for therapies that make it to market. As a result, pediatric researchers depend on federal research funding.
- **Clinical margins in pediatric departments are lower** than in adult institutions because Medicaid makes up a significant proportion of the payor mix. Federal funding enables research that institutions would not otherwise be able to support with revenue from patient care.

Continued investments in pediatric research are critical to the health of children and families.

- The NIH has played a crucial role in improving the health of all Americans, including children and families. Bipartisan congressional leadership to provide consistent, robust funding increases helped to make this a reality.
- Recent cuts to NIH funding for research and further proposed reductions in federal funding included in the President's Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Budget threaten to undermine core aspects of pediatric research.
- Absent federal funding for pioneering research, innovations in pediatric medicine are likely to go undeveloped at great cost to the nation's young people.
- Congress must ensure that the NIH remains a leader in funding for child health research. The *Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD)* is essential in funding pediatric research and ensuring children are at the table in NIH-wide efforts. A dedicated, robustly funded child health institute at NIH is critical to continued progress in pediatric research.

The PPC Urges Congress to:

Prioritize sustained, robust investment in pediatric research in FY 2026 by providing \$51.3 billion for NIH with \$1.891 billion allocated to NICHD.