

Increase Federal Research Funding to Foster Key Advances in Child Health

The **Pediatric Policy Council (PPC)**, representing thousands of academic pediatricians across the country, is dedicated to advocating for strong investment in pediatric research to improve child health. Children suffer disproportionately from reductions in discretionary spending on medical research.

Federally-funded research is important for the economy and child health.

- Research funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) has made significant strides toward treating and preventing chronic diseases, many of which have their roots in childhood. This work has led to new therapies, vaccines, and diagnostic tests that have improved the lives of millions of children worldwide.
- The NIH is the largest supporter of biomedical research in the world and will be a key driver for the success of the U.S. economy in the 21st century. The NIH directly and indirectly supports approximately half a million jobs and produces new economic activity in all 50 states.
- Over the past few decades, investments in pediatric research have led to major achievements in improving child health, including reducing the rate of sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) by half and reducing acute lymphocytic leukemia by 90%. For more information about great achievements in pediatric research over the last 40 years, please visit aap.org/7achievements.

Current levels of federal research funding are unsustainably low.

- Despite recent slight increases in NIH funding, overall NIH funding has still not kept pace with inflation. This trend has resulted in cuts to critical funding for lifesaving research.
- The NIH has lost one quarter of its purchasing power over the past decade, limiting the pediatric research community's access to cutting edge resources and making the cuts to research funding even more severe.

Increased funding for pediatric research is needed to advance child health.

- Without consistent funding, the speed and effectiveness with which we can develop treatments for some of the most deadly pediatric diseases will be severely diminished.
- While recent congressional efforts have reversed some of the previous cuts to medical research and bolstered much needed federal research dollars for projects that will lead to significant breakthroughs in the field of pediatric research and child health, much work still needs to be done to ensure that scientists and researchers have the resources they need to continue to make advances in child health.

PPC Urges Congress to:

- Provide \$34.5 billion for the NIH in FY 2017.
- Develop a stable and increasing funding stream to provide pediatric researchers with the resources they need to make meaningful discoveries for child health.

