

Pediatric Coalition on the NIH – A Summary of Efforts and Steps to Take

Organizations Represented:

American Pediatric Society (APS) – Lead, Lisa Chamberlain and Bruce Hammond
American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)
Academic Pediatric Association (APA)
Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs (AMSPDC)
Children’s Hospital Association (CHA)
Coalition for Pediatric Medical Research (CPMR)
Society for Pediatric Research (SPR)

Legislative Update (as of 10/2/25)

- In the last few months, the House and Senate Appropriations Committees have approved FY26 budgets for the NIH. For the Senate bill, total NIH funding for FY26 is \$47.201 billion (a \$400 million increase). And for the House bill, total NIH funding for FY26 is \$46.9 billion (also a \$99 million increase).
- Congress was unable to reach a deal on a stopgap spending measure (i.e., continuing resolution) to avert a government shutdown before FY26 began at midnight on October 1. As a result of this lapse in appropriations, federal agencies have ceased all non-exempt activities as determined by the administration until new government funding legislation is enacted. This includes all peer review, advisory committee meetings, and issuance of new NIH research grants.
- Work will continue on a deal to finish full-year, bipartisan spending legislation which would be able to effectuate a modest NIH funding increase as contemplated by the House and Senate, but the prospects for such a deal are unclear. Congress may reopen the government by passing a short-term continuing resolution, which would not change the NIH’s funding level.

Recent Updates and Ongoing Efforts

- Led by CHA, the Pediatric NIH Coalition sent a letter to House and Senate Appropriations Committee leaders before their recent vote encouraging continued high levels of funding for NIH.
- Leaders from the CPMR met with principal deputy administrator Dr. Memoli, acting NICHD Director, Alison Cernich and division of extramural research director Dr. Hazra on September 25th. The Coalition provided feedback/ideas on what should be discussed. Summary of that conversation [can be found here](#). Planning for future conversations are underway.
- CHA is convening an upcoming meeting with pediatric societies to learn more about the work of the Joint Associations Group (JAG), which is developing the FAIR Model as an alternative to the current indirect cost model. More details will be provided after that meeting.
- CPMR is hosting Dr. Nancy Andrews on 10/8 to share JAG recommendations and take questions. The Coalition is fielding questions to be shared ahead of time and publicizing event.
- CHA is devoting “Brought to you by your local children’s hospital” to NIH based discoveries. The product will be a 60 second video that will feature pediatric researchers talking about their discoveries. We can all share with our networks and in our advocacy. The Coalition helped to identify stories and featured researchers.
- Leaders from AMSPDC and APA are now attending Coalition meetings to help ensure there is a unified message and efforts taking place related to NIH.
- Continued efforts to determine engagement in some of the broader efforts taking place by Research!America, United for Cures, Rally for a Cure, and AAMC’s Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research.

Calendar of Events

- **September** – AAMC Research Month, CHA CEO fly-in to DC, APA met with legislative leaders in DC 9/25
- **October** – CHA’s “Made Possible by Your Children’s Hospital” campaign and Research!America’s Cures Not Cuts campaign
- **November** – AMSPDC fly-in to DC 11/4-6

Opportunities for Engagement/Resources

- [AAMC Research Month Activities in Which to Engage](#)
- [Research!America Advocacy Challenge Toolkit](#)