

National Institutes of Health and National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Funding and Structure

REQUEST: The American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology (AAAAI) respectfully requests **robust funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID)** in fiscal year (FY) 2026. Further, the AAAAI urges Congress to maintain the current structure of NIAID and **reject efforts to split NIAID into multiple institutions.**

NIH FUNDING: Robust funding for NIH and its institutes, including the NIAID, is critical to ensure that the nation can respond to current and future disease threats. As such, the AAAAI supports the following funding levels reported by the Senate Appropriations Committee:

- **\$48.701 billion for the National Institutes of Health (NIH);**
- **\$6.562 billion for the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID);**
- **\$12.1 million for the Consortium of Food Allergy Research (CoFAR)** within the NIAID and accompanying report language to continue its efforts to achieve major strides in the study of food allergy prevention and treatment:
***Food Allergies.**— The Committee recognizes the serious issue of food allergies which affect approximately 8 percent of children and 10 percent of adults in the United States. The Committee commends the ongoing work of NIAID in advancing FDA approved treatment options for people with food allergies and increasing support for clinical investigation to a total of 27 clinical sites for this critical research, including 14 sites as part of the Consortium for Food Allergy Research [CoFAR].*

NIAID STRUCTURE: The work of Allergists/Immunologists would not be possible without the NIAID. The integration of allergy, infectious disease and immunology is central to innovation for our patients. The AAAAI has serious concerns regarding proposals, like the **NIH Reform Act (H.R. 1497/S. 664)**, to split NIAID into multiple institutes which would reduce the collaborative thinking that cures and prevents disease and would create new administrative hurdles to create and cultivate new concepts across three institutes at a time when the national focus is on efficiency. We appreciate that the House and Senate FY 2026 appropriations bills maintain NIAID's structure which supports the cross-cutting and cross-disciplinary research that importantly has addressed many of the greatest needs of our time. The AAAAI strongly believes that the disciplines of allergic diseases and immunology should not be separated from infectious diseases. Infectious disease (ID) research, allergy research and immunology research are fundamentally intertwined as all three fields are linked by how the human immune system keeps us healthy and how it responds to and protects against microbes. For example, ID research may focus on how bacteria or viruses invade, replicate, and mutate to make us sick; while allergy helps us understand how our immune system may become confused and inappropriately respond to a food or mold, and immunology research investigates how the immune system identifies and controls pathogens (bacteria, fungi, viruses), allergens (allergic disease) and our own body tissues (autoimmunity). These interactions are central to successful research and have generated treatments and strategies for disease prevention.

NIAID SUPPORT OF ALLERGIC AND IMMUNOLOGIC DISEASE RESEARCH: NIAID has provided long-term support for birth cohort studies in asthma, atopic dermatitis and food allergy that have provided new insights into risk factors for developing asthma and other allergic diseases. **Childhood asthma is an outstanding example of a disease with its roots in both infectious disease and immune development** with studies demonstrating that viral and bacterial pathogens are the principal causes of early childhood wheezing illnesses, the #1 cause of hospitalization in young children. Studying both infections and immune development has identified preventive approaches for the emergence of asthma.

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