



Friends of NICHD

Supporting the Eunice Kennedy Shriver

National Institute of Child Health and Human Development

STATEMENT FROM THE CO-CHAIRS OF THE FRIENDS OF NICHD:

FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET REQUEST

As the Co-Chairs of the Friends of NICHD, a coalition of over 100 professional organizations, scientific societies, and patient advocacy groups with a vested interest in promoting and sustaining the vital research activities of the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD), we are deeply concerned about the Institute's Fiscal Year 2026 budget request and its potential impact on NICHD and the communities it serves.

The Administration's FY 26 budget request would reduce funding for NICHD by approximately 38% as compared to the Institute's FY 2025 funding level. Further, the request proposes a significant reorganization of the entire National Institutes of Health (NIH), including a proposal to combine NICHD with the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders. Details accompanying the budget confirm that if enacted, NICHD, in its new configuration, would support hundreds of fewer non-competing and competing awards across all funding mechanisms in FY 2026 as compared to FY 2025. In sum, the Administration's request would decimate not only NICHD's funding, but also its existing scientific research portfolio.

The NICHD has made extraordinary progress in meeting the objectives of its statutorily authorized mission, delivering lifesaving advances in areas such as pregnancy; infant, child, adolescent, and maternal health; learning; human development; population health; and medical rehabilitation. The Institute's activities and achievements make it uniquely poised to advance some of the Administration's most pressing healthcare priorities, including addressing childhood chronic disease and promoting healthy families.

As the FY 2026 appropriations process proceeds, we urge Congress to work with the Administration to ensure NICHD receives no less than its FY 2025 funding level. Further, we urge the relevant authorizing committees in Congress to hold hearings and engage with stakeholders about the implications of any reorganization of the NIH overall and the NICHD in particular.

Krysta Jones, Chair
American Psychological Association

Mary J. H. Mitchell, Co-Chair
Population Association of America

Members of the Friends of NICHD

AcademyHealth

Advocates for Youth

American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry

American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons

American Academy of Orthotists and Prosthetists

American Academy of Pediatrics

American Academy of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation

American Academy of Sleep Medicine

American Anthropological Association

American Association of University Affiliated Programs

American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges

American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

American Chemistry Council

American College of Medical Genetics

American College of Nurse Midwives

American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists

American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine

American Educational Research Association

American Federation for Medical Research

American Kidney Fund

American Medical Student Association

American Nurses Association

American Orthotic & Prosthetic Association

American Pediatric Society

American Pediatric Society & Society for Pediatric Research

American Physical Therapy Association

American Psychiatric Association

American Psychological Association

American Public Health Association

American Society for Cell Biology

American Society for Clinical Nutrition

American Society for Microbiology

American Society for Nutritional Sciences

American Society for Parenteral & Enteral Nutrition

American Society for Reproductive Immunology

American Society for Reproductive Medicine

American Society of Bone and Mineral Research

American Society of Pediatric Nephrology

American Sociological Association

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association

American Urogynecologic Society

American Urological Association

Amputee Coalition of America

Association for Human Genetics
Association for Psychological Science
Association of Academic Physiatrists
Association of American Medical Colleges
Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs
Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs
Association of Population Centers
Association of Reproductive Health Professionals
Association of SIDS & Infant Mortality Programs
Association of University Centers on Disabilities
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric, & Neonatal Nurses
Autism Coalition
Autism Society of America
CDH International - Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia
Center for Injury Research and Policy at the Research Institute at Nationwide
Children's Hospital
Cerebral Palsy International Research Foundation
Child Welfare League of America
Children's Defense Fund
Children's Hospital Association
CJ Foundation for SIDS
Coalition for American Trauma Care
Consortium of Family Organizations
Consortium of Social Science Associations
Council for Exceptional Children
Cribs for Kids
Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation
Endocrine Society
Endometriosis Association
Epilepsy Foundation
Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology
Federation of Associations in Brain and Behavioral Sciences
First Candle/SIDS Alliance
FRAXA Research Foundation
Genetic Alliance
Global Alliance to Prevent Prematurity and Stillbirth
Global Down Syndrome Foundation
Hydrocephalus Association
Institute for the Advancement of Social Work Research
International Rett Syndrome Association
Jeffrey Modell Foundation
Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Foundation
Juvenile Diabetes Foundation International
Kids TLC
Learning Disabilities Association of America
March of Dimes

Mental Health America
Muscular Dystrophy Association
National Alliance for Autism Research
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Association of Social Workers
National Black Child Development Institute
National Center for Learning Disabilities
National Council on Family Relations
National Down Syndrome Congress
National Down Syndrome Society
National Easter Seal Society
National Family Planning & Reproductive Health
Association National Fragile X Foundation
National Osteoporosis Foundation
National Partnership for Women and Families
National Pediatric and Family HIV Resource Center
National Safe Kids Campaign
National SIDS and Infant Death Project IMPACT
National Women's Law Center
Necrotizing Enterocolitis (NEC) Society
Nemours, Inc.
Osteogenesis Imperfecta Foundation
Pediatrix Medical Group
Physicians for Reproductive Health
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
Population Association of America
Population Resource Center
Preeclampsia Foundation
Premature Ovarian Failure Support Group
PremieWorld Foundation
Resolve, Inc.
Society for Advancement of Violence and Injury Research
Society for Birth Defects Research and Prevention
Society for Gynecologic Oncologists
Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine
Society for Neuroscience
Society for Pediatric Research
Society for Reproductive Investigation
Society for Research in Child Development
Society for Research on Adolescence
Society for Research on Women's Health
Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues Society
for the Study of Reproduction
Society for Women's Health Research

Society of Behavioral Medicine
Society of Pediatric and Perinatal Epidemiologic Research (SPER)
Spina Bifida Association
Spina Bifida Association of America
Star Legacy Foundation
Teratology Society
The Alan Guttmacher Institute
The Arc
The Chromosome 18 Registry and Research Society
The International Dyslexia Association
The Pediatric Trauma Society
Tourette Association of America
Trisomy 18 Foundation
UCSF Bixby Center for Global Reproductive Health
United Mitochondrial Disease Foundation