THE SCIENCE COALITION

Sustained Investment, Exponential Returns:

How Federal Funding Drives Transformational Scientific Research

Stability Matters

Sustained federal funding powers America's world-class innovation and economic might.

Sustained funding not only prevents costly interruptions to long-term studies, but also enables scientists to take intellectual risks, test novel hypotheses, and pursue groundbreaking experiments that may take years to yield results.

Continuity of support allows research teams to plan multi-phase projects with confidence, invest in advanced equipment, and train the next generation of highly skilled scientists, engineers, and technical workers.

A Proven Track Record

Periods of sustained investment in scientific research have dramatically accelerated scientific progress and innovation capacity.

Interruptions or reductions in federal funding for scientific research can slow momentum, erode expertise, and allow global competitors to leap ahead.

Sustained academic research and development (R&D) funding doesn't just lead to laboratory discoveries, it builds the advanced workforce of tomorrow. Steady support gives American researchers the time and resources they need to develop critical competencies in areas such as computational modeling, data analytics, and biotechnology. These skillsets fuel the research enterprise and spill over into industry, strengthening U.S. competitiveness in fields like advanced manufacturing, quantum computing, aerospace, and AI.

A Big Return on Investment

Since World War II, economists have estimated the societal return on government R&D investments ranges between 150% and 300%. Looking ahead, experts estimate that every $1 invested in R&D could yield $12.50 in economic output by 2055.

Robust federal funding is essential to continued American economic and military dominance, and to the medical breakthroughs that help people across the country live long and healthy lives. We can only achieve bold scientific discoveries by committing to these federal investments in fundamental research.

When America invests in science, the returns are exponential, benefitting our economy, our security, our health, and our society.

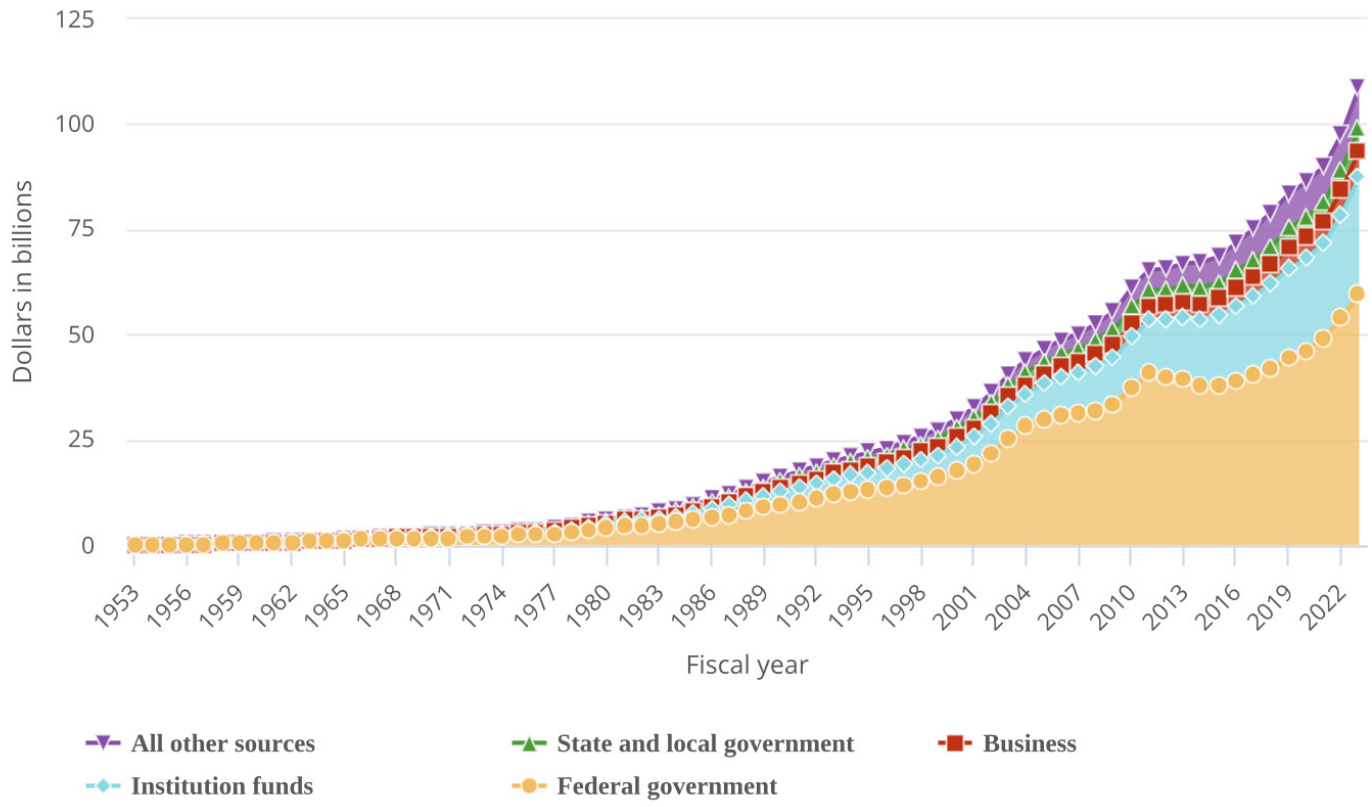
$2.56B
economic impact
Source: United for Medical Research

400K
jobs nationwide

$95B
economic activity

National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics | NSB-2025-7

Figure DISC-10. Academic R&D expenditures, by source of funds: FYs 1953–2023



Source: National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, Higher Education Research and Development (HERD) Survey.

THE SCIENCE COALITION