



WOMEN  
FIRST  
RESEARCH  
COALITION

# Women First Research Coalition

## WFRC Second Quarter 2025 Activities Update

### WFRC Solicits Co-Chair Nominations

Consistent with WFRC's organizational documents, WFRC put out a call for a new chair-elect whose term will begin on September 1 of this year. The call for nominations has concluded and the voting membership of WFRC will approve the chair-elect slate this summer. Look out for a welcome message from the new co-chairs in the Third Quarter update.

## **Legislative Activities**

### WFRC Report Language Requests for Fiscal Year 2026

WFRC continued to advocate for our two report language requests for FY 2026. The first request is for a Women's Health Research Interdisciplinary Fund at the NIH Office of the Director, to be funded at \$200 million for the first year. The fund would incentivize institutes and centers to prioritize women's health research and collaborate in an interdisciplinary way to address the most pressing research gaps. The second request is for continued support of the NIH women's health research workforce programs, including the Building Interdisciplinary Research Careers in Women's Health (BIRCWH), the Women's Reproductive Health Research (WRHR) program, and the Research Scientist Development Program (RSDP).

### FY 2026 Outside Witness Testimony Submitted to House and Senate Appropriations

The WFRC submitted outside witness testimony to the House and Senate Appropriations Committees for the FY 2026 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies (Labor-HHS) appropriations bill. We requested \$51.303 billion, an increase of \$4.2 billion, to the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and that the Committee reject the proposed cuts to the NIH and reorganization without input from Congress and other stakeholders. We also requested that the committees consider including our report language requests in the report that accompanies the final FY 2026 Labor-HHS appropriations bill.

### Support for NIH-focused Report Language Requests from WFRC Members

Thanks to input from WFRC members, we compiled letters in support of NIH-focused report language that has been submitted by WFRC member organizations. We sent the letters to the House and Senate appropriators, which support inclusion of the language in the report accompanying the FY 2026 Labor-HHS appropriations bill.

### Congressional Meetings on the Women's Health Research

WFRC staff joined with our colleagues in the Society for Women's Health Research (SWHR), the Endocrine Society, and the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology (ACOG) to meet with key congressional offices to discuss funding and support for women's health research at the NIH in FY 2026. To date, we have met with the following Republican members: Representative Juan Ciscomani (R-AZ), Representative Ashley Hinson (R-IA), Representative Maria Salazar (R-FL), Representative Nick Langworthy (R-NY), Senator Katie Britt, and Senator Ashley Moody (R-FL).

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#### **SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS**

AMERICAN COLLEGE OF OBSTETRICIANS & GYNECOLOGISTS • AMERICAN GYNECOLOGICAL & OBSTETRICAL SOCIETY • AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR REPRODUCTIVE MEDICINE • AMERICAN UROGYNECOLOGIC SOCIETY • COUNCIL OF UNIVERSITY CHAIRS IN OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY • INFECTIOUS DISEASE SOCIETY FOR OBSTETRICS & GYNECOLOGY • NORTH AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR PEDIATRIC AND ADOLESCENT GYNECOLOGY • SOCIETY FOR ASSISTED REPRODUCTIVE TECHNOLOGY • SOCIETY FOR ACADEMIC SPECIALISTS IN GENERAL OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY • SOCIETY OF FAMILY PLANNING • SOCIETY OF GYNECOLOGIC ONCOLOGY • SOCIETY FOR MATERNAL-FETAL MEDICINE • SOCIETY FOR REPRODUCTIVE ENDOCRINOLOGY AND INFERTILITY • SOCIETY FOR REPRODUCTIVE INVESTIGATION • SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S HEALTH RESEARCH

### Grassroots Toolkit for NIH Advocacy

The WFRC created a grassroots toolkit for members organizations to use for advocacy in state and district meetings to discuss the importance of NIH funding to support women's health research. The toolkit includes information on how to schedule and conduct meetings at home and town hall meetings as well as a set of talking points on women's health research.

### **Agency Activities**

#### HHS Reorganization

The NIH released its [FY 2026 congressional budget justification](#) on June 5, which provided details on the proposed reorganization of the agency. The agency proposed to consolidate the 27 institutes and centers (I/Cs) into 8 I/Cs and to cut funding to \$27.9 billion. Notably, the agency proposed to consolidate the *Eunice Kennedy Shriver* National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) and the National Institute on Deafness and other Communication Disorders (NIDCD) into a new [National Institute for Child and Women's Health, Sensory Disorders, and Communication](#) (NICWHSDC). The budget request for the new NICWHSDC is \$1.413.6 billion for FY 2026, which is a 38 percent decrease from FY 2025. The NIH budget justification is silent on where the Office of Research on Women's Health (ORWH) will be located in the reorganization, or the future of any of the research workforce programs.

The budget proposal includes the 15% cap on facilities and administrative costs. This cap is assumed in the research grants estimates that are included in the budget justification.

Furthermore, those estimates assume that NIH will be making multi-year awards where the total amount of the grant will be awarded upfront. The move to multi-year funding, which already underway, will result in paylines decreasing as fewer awards will be made each fiscal year.

The full proposed institute structure can be found here:

**Table 1 – Proposed Institute Structure**

<b>New Institute Structure</b>	<b>Current Institutes and Centers</b>
National Cancer Institute (NCI)	NCI
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID)	NIAID
National Institute on Aging (NIA)	NIA
National Institute on Body Systems (NIBS)	National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI), National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases (NIAMS), National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK)
National Institute on Neuroscience and Brain Research (NINBR)	National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR), National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS), National Eye Institute (NEI)
National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS)	NIGMS, National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI), National Library of Medicine (NLM), National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering (NIBIB), National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS)
National Institute for Child and Women's Health, Sensory Disorders, and Communication (NICWHSDC)	<i>Eunice Kennedy Shriver</i> National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD), National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD)

National Institute of Behavioral Health (NIBH) •	National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA), National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH)
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### NIH Funding Freezes

On June 26, a federal judge [ruled](#) that a portion of the National Institute of Health's (NIH) grant terminations were void and illegal after two lawsuits were filed against the Trump Administration. The ruling stated that the government was being discriminatory based on race, gender identity, and sexual orientation. Since the ruling was released, a senior official at the NIH has directed agency staff to stop cancelling grants or research projects.

### **Funding Opportunities from NIH I/Cs**

Since the start of the new administration, NIH has been reviewing existing grant awards and has frozen the release of new funding opportunities to ensure that all awards are consistent with this administration's policies on diversity, equity, and inclusion and gender identity among others. We will not be including current funding opportunities in this update since it is not clear what remains current.