

STATE OF LUNG CANCER RESEARCH FUNDING IN 2025

Recent Changes in Federal Lung Cancer Research Funding

Recent changes in federal lung cancer research funding government agencies such as the National Institutes of Health (NIH) have been key drivers of progress in improving lung cancer outcomes. Unfortunately, that support has been cut.

- NIH has made significant cuts to funding for indirect costs (IDCs), which are critical for **drug trials and biomedical infrastructure**.
- The Department of Defense has reduced funding for Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP) by 57%, crippling vital medical research efforts. **Even more tragically, 2025 Financial Year CDMRP funding for lung cancer research (lung cancer being the #1 cause of cancer deaths in the United States) has been reduced by 100% (i.e., TOTALLY eliminated).**

Impact of Federal Funding on Current Lung Cancer Early Detection & Treatment

LUNgevity has analyzed the current technology and treatment landscape and found that:



NIH drove the research on the lung cancer screening modality (low-density computed tomography) that is currently available to high-risk individuals.



All lung cancer drugs approved in the past 15 years have been supported by NIH funding directly or indirectly.

Scientific Community Feedback

LUNgevity recently conducted a survey of members of its research community to better understand how proposed changes to NIH and other sources of federal funding may impact lung cancer research and patient care. All responses were anonymous.

The findings reveal how dire the situation is:

- **93%** will not hire new staff
- **91%** will not start new projects that require sustained federal funding

Top 5 challenges reported:

- **Difficulty in starting a new project (92% of respondents)**
- **Inability to plan future projects (78% of respondents)**
- **Difficulty in keeping a current project going (73% of respondents)**
- **Inability to rely on core facilities to support your research (69% of respondents)**
- **Inability to pay salaries of current laboratory personnel (61% of respondents)**

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What Are Researchers Saying?

"I am looking into jobs in other countries as I think this will have long term impacts on biomedical research and health care in the U.S."

"A new generation of scientists and physician scientists are blocked. PhD programs have stopped."

"The lack of available funding and the inability of academic centers to provide the necessary resources may lead to a loss of generations of young scientists in U.S. and lead to many of the brightest foreign scientists pursuing research careers in other countries."

"We have a new collaboration with a government research group that is under a hiring freeze, so we can't onboard the research staff we need for the project."

Who Were the Respondents?

- The survey was sent to 100 randomly selected researchers from LUNGeVity's Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) members and LUNGeVity grant recipients.
- We received 51 responses (51% response rate) – a high response rate for surveys – which reinforces the gravity of the situation
- 81% are Principal/Co-Principal Investigators on federally funded studies
- Median time in research: 15 years (range: 4 – 35 years)

Survey details and data available from LUNGeVity