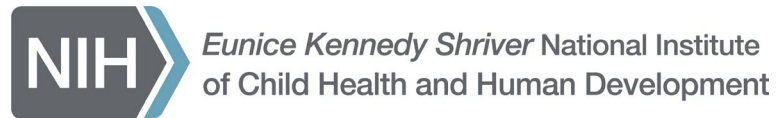


NICHD Acting Director's Report

National Advisory Child Health and Human Development Council

Rohan Hazra, M.D.

July 8, 2026



Talk Outline

- FY27 Appropriations Update
- NIH and NICHD Policy and Program Updates
- NIH and NICHD Staff Updates



FY27 Appropriations Update

FY 2027 Appropriations

- **FY27 President's Budget**

- NIH: \$41.5 billion

- **FY27 House Appropriations**

- NIH: \$48.8 billion (increase of \$100 million from FY26)
 - No funding for the All of Us Research Program
 - INCLUDE Down syndrome initiative: \$120 M (\$20 M increase)
 - NICHD: \$1.77 billion (flat from FY26)
 - IMPROVE maternal health initiative: \$63.4 M (flat)

- **FY27 Senate Appropriations - ???**





NIH and NICHD Policy and Program Updates

Status of Peer Review Meetings

- October 2026 Council (June/July review meetings)
 - In most meetings, the top 1/3 of applications will be discussed. The middle 1/3 will be designated “competitive but not discussed” and available to ICs for funding consideration.
 - Summary statements will use a bulleted format for the Resume of Discussion
 - CSR intends to meet usual summary statement deadlines
- January 2027 Council (Oct/Nov review meetings)
 - Discussion rate will return to ~ 50% and the “competitive but not discussed” category will not be used.
 - A bulleted format will continue to be used for the Resume of Discussion
 - CSR will meet the usual summary statement deadlines



NIH Requests for Information

- Proposal to Cap the Number of Simultaneous Research Project Grants per Principal Investigator
 - NOT-OD-26-086: <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-26-086.html>
 - Policy goal is to support a greater number of investigators
 - Comments due by Aug. 3, 2026
- Effective Approaches for Measuring and Rewarding Scientific Impact
 - Aim to define specific, measurable indicators and incentives that reflect the collaborative, rigorous, and mission-driven nature of modern biomedical science
 - NOT-OD-26-087: <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-26-087.html>
 - Comments due by Aug. 19, 2026



NIH Grants and Funding Page

- New location for all information related to IC research priorities, grant policies, etc.
 - <https://grants.nih.gov/>
- Use “Find a Fit for Your Research” to navigate to the Highlighted Topics and ICO Profiles
 - <https://grants.nih.gov/funding/find-a-fit-for-your-research>
 - <https://grants.nih.gov/funding/find-a-fit-for-your-research/nih-institutes-centers-offices>

NIH ICO Profiles: Mission Areas, Funding Priorities, and Opportunities

The following NIH institutes, centers, and offices (ICOs) fund grant awards. Check each ICO's mission, any areas of special interest, funding strategy, and current funding opportunities.

Once you've identified one or more ICO, reach out to the relevant program officials to discuss your proposal, its fit within the ICO's mission and priorities, and to get advice on appropriate funding opportunities. [Understand NIH Staff Roles](#) and find contact information through the links below.

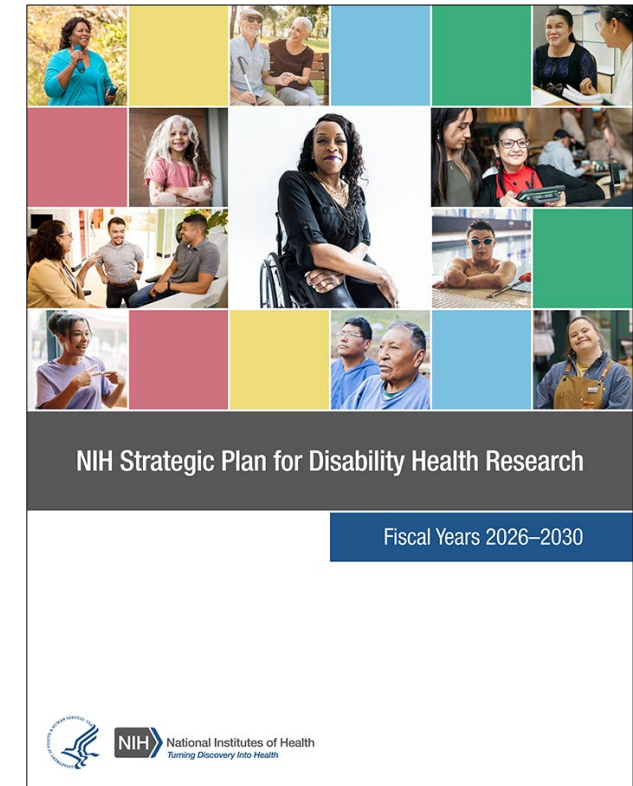
Quick Links

FIC	NCATS	NCCIH	NCI	NEI
NHGRI	NHLBI	NIA	NIAAA	NIAID
NIAMS	NIBIB	NICHD	NIDA	NIDCD
NIDCR	NIDDK	NIEHS	NIGMS	NIMH
NIMHD	NINDS	NINR	NLM	NIH OD Offices



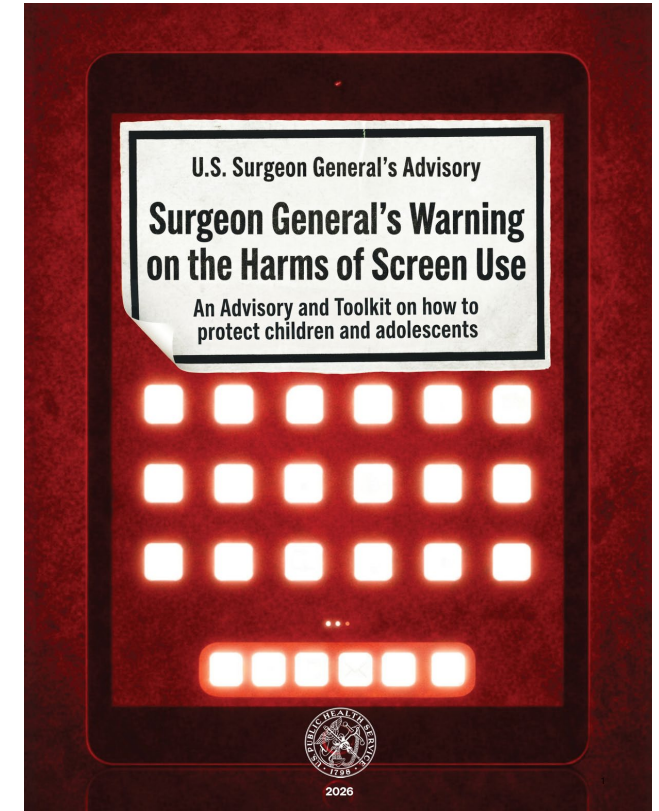
Strategic and Research Plans

- NIH Strategic Plan for Disability Health Research released March 26
 - <https://dpcpsi.nih.gov/disabilityhealthresearch/strategicplan>
- 2027-2031 NIH-Wide Strategic Plan under development
 - Initial framework includes three priorities: Research Areas, Research Capacity, and Research Operations
 - Does not address all research that NIH supports into specific diseases and conditions
 - Does not replace NIH Institute-, Center-, or Office strategic plans
 - Anticipated release in early FY 2027
- Coming Soon! – NIH Research Plan on Rehabilitation



Surgeon General's Warning on the Harms of Screen Use

- Articulates some of the known negative impacts of excessive screen use on cognitive and emotional development, physical and metabolic health, mental health, and education outcomes
- Toolkit on how to protect children and adolescents from the harms of screen use
- Promotes 5 D's of Healthy Screen Use:
 - Discuss – Set expectations for healthy screen use
 - Do - Model healthy screen behavior
 - Delay - Screen time from earliest age
 - Divert – Provide alternatives to screen use
 - Disconnect – Schedule screen-free time in everyone's day



<https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/us-surgeon-generals-advisory-warning-on-the-harms-of-screen-use.pdf>

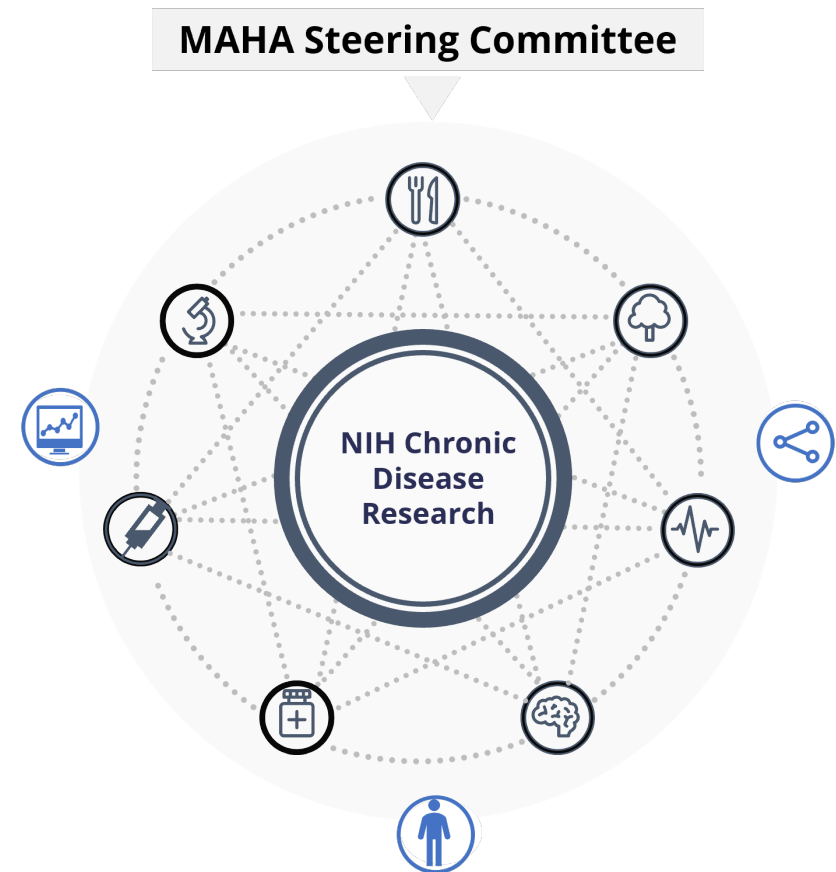


MAHA Implementation Strategy and Governance at NIH

MAHA Steering Committee: Provides strategic oversight of MAHA initiatives at NIH and is **comprised of representatives from Thematic Coordination Groups and Integration Platforms.**

Integration Platforms:
1. Real World Data (RWD) & Artificial Intelligence (AI) Platform
2. Clinical and Community Networks that Integrate the Whole Person Health Framework
3. Life-Course Cohort Integration Platform

Thematic Coordination Groups (TCGs):
1. Nutrition, Metabolism & Health Promotion
2. Environmental & Chemical Exposures (Exposomics)
3. Oral-systemic Health, Physiologic Resilience & Inflammation
4. Neurodevelopment, Mental Health & Cognitive Resilience
5. Substance Use, Prescribing & Therapeutic Safety
6. Immunologic Interventions & Differential Response
7. Cancer Etiology, Early Detection & Survivorship



FY25 vs FY26 Award Rate Comparison

- FY26 award rate is ahead of FY25 pace at this time point last year
 - 285 more awards issued year-to-date, a 26.7% increase
 - Awards for most major mechanisms are ahead of FY25 pace
- Application demand is strong and stable
 - Total applications are steady – 6,938 in FY26 vs. 6,892 in FY25
 - Most received applications: R01 and F31
 - **R01 applications:** 3,072
 - **F31 applications:** 389



Current Funding Opportunities and Highlighted Topics

- [RFA-HD-27-006](#): Novel Experiential Technologies Assisting Individual Learning (NExT AI) Hubs (P20 Clinical Trial Optional)
 - Addresses the impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies on developmental outcomes in children diagnosed with or at risk for developing a specific learning disability impacting reading, writing, and mathematics.
- [RFA-HD-27-012](#): Limited Competition: Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Research Centers 2027 (P50 Clinical Trial Optional)
- [RFA-HD-27-007](#): Using Archived Data and Specimen Collections to Advance Maternal and Pediatric HIV/AIDS Research (R21 CT Not Allowed)
- [PAR-27-111](#): Biological Testing Facility for Contraception & Reproductive Health (X01 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)



Current Highlighted Topics (NICHD Primary)

- [Highlighted Topic](#): Research on the Transition from Pediatric to Adult Health Care
- [Highlighted Topic](#): Research on Drowning Prevention
- [Highlighted Topic](#): Effects of Contraception as Treatment Gynecologic Disorders
- [Highlighted Topic](#): Enhancing the IMPROVE-funded Maternal Health Research Centers of Excellence
- [Highlighted Topic](#): Advancing Prevention and Treatment of Bacterial Sexually Transmitted Infections in HIV-Affected Populations
- [Highlighted Topic](#): Implementation Science to Optimize HIV Prevention and Treatment



Current Highlighted Topics (NICHD Secondary)

- [Highlighted Topic](#): Tackling Acquisition of Language in Kids (TALK)
- [Highlighted Topic](#): Advancing the Science of Prenatal Dietary Supplements
- [Highlighted Topic](#): Environmental Contributors to Infertility
- [Highlighted Topic](#): Using Clinical Studies and Human-Based Models to Understand Vaccine Mechanisms Impacting Efficacy and Safety
- [Highlighted Topic](#): Epidemiological Studies of Vaccination and Health Outcomes Across the Lifespan
- [Highlighted Topic](#): Training and Career Development in Dissemination and Implementation Science
- [Highlighted Topic](#): Advancing Autoimmune Disease Research: Integrating Genetic, Environmental, and Immunological Factors to Improve Diagnosis and Treatment
- [Highlighted Topic](#): Enhancing Scientific Rigor, Transparency, and Replicability





NIH and NICHD Staff Updates

In Memoriam
Dr. Caroline C. Signore



Dave Clark, DrPH, MPH

Acting Director, NICHD Division of Extramural Research

- Joined NICHD as Senior Advisor in the Division of Extramural Research in 2023
- Previously chief of Implementation Science Branch at NHLBI, as well as positions at NCCIH, NIDCR, NIDA



Jonathan Green, MD, MBA

CEO, NIH Clinical Center

- Joined in 2018 as director of NIH Office of Human Subjects Research Protections
 - Instrumental in consolidating separate IC Institutional Review Boards (IRB) into a centralized IRB
 - Attending physician in the Medical Intensive Care Unit and Pulmonary Consult Service at the NIH Clinical Center
- Prior professor of medicine, pathology, and immunology and Associate Dean for Human Studies at Washington University in St. Louis



Steven Schiff, MD, PhD

Director, Fogarty International Center; Associate Director for International Research

- Pediatric neurosurgeon previously at Yale University
- Nearly 40 years of experience in global health, epidemiology of microbial diseases, and pediatric neurological disorders
- Previous NICHD grantee!



Raymond Jacobson, PhD

Director, Center for Scientific Review

- Joined CSR in 2009 as a review officer in bioengineering, and moved into increasingly senior roles
- Served as Acting Deputy Director of the NIH Office of Extramural Research in 2025 and Acting Director of CSR in 2026



Josh Denny, MD, MS

Acting Director, Environmental influences on Child Health Outcomes (ECHO)

- Matt Gillman, MD, SM retired as director of the ECHO program on May 31, 2026
- Josh Denny, director of the *All of Us* Research Program, is now Acting Director of the ECHO program



Acting Directors of NIH ICs (1 of 2)

- David Goff, MD, PhD
 - National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute
- Carolyn Hutter, PhD
 - National Human Genome Research Institute
- John Powers III, MD
 - National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
- Anna Mazzucco, PhD
 - National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases
- Jennifer Webster-Cyriaque, DDS, PhD
 - National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research
- Erica Brown, PhD
 - National Institute of General Medical Sciences
- Andrea Beckel-Mitchener, PhD
 - National Institute of Mental Health
- Amy Adams, PhD
 - National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke



Acting Directors of NIH ICs (2 of 2)

- Monica Webb Hooper, PhD
 - National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities
- Courtney Aklin, PhD
 - National Institute of Nursing Research
- Stephen Sherry, PhD
 - National Library of Medicine
- Rohan Hazra, MD
 - NICHD
- David Shurtleff, PhD
 - National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine



NICHD ConnEXion

- NICHD is working on ways to communicate with our researcher community!
- Introducing the NICHD ConnEXion
 - A monthly round-up of funding opportunities, grants policy updates, upcoming events, and other news.
 - Sign up for our listserv [here](#)!





Thank You!
Questions?