

BUSINESS FOR FEDERAL RESEARCH FUNDING



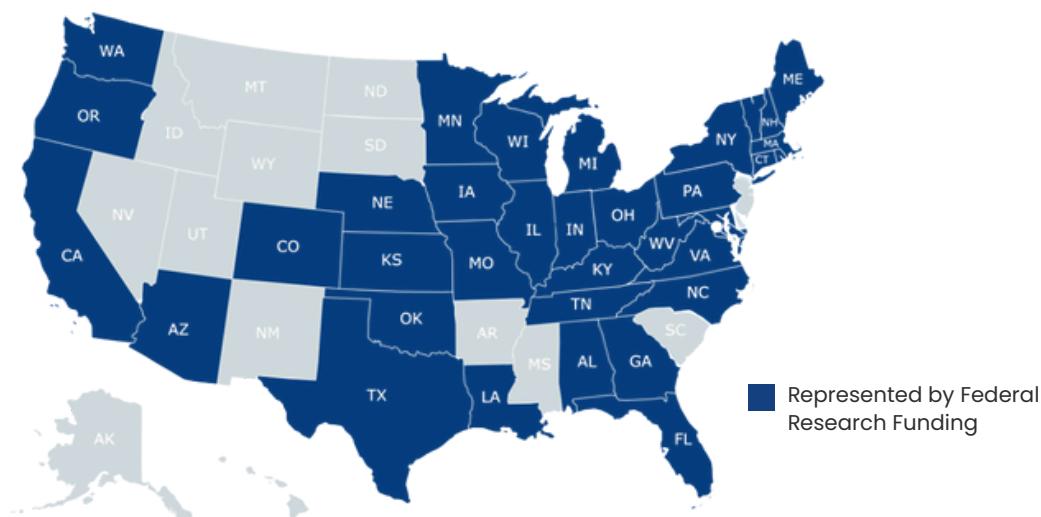
2025 END OF YEAR REPORT

Prepared on January 9, 2026

WHO WE ARE

The Business for Federal Research Funding (BFRF) Coalition represents a united voice of the business and employer community in support of federal research and development (R&D) funding.

Research funding not only leads to major breakthroughs in innovation, new technologies, and life-saving medical treatments, it supports millions of jobs and is key to advancing our economy and global competitiveness. With research funding under threat, the BFRF Coalition relaunched in April 2025 and has since grown to 85 members in 36 states representing every major region of the country. The BFRF Coalition is committed to ensuring that policymakers understand the importance of federal research support for the economy and global competitiveness, and regularly engages with Congress, the Administration, and other business and academic groups to support strategic growth of R&D.



2025 COALITION

To ensure the business community's voice is well-represented in conversations about the vital impact of federal research funding, the Coalition prioritized continued engagement with the Administration and Congress. We regularly share data on the economic impacts of federal funding for research and development with key decision makers, supplemented by personal stories and insights from members, constituents, and communities across the country.

PRIORITIES

01

Level research funding with FY25 across all federal agencies to encourage stable investments in local communities and incentivize our best researchers and innovators to stay in the U.S.

02

Release already approved grant to ensure federal funds are not wasted by stopping worthwhile projects mid-way through their work.

03

Continue conversations about restructuring facilities and administrative costs to balance transparency in spending with the necessary indirect costs of completing research.

IMPACT

The Business for Federal Research Funding (BFRF) Coalition has played a pivotal role highlighting how proposed cuts to research funding harm more than scientific innovation; it threatens business creation, entrepreneurship, industry growth and development, job creation, and global competitiveness. Our impact reaches all regions of the country, blue, red, and purple states, and the Administration, House, and Senate.

85

Representing Coalition Members from 36 states

33

Meetings with Legislators during our September Fly-In to Capitol Hill

3

Letters to Federal Policymakers on the Importance of Research Funding

1:1

Level FY26 Funding in Continuing Resolution Passed by Congress in November 2025



ADVOCACY EFFORTS

Request to Congress to Release Frozen Grant Funds, Reverse Caps on Indirect Costs

In June, BFRF members sent a [letter](#) to their state's congressional delegations to request Congress work with the Administration to release already-approved grant funds and to reverse the 15% indirect costs cap on facilities and administrative (F&A) costs. Coalition members emphasized the importance of federal research funding for global competitiveness and demonstrated the criticality of infrastructure and facility supports.

Request to Congress for Level Funding for FY26

In July, BFRF offered [comments](#) to the Senate Appropriations Committee as they considered the President's FY26 budget request and marked up funding bills for major research-supporting federal agencies. Coalition members highlighted the importance of research funding for local employers across the country and advocated for level research funding with FY25 across all federal agencies.

Request to Administration for Level Funding for FY26

In September, the Coalition submitted a [letter](#) to the heads of several research-supporting federal agencies, including the National Institutes of Health, the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, and the National Science Foundation, advocating for stable, sustained research funding in FY26 and expeditious review of external grant applications. Coalition members emphasized that R&D investments – including basic and applied research and advanced technological development – are crucial to expanding our economic strengths, retaining and developing our best and brightest talent, and advancing our global competitiveness.



SEPTEMBER FLY-IN TO CAPITAL HILL

On September 16–17, representatives from 13 chambers and business associations traveled to Washington, D.C. to meet with partner organizations, Senators, and members of Congress to discuss the importance of research funding for local economies across the country and global competitiveness. Led by the Detroit Regional Chamber, participating members included representatives from Ohio, Wisconsin, Virginia, California, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Iowa, California, New York, and Massachusetts.



Rep. Debbie Dingell (D-MI) speaks to the Business for Federal Research Funding Coalition Roundtable on Capitol Hill on Tuesday, September 16, 2025 (Photo by Adam Majestic).

THROUGHOUT THE TRIP, THE COALITION

- Met with 33 congressional offices in both the House and Senate, including Senate Appropriations Committee Chair Susan Collins (R-ME).
- Hosted a roundtable event with the Association of American Universities (AAU), the Association of American Cancer Institutes (AACI), and Congresswoman Debbie Dingell (D-MI), to share insights and experiences from different industries and regions across the country.

Participants included: the Greater Des Moines Partnership, Quad Cities Chamber, Ames Regional Economic Alliance, Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce, Detroit Regional Chamber, Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce, Capital Region Chamber (Albany), the Chamber of Commerce for Greater Philadelphia, the Allegheny Conference on Community Development, the Greater Cleveland Partnership, the Greater Madison Chamber of Commerce, the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce, and The New England Council.

OTHER COALITION ACTIVITIES

Members of the Business for Federal Research Funding Coalition are leaders in their communities, furthering representation of their own membership and shaping the national conversation around federal research funding by developing and sharing informational and educational resources, building coalitions with stakeholders, and engaging directly with policymakers.

A subset of this advocacy across the country is summarized below:

Allegheny Conference on Community Development

- Coordinated a statewide coalition to meet with relevant members of the PA CODEL advocating for R&D funding by sharing district specific impacts during the Allegheny Conference on Community Development September DC Fly In – a collaboration with the Chamber of Commerce for Greater Philadelphia, Pittsburgh Life Sciences Alliance, Lifesciences PA, Association for American Cancer Institutes (AACI), University of Pittsburgh, and Carnegie Mellon University.
- Featured Jennifer Pegher, Executive Director of the Association of American Cancer Institutes (AACI), on our weekly show spotlighting the top pressing issues affecting the business community, "Our Region's Business," to address the impacts of the NIH cuts on the Pittsburgh Region.
- Looking ahead to 2026, we will continue to have R&D funding as a top federal priority for our 10-county region.
- Signed on to the Association of American Universities (AAU) letter to Senate Appropriators in support of NSF funding.

Boulder Chamber

- Has been deeply engaged in a coalition of elected leadership, government officials, higher education representatives and NGOs that have been working to address federal research investment policy. Our efforts began with an initiative to identify the extent of funding cuts and associated impacts for our federal laboratories through the following survey and extensive outreach, including collaboration with CO-LABS and Workforce Boulder County. This effort received important media coverage.
- Has worked to build a cross-state coalition of support for federal laboratory funding, as covered in other media reports, that we're deploying in our non-partisan advocacy.
- Has been active in hosting coalition strategy meetings for federal research funding support and speaking out against proposed funding cuts.

OTHER COALITION ACTIVITIES (CONT.)

Capital Region Chamber

- Highlighted for members of Congress the groundbreaking, federally funded research and development at both the University at Albany – State University of New York and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI). These institutions are driving innovation, strengthening our regional economy, and advancing discoveries that benefit communities across the nation.

The Chamber of Business and Industry of Centre County

- Met with Penn State University administrators to discuss the direct and significant impact federal research funds have on our local community and businesses.
- Shared informational resources on the local labor market impacts of federal funding cuts and collaborated with stakeholders, including chamber members and the Association of American Universities, to inform policymakers about the importance of NSF funding.
- Scheduled a January 2026 meeting with their Congressman to discuss research funding and the potential impacts to jobs and local businesses, including but not limited to Penn State.

The Chamber of Commerce for Greater Philadelphia

- Developed and deployed informational resources, including an advocacy input form (March), an economic impact analysis of capping reimbursement rates for critical research support (March), and an NIH Toolkit (May).
- Sent a letter in May to more than 15 regional legislators contextualizing the economic fallout of reimbursement rate caps and urging a legislative solution.
- Represented the business community's perspective on research funding on panels before the Philadelphia Convention Center & Visitors Bureau's Nursing Leadership Committee (April), the Association of American Universities Council on Federal Relations Panel (September), and the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (November).

Dallas Regional Chamber

- During the 89th Texas Legislative Session, the DRC successfully advocated for full funding of the Texas Research Incentive Program (TRIP) backlog, contingent on repeal of the program. In clearing the backlog, Texas approved more than \$400 million in approved matching grants for higher education research initiatives across Texas, including more than \$150 million for North Texas institutions.

Detroit Regional Chamber

- Advocated to Michigan's House Republicans on the importance of research funding in their districts.
- Included federal research funding on legislative priorities.
- Hosted a panel of experts on the importance of federal research funding at the 2025 Mackinac Policy Conference, Michigan's largest and oldest policy conference.
- Spoke to the Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives (ACCE) Government Relations group in November about why chambers of commerce should care about research funding.

OTHER COALITION ACTIVITIES (CONT.)

Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce

- Commissioned and released a comprehensive economic impact study of the consequences of permanent cuts to NIH and NSF funding for jobs and economic output across Massachusetts, and convened key stakeholders from the business community, universities, and hospitals to discuss the importance of research funding and the Eds and Meds industries for the state and regional economy in October.
- President/CEO James E. Rooney joined the state's congressional delegation in a December conversation with National Institutes of Health (NIH) Director Dr. Jay Bhattacharya to discuss the economic consequences of paused and cancelled research grants for the Massachusetts economy, scientific innovation, and global competitiveness.

Greater Iowa City, Inc.

- Advocated for the importance of research funding across Johnson County, Iowa where the University of Iowa is located.
- Surveyed local businesses about federal disruptions, including changes to NIH funding, and submitted a letter to IA federal representatives in February.
- Advocated for the value of research funding with federal representatives at our DC Fly-In in June.
- Signed on to the Association of American Universities (AAU) December letter in support of NSF funding.

Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce

- Signaling support for research funding on the 2025 Federal Agenda. Research and development at universities and federally funded laboratories facilitates significant economic impact in greater Kansas City and supports cures, innovation, and job creation. The KC Chamber urges Congress to support this regional opportunity and engage its resources to advance research and development in the two-state region.
- Providing letters of support for University of Missouri-Kansas City Critical Materials Crossroads, a transformative energy innovation and manufacturing campus that seeks to onshore the midstream materials industry to manufacture battery and warfighter technology.
- Convening a Higher Education Forum, which included discussion around federal research funding.

Greater Omaha Chamber

- Issued a press release on April 28th announcing our membership in BFRF and emphasizing the importance of federal research funding for the Omaha region and the country's future.
- Held strategy meetings with the University of Nebraska, University of Nebraska Medical Center and Creighton University to discuss the work of the Business Federation for Federal Research Funding, and how we can coordinate our efforts.

OTHER COALITION ACTIVITIES (CONT.)

Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce

- Reinforced the value of research to Michigan's Congressional and legislative delegation through a variety of formal and grassroots engagements.
- Michigan State University serves on the Chamber's Executive Board as the Regional Initiatives Division Director, placing university leadership in an important position to shape long term strategies around growing an innovation economy.
- Engaged directly with Congressman Tom Barrett (MI-07) and U.S. Senators Gary Peters and Elissa Slotkin, in close collaboration with Michigan State University, to reinforce the importance of research universities here in Michigan and across the country as anchors of innovation and regional growth.
- Looking ahead to 2026, we will continue advancing this work as the Coalition advocates for stable, sustained federal research funding, timely action on approved grants, and a strong R&D pipeline that protects American leadership.

The New England Council

- Sent a [letter](#) in July to the region's Senators and Representatives urging them to support legislation reauthorizing the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and the Small Business Technology (STTR) programs.
- Sent a [letter](#) in September to the Chairs and Ranking Members of the Senate and House Appropriations Committees thanking them for recent support of federal research funding and strongly urging them to maintain critical funding support for federal research and development programs across all agencies in FY2026.

Portland Metro Chamber

- In 2025, over 120 leaders attended the joint Cascadia PNW DC fly-in to advocate for the [shared agenda](#) of the Portland Metro Chamber and the Seattle Metro Chamber. Communicating the critical importance of protecting and maintaining research funding was a top agenda item. We met the Trump Administration and over 20 members of congress. It will be a more prominent priority in 2026.

2026 PRIORITIES

FY26 and FY27 Research & Development Funding

The Coalition was pleased that the continuing resolution to reopen the government after a prolonged shutdown in November included level funding for research and development programs across federal agencies. We are monitoring ongoing talks to fund the government past January 30, 2026, when the current continuing resolution expires, including early talks of FY27 funding. We will continue to engage with federal funding proposals and actions, including future continuing resolutions, legislative language on facilities and administration costs, the release of the Administration's FY27 budget proposal in early 2026, and the continued release of already approved grant funding.

Rewrites to Facilities & Administration Costs

The Coalition appreciates continued congressional support for facilities and administration costs (F&A) across several funding mechanisms. We are monitoring ongoing conversations between Congress, the Administration, and other advocacy groups around the Financial Accountability in Research (FAIR) Model, a proposal to tailor F&A support individually by research project. We will continue to engage with Congress and the Administration to ensure that federal funding continues to support real, necessary costs of conducting research while enhancing transparency and accountability around funding budgets.

Expiration of the SBIR/STTR Programs

In September, authorization expired for the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) Programs, which designate a small portion of R&D funds across 11 federal agencies for eligible small businesses. A bipartisan bill, [H.R. 5100](#), which provides a one-year reauthorization of the programs, passed the House on September 15 though has not yet been considered in the Senate.

Royalties from University Patents

In fall 2025, Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick announced a proposal for the federal government to assume up to half of all royalties from patents developed by federally-funded university research. The 1980 Bayh-Dole Act established the intellectual property rights of all recipients of federal research funding, including businesses, universities, and non-profits. The Coalition is monitoring the development of this proposal, and will engage as needed with the Administration to share the consequences of the proposal for innovation and entrepreneurship.



COALITION MEMBERS

[Allegheny Conference on Community Development](#)

[Ames Regional Economic Alliance](#)

[Ann Arbor / Ypsilanti Regional Chamber](#)

[Arlington Chamber](#)

[Bend Chamber of Commerce \(OR\)](#)

[Boulder Chamber](#)

[Buffalo Niagara Partnership](#)

[Business Council of Westchester](#)

[Cambridge Chamber of Commerce \(MA\)](#)

[Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce](#)

[Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce](#)

[Capital Region Chamber \(NY\)](#)

[Chamber for a Greater Chapel Hill-Carrboro](#)

[Chamber of Business & Industry of Centre County](#)

[Chamber of Commerce of Greater Philadelphia](#)

[ChamberRVA](#)

[Champaign County Chamber of Commerce](#)

[Charles River Regional Chamber](#)

[Charlotte Regional Business Alliance](#)

[Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce](#)

[Cobb Chamber](#)

[Columbus Chamber of Commerce](#)

[Commerce Lexington, Inc.](#)

[Dallas Regional Chamber](#)

[Dayton Development Coalition \(OH\)](#)

[Detroit Regional Chamber](#)

[Duluth Area Chamber of Commerce](#)

[Eugene Area Chamber of Commerce](#)

[Georgia Chamber of Commerce](#)

[Glendale Chamber](#)

[Greater Akron Chamber](#)

[Greater Bethesda Chamber of Commerce](#)

[Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce](#)

[Greater Cleveland Partnership](#)

[Greater Des Moines Partnership](#)

[Greater Durham Chamber of Commerce](#)

[Greater Houston Partnership](#)

[Greater Iowa City, Inc.](#)

COALITION MEMBERS (CONT.)

[Greater Kansas City Chamber](#)
[Greater Louisville, Inc.](#)
[Greater Madison Chamber of Commerce](#)
[Greater Miami Chamber](#)
[Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce](#)
[Greater Oklahoma City](#)
[Greater Omaha Chamber](#)
[Greater Phoenix Chamber](#)
[Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce](#)
[Greater Rochester Chamber \(NY\)](#)
[Greater Spokane, INC.](#)
[Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce](#)
[Greater Topeka Partnership](#)
[Greater Winston-Salem Inc.](#)
[Harrisburg Regional Chamber of Commerce](#)
[Howard County Chamber](#)
[Huntsville Madison County Chamber of Commerce](#)
[Indy Chamber](#)
[Lake Champlain Chamber](#)
[Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce](#)
[Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce \(CA\)](#)
[Maryland Chamber of Commerce](#)
[Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce](#)
[Metro Hartford Alliance](#)
[Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce \(MD\)](#)
[New England Council](#)
[Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce](#)
[Northern Virginia Chamber](#)
[One Acadiana](#)
[One SouthCoast Chamber](#)
[Orlando Economic Partnership](#)
[Overland Park Chamber of Commerce](#)
[Portland Metro Chamber \(OR\)](#)
[Quad Cities Chamber](#)
[Raleigh Chamber of Commerce](#)
[Rochester Area Chamber of Commerce \(MN\)](#)
[San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce](#)
[San Francisco Chamber of Commerce](#)

COALITION MEMBERS (CONT.)

Seattle Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce
Silicon Valley Leadership Group
Tampa Bay Chamber of Commerce
Tennessee Chamber of Commerce & Industry
Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce
West Virginia Chamber
Wilmington Chamber of Commerce
Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce



THANK YOU

Learn more about the Business for Federal Research Funding Coalition and how research funding supports our economy and global competitiveness by visiting our website.



www.researchfunding.org

