



FRIENDS OF VA MEDICAL CARE
AND HEALTH RESEARCH

FOVA Recommendations for FY 2025 Department of Veterans Affairs

MEDICAL AND PROSTHETIC RESEARCH PROGRAM – at least \$1.05 billion

The Friends of VA Medical Care and Health Research (FOVA) coalition recognizes the demands of many important programs for America’s veterans in the Military Construction, VA, and Related Agencies spending bill, and urges Congress to continue its reliable and robust growth in the VA research program without recessions. FOVA’s FY 2025 recommendation of \$1.05 billion for VA research, an increase of \$107 million (10.19%) above the final FY 2024 funding level, would enhance the investment in veteran-centric research on a trajectory of meaningful growth above inflation to ensure research progress can keep pace with the increasing demands of improving health for veterans.

Sustained funding growth for research efforts is critical to building upon recent successes in precision oncology and bolstering VA’s participation in the Cancer Moonshot Initiative, increasing clinical trials access, and addressing health disparities, while renewing support for groundbreaking programs like the Million Veteran Program (MVP) and research on chronic and emerging needs of our nation’s veterans. Increased funding for the VA research program will also support recruitment and retention of researchers as they seek to grow research programs in toxic exposures and mental health following new authorities enacted in the 117th Congress and will also allow for additional investments to support the strained IT capacity through computational science purchases to enhance the collection and use of big data. FOVA’s recommendation of \$1.05 billion would provide sustained and predictable funding growth for VA research, which is imperative to help ensure the best return on investment in improving the health of veterans and all Americans.

PHYSICAL AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT) INFRASTRUCTURE

State-of-the-art research requires an investment in state-of-the-art facilities, technology, and equipment. For decades, appropriations for construction, maintenance, and IT have not provided the resources VA needs to replace, maintain, or upgrade its aging research and IT infrastructure to support the research program. For FY 2025, FOVA recommends the following funding to support physical and IT research infrastructure:

MAJOR AND MINOR CONSTRUCTION - at least \$100 million

A 2012 congressionally mandated report found a clear need for systematic infrastructure improvements for VA research laboratories. VA completed a Phase II assessment in 2020 of fewer than one-third of sites inspected in Phase I. Phase II findings show that while certain projects have received funding, significant deficiencies remain. VA estimated more than \$200 million was needed to correct all deficiencies identified in the Phase II report, including \$99.5 million in Priority 1 deficiencies, representing immediate needs such as life safety hazard corrections. FOVA believes designating funds specifically for research facilities is the only way to make significant improvements. For capital infrastructure, renovations, and maintenance, FOVA recommends at least \$100 million for VA research facilities to address the most pressing repairs.

OFFICE OF INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY – at least \$25 million

VA’s Office of Information and Technology (OIT) is responsible for IT development and maintenance for programs including clinical, health management, benefits, security, and research. To advance and modernize the VA research program, OIT funding must be designated specifically for research use on a yearly basis. For FY 2025, FOVA recommends at least \$25 million of the OIT budget to be assigned for VA research to support the purchase and maintenance of IT infrastructure, increase data storage and access capabilities, increase data security, increase interoperability with affiliated partners, and transition to more robust and functional cloud computing platforms.

Organizations Endorsing the FOVA FY 2025 Recommendation:

AcademyHealth
American Academy of Neurology
American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine
American Association of Neuromuscular & Electrodiagnostic Medicine
American Brain Coalition
American College of Physicians
American Dental Education Association
American Gastroenterological Association
American Geriatrics Society
American Heart Association
American Orthotic and Prosthetic Association
American Podiatric Medical Association
American Psychological Association
American Psychiatric Association
American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy
American Society for Nephrology
American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics (ASPET)
American Thoracic Society
Arthritis Foundation
Association of Academic Physiatrists
Association of American Medical Colleges
Association of Chairs of Departments of Physiology
Catholic War Veterans, USA, Inc.
Cohen Veterans Bioscience
Disabled American Veterans (DAV)
Epilepsy Foundation
Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology
LUNGeivity Foundation
Lymphatic Education & Research Network
Melanoma Research Foundation
National Alliance on Mental Illness
National Association for Biomedical Research
National Association of VA Physicians and Dentists (NAVAPD)
National Association of Veterans Research and Education Foundations (NAVREF)
National Scleroderma Foundation
Nurses Organization of Veterans Affairs (NOVA)
Paralyzed Veterans of America
Prostate Cancer Foundation
Pulmonary Hypertension Association
Research!America
Restless Legs Syndrome Foundation
Society for Neuroscience
Society of General Internal Medicine