

FACTSHEET

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Fiscal Year 2026 Alzheimer's Research Funding

The escalating Alzheimer's epidemic has profound implications for government budgets.

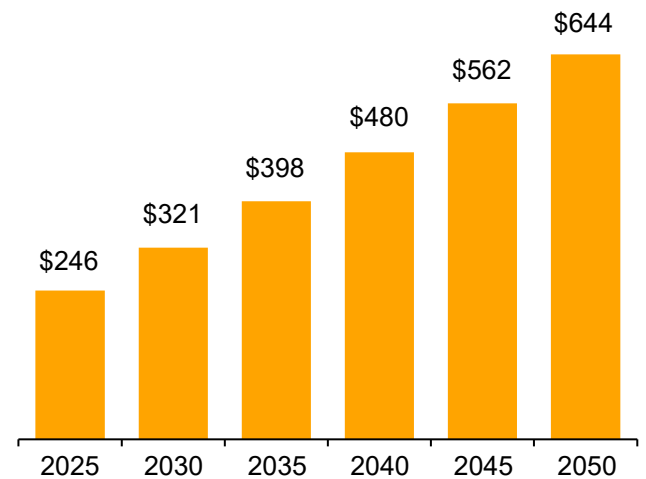
- Alzheimer's is one of the most expensive diseases in America, costing more than heart disease or cancer.
- In 2025, caring for people with Alzheimer's and other dementias will cost the United States an estimated \$384 billion (in 2025 dollars).
- Cumulatively between 2025 and 2050, costs are projected to total more than \$17.7 trillion — nearly two-thirds of which will be borne by Medicare and Medicaid.
- More than 1 in every 7 dollars of Medicare spending is spent on people with Alzheimer's and other dementias.

Despite the recent increased investment in Alzheimer's research, more funding is needed to continue the work in key areas.

- For fiscal year (FY) 2025, Congress maintained National Institutes of Health (NIH) Alzheimer's research funding at the FY 2024 levels.
- Along with previous research investments, annual NIH Alzheimer's research funding is now more than \$3.8 billion.
- However, this is still short of the funding scientists at the NIH say is needed to maximize continued progress going forward.

Alzheimer's Costs to Medicare and Medicaid

(in billions of 2025 dollars)



Congressional action is needed to stay on the path to discovering scientific breakthroughs.

- One of the goals of the National Alzheimer's Plan is the development of preventions and effective treatments.
- To help achieve this, the NIH Alzheimer's bypass budget — what the NIH scientists say they need — calls for an additional \$113,485,000 in Alzheimer's research funding for FY 2026.
- This increase will allow the NIH to accelerate investment in collaborations that speed discovery, ground breaking prevention trials, and the testing of new therapeutics.