White House FY 2027 NIH Budget Proposed Cuts Will Lead to More than $18 Billion in Economic Losses and More than 60,000 Lost Jobs in Communities Nationwide

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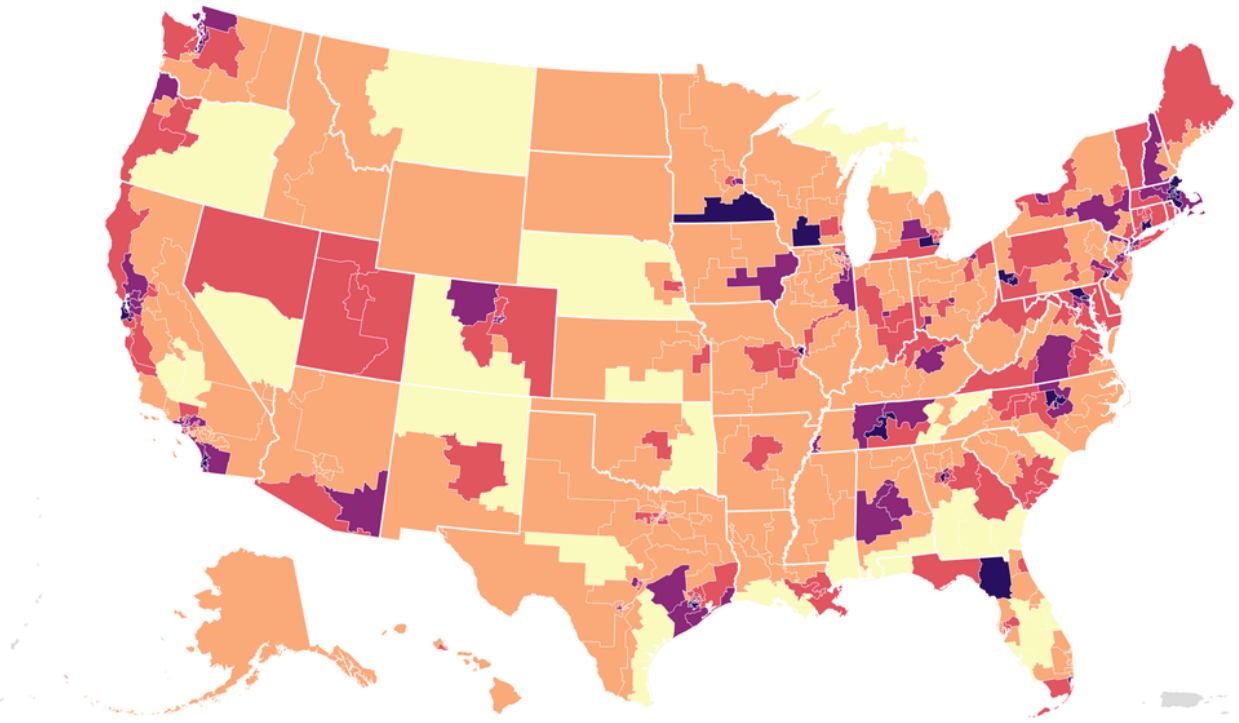
Summary: The White House FY 2027 budget proposal cuts NIH extramural research funding by more than $7 billion compared to inflation-adjusted historical NIH funding averages from FY 2020-2024. Budget cuts are projected to lead to more than $18 billion in lost economic activity in the upcoming year in light of findings that $1 invested in NIH research supports $2.57 in economic activity. Losses will be widespread, negatively impact local economies, reduce investment in areas of significant medical need, and lead to more than 60,000 lost jobs in addition to the NIH jobs that have already been eliminated. SCIMaP estimates that 31 states face over $100 million in economic losses, and most House districts will experience more than $5 million in economic losses. Furthermore, one quarter of House districts, spread all over the country in blue, purple, and red states alike, will see economic losses of greater than $50 million in a single year. The map below estimates the economic losses in millions of dollars by congressional district. An interactive visualization is available via scienceimpacts.org.

Economic Impacts of Proposed NIH Budget Cuts for FY 2027 by Congressional District

Source: Science and Community Impacts Mapping Project (SCIMaP), scienceimpacts.org

Economic Loss (Millions of USD) by Congressional District (119th Congress)

Less than $5 Million | $5 - $25 M | $25 - $50 M | $50 - $100 M | Greater than $100 Million



Data is mapped to the Districts used in the 119th Congress. Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International (CC BY 4.0).

Source: SCIMaP: http://scienceimpacts.org • Created with Datawrapper

Expected Widespread Impacts: The $7B reduction in the White House's proposed FY 2027 NIH budget compared to historical NIH funding averages will lead to $18.2B in lost economic activity next year. This economic loss reflects findings that, on average, $1 in NIH research supports $2.57 in economic activity (with the multiplier varying by state). Economic losses will be widespread – SCIMaP estimates that 31 states face over $100 million in economic losses. The Top 15 impacted states are California, New York, Massachusetts, Texas, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Illinois, Washington, Maryland, Florida, New Jersey, Ohio, Michigan, Georgia, and Tennessee; each are estimated to incur more than $350 million in economic losses.

Cuts will Impact Local Economies: Reduced investment in medical research ripples outward into local communities. When we account for these commuter flows using U.S. census data, we estimate that every congressional district will experience some economic loss due to cuts in the proposed White House FY 2027 NIH budget, and over 90% of districts stand to lose at least $5M in FY 2027. We estimate that one quarter of congressional districts, spread all over the country in blue, purple, and red states, will lose greater than $50 million dollars annually.

NIH Cuts will Lead to Significant Job Losses: We estimate that proposed cuts would lead to more than 60,000 lost jobs nationwide. In addition, further reductions in force at NIH will lead to the permanent shuttering of federal labs. More than 1,200 individual and institutional training grant awards would be eliminated, reducing trainee opportunities by 10% nationally. These cuts will not substantially reduce the federal deficit — currently, less than 1% of the total federal budget is dedicated to the NIH. Job losses due to cuts in the proposed budget are in addition to those losses from ongoing policy changes currently under judicial review (including widespread terminations of NIH grants) and reduced funding for research infrastructure (which had been barred from implementation in 2026, but has been proposed again in the FY2027 budget).

Methods Summary: All dollar values are inflation-adjusted to 2026. We compare the proposed NIH FY 2027 extramural budget (research and training grants) to the average inflation-adjusted FY 2020-FY2024 budget to estimate the proportion of funding lost. We calculate the five-year inflation-adjusted average of funding across active NIH grants within a given census tract from FY 2020-2024, rescaling grant obligations to match annual budgets and assume that cuts are distributed evenly across topics. We redistribute losses across regions based on tract-to-area commuter flows provided by the US Census data set (version LODES8). We use data for all job types for the year 2016, as more recent data are not available for several states. The economic impact of cuts is estimated using a state-specific economic multiplier for NIH funding estimated in a report by United for Medical Research (the national average is 2.57). Data is distributed publicly through the Open Science Framework and available via scienceimpacts.org.

About SCIMaP: *The Science and Community Impacts Mapping Project analyzes the economic effects of federal policy changes to science and medical research funding on U.S. communities. Based in College Park, Maryland, SCIMaP was launched in March 2025 and brings together an interdisciplinary team of researchers from the University of Maryland, University of Pennsylvania, Georgia Tech, University of Utah, and University of Oregon, supported, in part, by grants from Coefficient Giving and the Burroughs Wellcome Fund.*