

White House FY 2027 Budget Includes Extensive Cuts to NIH & NSF: SCIMaP Projections Show \$35 Billion in Lost Economic Activity and 150,000 Jobs Lost Nationwide



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College Park, MD—The Science and Community Impacts Mapping Project (SCIMaP) released updated economic impact projections based on the White House’s fiscal year 2027 science budget request, which proposes cutting the National Science Foundation (NSF) by 55% and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) by 11% from enacted FY2026 levels, respectively.

Using publicly available data and established economic multipliers, SCIMaP projects that the proposed cuts would result in an estimated \$35 billion in reduced economic activity and 150,000 jobs lost in communities across the United States. Interactive maps showing projected impacts at the county, congressional district, and state level are available at scienceimpacts.org.

“Science and medical research drive discovery and economic activity nationwide,” said project co-lead, Joshua Weitz, Professor of Biology and Clark Leadership Chair in Data Analytics at UMD with a joint appointment in the University of Maryland Institute for Health Computing. “The White House’s FY 2027 budget would disrupt research already underway, undermine pathways for early career researchers, and lead to immediate, widespread, and substantial economic losses in local communities.”

“A key insight from our analysis is that the cuts impact communities nationwide, but some areas are hit harder than others. Rural communities and areas with many people employed in medicine or higher education face disproportionate economic and job losses,” said Alyssa (Allie) Sinclair, project co-lead and Joan Bossert Postdoctoral Fellow at the Annenberg Public Policy Center at the University of Pennsylvania. “The proposed budget cuts will harm red, blue, and purple districts alike and redistribute economic opportunity away from many communities.”

The White House’s FY 2027 budget proposal would reduce NSF funding by about \$6.4 billion (from \$9.5 billion to \$3.1 billion, inflation adjusted) and NIH funding by about \$7 billion (from \$36 billion to \$29 billion, inflation adjusted). These reductions compare an inflation-adjusted 5-year baseline from FY2020–FY2024. The proposed cuts to science and medical research diverge sharply from funding levels that Congress previously set with bipartisan support.

Investments in science and medical research catalyze new economic activity—for example, each \$1 million invested in NIH generates more than \$2.5 million in economic activity. SCIMaP uses region-specific economic multipliers to estimate the downstream impact of funding cuts on communities. SCIMaP’s budget analysis takes into account inflation-adjusted funding levels from 2020–2024, revealing that the proposed FY 2027 budget represents an even greater departure, not only from last year’s budget, but from historical norms.

When accounting for inflation-adjusted baselines, SCIMaP projects the White House FY 2027 budget cuts to NSF and NIH will lead to more than \$35 billion in economic losses next year alone.

“The White House is signaling its intent to reduce investment in science even before Congress weighs in,” said [Mallory Harris](#), senior data analyst at SCIMaP and postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Biology and the Institute for Health Computing at the University of Maryland. “Our analysis translates these proposed budget numbers into concrete impacts, visualizing what these proposals would mean for jobs and economic activity in communities across the country.”

Key Findings:

- \$35 billion drop in estimated economic activity and 150,000 lost jobs tied to proposed NSF and NIH budget cuts nationwide.
- The top 15 affected states include: California, New York, Massachusetts, Texas, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Washington, Illinois, Maryland, Florida, New Jersey, Ohio, Michigan, Georgia, and Tennessee.
- Cuts fall on communities spanning major cities, regional hubs of excellence, and rural areas connected to universities, research hospitals, and research institutes.

About the Analysis: SCIMaP connects federal grant records to local economic activity when accounting for the downstream effects of federal R&D spending. In brief, SCIMaP uses NIH and NSF reporting data on grants and budgets to establish inflation-adjusted baseline support for science and medical research, including information on the geographic distribution of funds and the multiplier effect of R&D. This baseline support informs our analysis of the expected economic loss in local communities when accounting for where people work and live. We integrate these economic impact estimates with Census data on commuter flows to show the broader impacts on communities beyond research institutions. The project’s full technical documentation and underlying data are publicly available at scienceimpacts.org.

To learn more about the data and how to use the maps, join us for a SCIMaP Webinar on May 7, 2026 at 12:00pm eastern time. [Register here](#).

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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.*

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