

About the NIH Office of AIDS Research

For more than 40 years, the HIV epidemic has transformed public health and health research worldwide. The epidemic has evolved from an infectious terminal illness to a preventable and manageable chronic condition through antiretroviral treatment. This progress is due in large part to the groundbreaking research funded and led by the largest biomedical research agency in the world, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

HIV crosses nearly every area of medicine and scientific investigation. The response to the HIV pandemic requires a multi-institute, multidisciplinary, global research program. Within the NIH Office of the Director, the Office of AIDS Research (OAR) ensures that the largest public investment in HIV and AIDS research in the world is directed at the highest priority areas among the NIH Institutes, Centers, and Offices.

An unprecedented response to a global pandemic

The establishment of the OAR was an innovative U.S. federal response to ensure that public funding is invested in high-quality, responsible research. It is the first NIH-wide office dedicated to a focus on one specific disease.

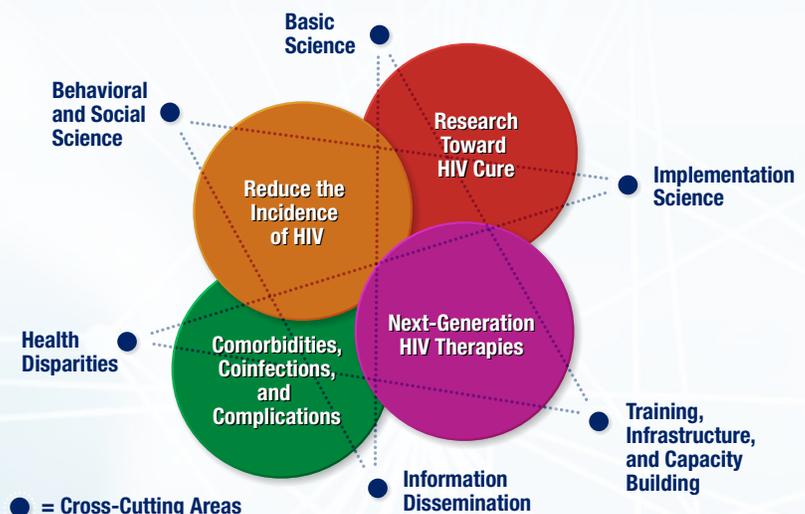
OAR Activities

In 1988, the U.S. Congress authorized the establishment of the NIH OAR to oversee, coordinate, and manage NIH HIV/AIDS-related research. OAR—

- Establishes NIH HIV/AIDS research priorities;
- Allocates HIV/AIDS research funds in line with scientific priorities;
- Manages HIV/AIDS research across the NIH Institutes, Centers, and Offices; and
- Collaborates with other U.S. government agencies, community groups, and global organizations to end the HIV pandemic.

NIH Priorities for HIV and HIV-Related Research and Strategic Planning

OAR establishes the NIH priorities for HIV and HIV-related research in collaboration with NIH Institutes, Centers, and Offices; agencies and offices across the federal government; partners from the scientific community; people with HIV; and nongovernmental groups. These research priorities are aligned with a broad HIV and AIDS research agenda and support the newly updated [National HIV/AIDS Strategy for the United States](#) and the [Ending the HIV Epidemic in the U.S.](#) initiative.



As part of its effort to advance these priorities OAR develops the [NIH Strategic Plan for HIV and HIV-Related Research](#). The current plan for fiscal years (FY) 2021–2025 aims to—

1. **Advance rigorous and innovative research** to end the HIV pandemic and improve the health of people with, at risk for, or affected by HIV across the lifespan.
2. **Ensure that the NIH HIV research portfolio remains flexible and responsive** to emerging scientific opportunities and discoveries.
3. **Promote dissemination and implementation of research discoveries** for public health impact across agencies, departments, and stakeholders within the U.S. government and globally.
4. **Build human resource and infrastructure capacity** to enhance sustainability of HIV research discovery and the implementation of findings by a diverse and multidisciplinary workforce.

NIH HIV/AIDS Budget

More than \$3 billion USD of the annual NIH budget is committed to HIV research, totaling almost 7.2% of the total NIH research allocation in FY 2021. The NIH Revitalization Act of 1993 mandates OAR to allocate appropriated HIV research funds to the NIH Institutes, Centers, and Offices in accordance with the *NIH Strategic Plan for HIV and HIV-Related Research*.

OAR is the only NIH Office legislatively mandated to prepare an annual Professional Judgment Budget. The PJ is submitted to the President through the Office of Management and Budget and estimates the funds needed to optimally implement the *NIH Strategic Plan for HIV and HIV-Related Research* and achieve the NIH HIV research priority agenda.

Resource Distribution by Priority, FY 2021
(Dollars in millions)



Ending the HIV Pandemic

The NIH response to the HIV/AIDS pandemic requires a unique and complex multidisciplinary approach and cross-cutting research areas across all of NIH.

Continued investment is needed to sustain the momentum that changed the lives of people with HIV in the course of the last 40 years. An integrated strategic approach will lead to new, innovative research efforts and new discoveries that will pave the way to the OAR vision of ending the HIV pandemic and meeting the needs of persons living with, at risk for, and affected by HIV.

Resources

- Federal information on HIV/AIDS treatment, prevention, and research **for clinicians** at Clinicalinfo.hiv.gov
- Federal information on HIV/AIDS treatment and research for the **general public** at HIVinfo.nih.gov
- Federal resources on HIV and AIDS for the **general public** available on [OAR's HIV Resources web page](#)

