

# Fund \$2.548B for the National Institute of Mental Health for FY27

## Facts



The National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) supports critical research aimed at **transforming our understanding and treatment of mental illness**, and has designated suicide research as a priority research area.<sup>1</sup>



Established in 2019, NIMH's Suicide Research Team (SRT) **leads the Institute's suicide research activities** and coordinates outreach initiatives to key agencies and stakeholders.



The SRT develops **suicide-related workshops, webinars, and funding opportunities** to address suicide prevention research gaps aligned with NIMH priorities.



SRT topics range from **suicide etiology to risk trajectories and risk identification**, to implementing practical, scalable interventions in settings like health care and criminal justice systems.

## Without Robust Investment, Suicide Research Remains Narrow and Siloed

Despite positive steps taken by NIMH in recent years, suicide prevention research remains relatively narrow in scope and siloed within the federal government.

Specifically, additional funding and targeted report language would:

- Ensure NIMH's suicide research portfolio includes the **full breadth and depth of the science behind suicide**, incorporating biological, psychological, social, and environmental factors
- Support the application of **novel measurement techniques, statistical analysis, digital initiatives, and information systems** within suicide research
- Promote greater **collaboration with other Departments, Agencies, Institutes, and Centers** with expertise in research areas that can contribute to suicide prevention

**Sustained funding for NIMH is critical to strengthen suicide prevention research and ensure it reflects the full breadth and depth of the science behind suicide.**

<sup>1</sup> National Institute of Mental Health. Suicide Research.  
<https://www.nimh.nih.gov/research/priority-research-areas/suicide-research>



## Report Language

AFSP requests the inclusion of the following report language that ensures suicide research appropriately incorporates the biological, psychological, social, and environmental factors that contribute to suicide, and that NIMH maintain robust collaboration with other federal stakeholders.

**Suicide Prevention.** The Committee recognizes that suicide is a complex and serious public health problem with multiple contributing factors, including biological, psychological, social, and environmental. The Committee encourages the Director to ensure the Institute's suicide research activities, including the work of the Institute's Suicide Research Team, appropriately encompass these contributing factors, as well as the application of novel measurement techniques, statistical analysis, digital initiatives and information systems. The Committee further encourages the Director to promote greater collaboration with other Departments, Agencies, Institutes and Centers with expertise in research areas that can contribute to suicide prevention.