



American Society of Human Genetics

ADVOCATE UPDATE

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June 2024

## Interim Fiscal Year 2025 Subcommittee Allocations Released



In May, House Appropriations Committee Chairman, Tom Cole (R-OK) [previewed the committee's 302\(b\)](#) numbers for Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25) funding, proposing steep cuts to non-defense appropriations, including scientific and medical research. Through a vote, the House Appropriations Committee passed these funding levels with an amendment that boosts the Labor-Health and Human Services-Education (L-HHS) bill by \$2 billion above the 302(b) allocations Chairman Cole [released in May](#); however, this change still cuts subcommittee appropriations by 4%. Agencies including the NIH and many critical research programs are facing the threat of flat or decreased funding in FY25. Specific funding levels are subject to change as the Senate Appropriation Committee's topline numbers have yet to be released. Follow along with the appropriations process by using [this handy American Association for the Advancement of Science \(AAAS\) tool](#).

**Congress needs to hear from you! Share how potential cuts to research funding would impact you. Take a few minutes to take action: [use this pre-filled form](#) to email your Members of Congress in support of sustained NIH funding for FY25.**

Take Action

## ASHG Calendar: Events and Important Dates

- Join us for Part 3 of ASHG's webinar series, "Towards Health Equity: Prioritizing Community Partnerships in Human Genetics Research," on June 27. [Use this link to register](#), and check out the recordings and materials from Parts 1 and 2!
- [Register](#) for the July 10 ASHG webinar, "Stakeholders' Views on Returning Polygenic Risk Scores."
- The [ASHG 2024 Annual Meeting](#) will be in Denver, Colorado from November 5-9, 2024. [Register](#) before the ASHG 2024 Annual Meeting Early Bird Registration Deadline on Aug 21, 2024!

## ACGT Advocates Reflect on ASHG's 2024 Capitol Hill Meetings



Last month, ASHG held the Society's annual virtual Capitol Hill Meetings, during which ASHG advocates from the Advocacy Certificate for Human Genetics and Genomics Trainees ([ACGT](#)) program joined members of the ASHG Government and Public Advocacy Committee ([GPAC](#)) to meet with fifteen congressional offices. Advocates shared personal stories with their legislators as they communicated the impact of human genetics and genomics research and illustrated the importance for continued support for sustained, robust funding for the NIH.

Read [the full reflections](#) on ASHG's 2024 Capitol Hill engagement from trainee advocates in the ACGT program and read more about this advocacy event in *The Messenger* newsletter, available [here!](#)

"Participating in Hill Meetings for the first time was an exciting experience! I was especially thrilled to speak with the legislative assistant of my representative, highlighting the relevance of NIH funding for my own genomic research. Overall, it was rewarding to advocate for increased funding for science to encourage the advancement of genomic scientific discovery and improve health outcomes for all populations." - Larah Siouffey, 2024 ACGT advocate

## ASHG Participates in the Congressional Life Sciences Fair



ASHG joined twelve other scientific organizations on Capitol Hill for the 4th Congressional Life Science Fair on June 10 to share how federal investments in research advances public health. Organized by the Coalition for the Life Sciences ([CLS](#)) and the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology ([FASEB](#)), this was an opportunity for organizations and scientists to showcase their work with policymakers, network with peer societies, and engage attendees in hands-on experiments. ASHG spoke with life science researchers, science policy professionals, government agency staff, students, and Congressional staffers, sharing the Society's policy priorities.

## In Other Policy News

- On June 26, The National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) will hold the first of three webinars on the NIH Institutional Development Award (IDeA) program and the National Science Foundation (NSF) Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) aimed to distribute federal funding more evenly and provide research opportunities in states that historically receive low levels of funding. [Learn more and register here.](#)
- The next ELSI Friday Forum webinar will be held on July 12: "Global Models for Embedding ELSI Research: What does equitable integration mean?" [Register here.](#)
- NASEM is hosting a webinar titled, "Sustaining Community Engagement in Genomics Research: A Workshop," on July 17. [Register using this link.](#)
- Registration for the Rally for Medical Research is now open! [Click here](#) to learn more about joining other research advocates on Capitol Hill, September 18-19.
- NIH recently released a request for information on strategies to maximize public engagement in NIH-supported clinical research, see [here](#) for more information on how to submit a response before the August 14, 2024 deadline.
- Check out ASHG's newly updated "6 Ways to be an ASHG Advocate" guide [here!](#)

- Curious to know the impact of federal research funding? [Learn how much NIH funding](#) went to your state and district with the FASEB fact sheets!
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The American Society of Human Genetics  
6120 Executive Boulevard, Suite 500  
Rockville, Maryland 20852

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