A SNAPSHOT OF RESEARCH AT FEDERAL AGENCIES

Multiple research disciplines come into play as public and private sector-funded scientists fight deadly and debilitating illnesses. Here is a break-out of public and private sector funding for health-related research. Following is a brief look at key federal agencies contributing to medical and public health progress:

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH (NIH)

utilizes a rigorous peer review process to fund and conduct noncommercial basic research, as well as noncommercial clinical and translational research. NIH also partners with the private sector to explore new paths to progress such as repurposing treatments and fighting major societal threats like COVID-19. NIH funds nearly 50,000 competitive grants that are awarded to researchers at over 500 universities, academic health centers, and independent research institutes in every state. NIH plays an integral role in educating and training America’s future scientists and medical innovators by sponsoring fellowships and training grants. See how much funding NIH grants every year by disease area.

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION (CDC)

funds and conducts research and empowers other public health efforts at the national and local levels that are critical to improving population health, bolstering our defense against bioterrorism, tracking the prevalence of diseases, and developing novel diagnostics and life-saving vaccines. CDC works around the world to track disease outbreaks, like Ebola and COVID-19, respond to emergencies of all kinds, and use what they learn to develop public health policies that strengthen America's health. See CDC’s diverse resources, extensive guidance, and latest data around COVID-19 here.
AGENCY FOR HEALTHCARE RESEARCH AND QUALITY (AHRQ)

is our nation’s leader in health services research, making healthcare safer, more accessible, and less costly. AHRQ collects and disseminates the evidence needed to ensure every patient is receiving the right treatment, in the right way, at the right time. AHRQ-funded research has significantly reduced deadly and costly healthcare associated infections and errors, and is pivotal to ensuring medical progress translates into timely, safe, and effective healthcare. Read more about AHRQ’s role in the research needed to assure effective application of telehealth.

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION (NSF)

is the only federal agency with the primary goal of supporting research across the full spectrum of science, technology, mathematics and engineering – including chemistry, computer science, geoscience, astronomy, economics, and many other fields. The fundamental research supported by NSF leads to major discoveries and also serves as the building blocks for applied medical innovations. Check out NSF’s Research Experiences for Undergraduates Program here, which fosters student involvement in scientific research.

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION (FDA)

plays a critical role in public health by evaluating drugs, devices, and therapies for safety and effectiveness; regulating tobacco products; and, in partnership with the Department of Agriculture, safeguarding the nation’s food supply. Overall, the agency oversees a quarter of the products consumers purchase each year. Learn more about how drugs are approved by FDA and FDA’s actions to address COVID-19.

SOURCES
NIH: https://www.nih.gov/
CDC: https://www.cdc.gov/
AHRQ: https://www.ahrq.gov/
NSF: https://www.nsf.gov/
FDA: https://www.fda.gov/