

Invest in Parkinson's and Atypical Parkinsonism Research and Care



Parkinson's disease is the fastest-growing neurological disease in the world, affecting more than 1 million Americans, with over 90,000 newly diagnosed each year. Atypical parkinsonisms — which are rarer but often more complex and aggressive — share symptoms with Parkinson's such as movement and cognitive challenges. Together, these conditions impose a growing toll on individuals, families, health care systems and federal resources.

Federal investment is far below what's needed for better treatments, diagnosis and ultimately cures. With an aging population and no way to stop disease progression, the only path to mitigation is clear: **Fund scientific breakthroughs.**

Why It Matters:

- + **Public health impact is growing:** More than 1 million Americans live with Parkinson's, and that number is expected to double by 2040.
- + **Economic burden is significant:** Adjusted for inflation, Parkinson's costs the U.S. over \$60 billion each year, a staggering burden that far exceeds the amount the federal government invests to cure it.
- + **Transformational research is possible:** We call on Congress to lay the foundation for **transformational growth** at NIH, aiming for an overall investment in Parkinson's research of at least **\$600M annually by 2028**. This scaled investment more accurately reflects the urgency and burden of this disease.

Support Robust Funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH)

NIH is the backbone of scientific discovery, especially for diseases with no cures like Parkinson's. A robustly funded, collaborative NIH must remain a cornerstone of the nation's budget — not only for Parkinson's patients, but for every American impacted by chronic and degenerative disease.

We urge Congress to support at least \$48.7B for NIH in FY26, aligning with the Senate Labor, Health and Human Services Appropriations bill to accelerate discovery and delivery of treatments for patients and families.

We call on Congress to lay the foundation for **transformational growth** at NIH, aiming for an overall investment in Parkinson's research of at least **\$600M annually by 2028**.

To accelerate progress toward better treatments and a cure, and to improve care for people living with these conditions today, we urge Congress to support the following appropriations requests for Fiscal Year 2026:

FY23 Enacted: \$10.3 million
FY24 Enacted: \$14.5 million
FY25 Enacted: \$14.5 million
FY26 Request: \$16 million

Expand Care for Veterans Living with Parkinson's

An estimated more than 110,000 U.S. veterans live with Parkinson's. Research has shown links between military service and Parkinson's including exposure to toxic chemicals and brain injury. The Department of Veterans Affairs Parkinson's Disease Research, Education and Clinical Centers (PADRECCs) provide health care to our nation's veterans living with Parkinson's.



Fund the PADRECCs at \$16 million as part of robust funding for the VA's Neurology Centers of Excellence for FY 2026 to ensure centers can maintain and expand their services.

Fund Department of Defense Parkinson's Research Program (PRP)

As the only government-funded research program dedicated to Parkinson's, the Department of Defense's PRP plays a pivotal role in advancing our understanding of the disease. The PRP investigates links between Parkinson's and military service to better support veterans living with PD today and those who may be affected in the future. Unfortunately, in Fiscal Year 2025, PRP's funding was eliminated, halting its ability to award new grants. The number of veterans living with Parkinson's is growing and mounting evidence shows the link between military-related stressors and Parkinson's. Restoring and increasing investment will fund high quality, impactful research to contribute to better treatments and the search for a cure.

FY23 Enacted: \$16 million
FY24 Enacted: \$16 million
FY25 Enacted: \$0
FY26 Request: \$25 million



Restore and increase the funding for the Department of Defense's Parkinson's Research Program as part of the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs at \$25 million.

FY23 Enacted: \$5 million
FY24 Enacted: \$5 million
FY25 Enacted: \$5 million
FY26 Request: \$5 million

Understand Parkinson's through the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention's Data System

Through integrated data and analytics, the CDC's National Neurological Conditions Surveillance System (NNCSS) helps the field better understand and identify patterns related to Parkinson's disease, multiple sclerosis and other neurological conditions.



Ensure the CDC's NNCSS — established as part of the 21st Century Cures Act — is reauthorized and remains fully funded with at least \$5 million in FY 2026.

➔ **Please direct any questions or inquiries to Sallie Weart, Federal Government Relations Appropriations Lead.**
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