



Women First Research Coalition

WFRC Fourth Quarter 2024 Activities Update

Legislative Activities

Update on Fiscal Year 2025 Appropriations

Due to Republicans winning control of the White House, House, and Senate in the November elections, House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA) chose to advance another continuing resolution instead of completing Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 appropriations during the lame duck session. Congress passed a continuing resolution through March 14 that keeps current funding levels in place and will have to revisit FY 2025 funding then.

Legislative Outreach to Prepare for the 119th Congress

WFRC staff met with several of our women's health champions on December 5 to discuss priorities for women's health research in the 119th Congress and with the new administration. We met with the staff for the incoming chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee Senator Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV), the incoming ranking member of the Senate Appropriations Committee Senator Patty Murray (D-WA), Senator Tammy Duckworth (D-IL), who has led the WFRC's Dear Colleague letter, and the ranking member of the House Appropriations Committee Ranking Member Rosa DeLauro (D-CT).

Agency Outreach

NICHD Outreach on Reproductive Medicine Network

On October 17, the WFRC met with NICHD staff regarding next steps for the Reproductive Medicine Network since the linked R01s have expired. While the NICHD staff could not share many details, they expressed their support for reproductive medicine research and will continue to engage with us as the next iteration of the networks is formulated.

CDMRP Meeting on Women's Health Research Investments

WFRC met on October 8 with the Congressional Directed Medical Research Programs at the Department of Defense to discuss the agency's \$500 million investment in women's health research and how the WFRC can support this work. As a result of the meeting, the WFRC collected potential reviewers for the CDMRP program that we submitted to the agency. The WFRC will continue to engage with CDMRP moving forward.

Agency Activities

NASEM Report on NIH Research on Women's Health

On December 5, the National Academies released their report entitled [A New Vision for Women's Health Research](#). This report was a result of the WFRC's advocacy to secure appropriations report language directing NASEM to launch an assessment of the state of women's health research at the NIH. The report found that only 8.8 percent of the NIH budget was spent on women's health research, and recommended elevating the ORWH into an institute or center. It included recommendations to strengthen the women's health research workforce, to improve the NIH review process, and to establish a new fund to support interdisciplinary research on women's health and sex differences.

White House Initiative Holds Showcase of NIH Research on Women's Health

On October 29, the White House hosted an event with the NIH that highlighted women's health research projects at the I/Cs. Each I/C had an opportunity to present on an existing research project, as well as an area of potential research promise in women's health research. This event was part of the White House Initiative on Women's Health Research.

Comments on NICHD Strategic Plan RFI

SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS

AMERICAN COLLEGE OF OBSTETRICIANS & GYNECOLOGISTS • AMERICAN GYNECOLOGICAL & OBSTETRICAL SOCIETY • AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR REPRODUCTIVE MEDICINE • AMERICAN UROGYNECOLOGIC SOCIETY • COUNCIL OF UNIVERSITY CHAIRS IN OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY • INFECTIOUS DISEASE SOCIETY FOR OBSTETRICS & GYNECOLOGY • NORTH AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR PEDIATRIC AND ADOLESCENT GYNECOLOGY • SOCIETY FOR ASSISTED REPRODUCTIVE TECHNOLOGY • SOCIETY FOR ACADEMIC SPECIALISTS IN GENERAL OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY • SOCIETY OF FAMILY PLANNING • SOCIETY OF GYNECOLOGIC ONCOLOGY • SOCIETY FOR MATERNAL-FETAL MEDICINE • SOCIETY FOR REPRODUCTIVE ENDOCRINOLOGY AND INFERTILITY • SOCIETY FOR REPRODUCTIVE INVESTIGATION • SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S HEALTH RESEARCH

The WFRC submitted comments on the NICHD's RFI for the 2025-2029 Strategic Plan. Our comments focused on two of the proposed research goals, *Promoting Gynecologic, Andrologic and Reproductive Health* and *Setting the Foundation for Healthy Pregnancies and Lifelong Wellness*, as well as on research training within the *Cross-Cutting Topics* section. We will continue to engage with NICHD as they finalize and implement their strategic plan.

Comments on NIH Postdoc Workforce RFI

The WFRC submitted comments on the NIH RFI on the Postdoc Workforce. In our comments, we urged the NIH to increase or supplement postdoctoral salaries while maintaining the overall grant funding necessary to perform critical research. Additionally, we recommended expanding and creating additional paths and awards to fund early career investigators, including K and R awards, and that the NIH should consider how to increase postdoctoral opportunities for MDs to pursue that allow for greater flexibility, such as research-based careers. Our comments highlighted that NIH should promote mentorship in its existing grants and programming, including creating more dedicated time and resources to both mentors and mentees.

Upcoming Meetings

NIH's ORWH is hosting several upcoming webinars that may be of interest to WFRC members:

- Health Influences of Gender as a Social and Structural Variable [Webinar](#) on January 14 at 11am ET.
- *Diverse Voices: Intersectionality and the Health of Women* session entitled "Reaching Rural Women: Implications for Research on Pregnancy" on January 30 at 3pm ET.

Funding Opportunities from NIH I/Cs

Building Interdisciplinary Research Careers in Women's Health (BIRCWH) (K12 Clinical Trial Optional) ([RFA-OD-21-006](#))

Expiration date: May 29, 2026

NOSI: Health Influences of Gender as a Social and Structural Variable ([NOT-OD-24-038](#))

Expiration date: October 1, 2025

NOSI: R13 Support for Conferences and Scientific Meetings to Support Consensus Building for Autoimmune Disease Research Related Common Data Elements ([NOT-OD-24-145](#))

Expiration date: December 14, 2026

NOSI: Women's Health Research ([NOT-OD-24-079](#))

Expiration date: November 5, 2027

NOSI: Research Supplements to Promote Re-Entry, Re-integration into, and Re-training in Health-Related Research Careers (Admin Supp - Clinical Trial Not Allowed) ([NOT-OD-23-170](#))

Expiration date: October 9, 2026