



FOVA Recommendations for FY 2023, Department of Veterans Affairs

MEDICAL AND PROSTHETIC RESEARCH PROGRAM

<u>FY 2022 Enacted (P.L. 117-103)</u>	<u>FY 2023 President’s Budget Request</u>	<u>FOVA FY 2023 Recommendation</u>
\$882 million	\$946 million*	\$980 million
+\$67 million (8.2%) above FY 2021 program level	+\$64 million (7.3%) above FY 2022 program level	+\$98 million (11.1%) above FY 2022 program level

*Including \$30 million in mandatory from the American Rescue Plan

FOVA recognizes the demands of many important programs for America’s veterans in the Military Construction, VA, and Related Agencies spending bill, and urges Congress to continue its reliable and robust growth in the VA research program without recissions. FOVA’s FY 2023 recommendation of \$980 million for VA research would enhance the investment in veteran-centric research on a trajectory of meaningful growth above inflation, allowing for sustained support for efforts to address long-term health impacts of COVID-19, health disparities, and increase clinical trials access, while renewing support for groundbreaking programs like the Million Veteran Program (MVP), VA’s participation in the Cancer Moonshot Initiative, and research on chronic and emerging needs of our nation’s veterans. Increased funding for the VA research program will also support researchers as they recover from slowed research progress during the pandemic and allow for additional investments to support the strained IT capacity through computational science purchases to enhance the collection and use of big data. Sustained and predictable funding growth for VA research is imperative to help ensure the best return on investment in improving the health of veterans and all Americans.

PHYSICAL AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT) INFRASTRUCTURE

State-of-the-art research requires an investment in state-of-the-art facilities, technology, and equipment. For decades, appropriations for construction, maintenance, and IT have not provided the resources VA needs to replace, maintain, or upgrade its aging research and IT infrastructure to support the research program. For FY 2023, FOVA recommends the following funding to support physical and IT research infrastructure:

MAJOR AND MINOR CONSTRUCTION - at least \$100 million

A 2012 congressionally mandated report found a clear need for systematic infrastructure improvements for VA research laboratories. VA completed a Phase II assessment in 2020 of fewer than one-third of sites inspected in Phase I. Phase II findings show that while certain projects have received funding, significant deficiencies remain. Over \$200 million was estimated to correct all deficiencies identified in the Phase II report, including \$99.5 million in Priority 1 deficiencies, representing immediate needs such as life safety hazard corrections. FOVA believes designating funds specifically for research facilities is the only way to make significant improvements. For capital infrastructure, renovations, and maintenance, FOVA recommends at least \$100 million for VA research facilities to address the most pressing repairs.

OFFICE OF INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY – at least \$22 million

VA’s Office of Information and Technology (OIT) is responsible for IT development and maintenance for programs including clinical, health management, benefits, security, and research. To advance and modernize the VA research program, OIT funding must be designated specifically for research use on a yearly basis. For FY 2023, FOVA recommends at least \$22 million of the OIT budget to be assigned for VA research to support the purchase and maintenance of IT infrastructure, increase data storage and access capabilities, increase data security, increase interoperability with affiliated partners, and transition to more robust and functional cloud computing platforms.

Organizations Endorsing the FOVA FY 2023 Recommendation (75 as of 4/29/22)

AcademyHealth
Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine (AAIM)
American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology
American Academy of Neurology
American Academy of Ophthalmology
American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases
American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy
American Association of Directors of Psychiatric Residency Training
American Association of the Colleges of Nursing
American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges
American Brain Coalition
American College of Physicians
American College of Radiology
American Dental Education Association
American Gastroenterological Association
American Geriatrics Society
American Heart Association (AHA)
American Liver Foundation
American Massage Therapy Association
American Occupational Therapy Association
American Orthotic and Prosthetic Association (AOPA)
American Physical Therapy Association
American Physiological Society
American Psychiatric Association
American Psychological Association
American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics
American Society of Nephrology
American Spinal Injury Association
American Surgical Association
American Thoracic Society
American Tinnitus Association
American Urological Association
Arthritis Foundation
Associated Medical Schools of New York
Association for Clinical and Translational Science
Association of Academic Psychiatrists
Association of American Medical Colleges
Association of Chairs of Departments of Physiology
Association of Psychologists in Academic Health Centers
Association of University Anesthesiologists
Association of University Professors of Neurology

Organizations Endorsing the FOVA FY 2023 Recommendation, continued

Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology (AUPO)
Association of University Radiologists
Blinded Veterans Association
Catholic War Veterans and Auxiliary of the USA Inc.
Clinical Research Forum
Coalition for Clinical and Translational Science
Cohen Veterans Bioscience
DAV (Disabled American Veterans)
Digestive Disease National Coalition
Dystonia Medical Research Foundation
Endocrine Society
Epilepsy Foundation
Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology
GBS|CIDP Foundation International
Interstitial Cystitis Association
LUNGeivity Foundation
Lymphatic Education & Research Network
National Alliance for Eye and Vision Research
National Alliance on Mental Illness
National Association for Biomedical Research
National Association of Veterans' Research & Education Foundations (NAVREF)
National Scleroderma Foundation
NephCure Kidney International
Paralyzed Veterans of America
Project Sleep
Prostate Cancer Foundation
Pulmonary Hypertension Association
Restless Legs Syndrome Foundation
Sleep Research Society
Society for Neuroscience
Society of Academic Associations of Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine (SAAAPM)
Society of General Internal Medicine
Vietnam Veterans of America