



Research Facts

2023-24



Funding research is a cornerstone of the American Heart Association's (AHA) lifesaving mission – it is a pillar upon which the organization was founded and a key to our future. The AHA is the largest nonprofit, non-governmental funding source for cardiovascular and cerebrovascular disease research. The AHA funds many types of research, from basic science to emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence and machine learning.

- The AHA has invested over **\$5.9 billion** in research since 1949.
- The AHA currently supports about **1,800 active research awards that total nearly \$500 million**.
- In 2023-24, the AHA funded over **1,100 new projects, totaling \$219 million**. Our centennial anniversary allowed us to reach an all-time high in annual research funding.
- Last year 2,458 dedicated peer review volunteers evaluated **4,944 proposals** for funding!
- AHA funding to investigators from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups in science has more than doubled over the past five years.
- The AHA consistently works to support investigators who are female and who are from underrepresented groups. Over the past three years (FY 2022-2024):
 - Female researchers submitted 45.8% of proposals and received 46.4% of the awards.
 - Investigators from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups in science submitted 15.2% of proposals and received 18.9% of the awards.
- AHA funding helped launch the careers of many of this country's most prominent cardiovascular and brain scientists, including **15 Nobel prize winners**.
- The AHA board of directors infused \$15 million in special award funds to celebrate the AHA's Second Century of funding. The awards are supporting trainees and investigators who are early in their careers.

The Need for More Funding is Evident

Each year, investigators from a wide array of disciplines look to the AHA to fund their ideas, but the available dollars simply are not enough to support them all. This means scientific projects were shelved, limiting the next generation of investigators and deferring the knowledge that would have resulted from these studies.

In FY 2023-24, the AHA received 2,500 applications requesting \$730 million that we could not fund.

More AHA research award information:
[AHA Interactive Research Information Tool](#)

General research information:
<https://professional.heart.org/research>

Contact: promo@heart.org