



FY12 Funding Recommendations

Heart disease is America's number one killer and a major cause of permanent disability. Nearly 1 in 3 adults in the United States (US) suffers from heart disease. Heart disease and stroke will cost the US an estimated \$503.2 billion in 2010 including health care costs and lost productivity.

The death rates attributable to heart disease have declined due to advances in science through diagnostic tests, drug and device therapies, surgical innovations, enhanced emphasis on prevention, and innovative public education programs. Federal funding provided for many of these advances. The American College of Cardiology (ACC), therefore, urges Congress to provide a strong Fiscal Year 2012 investment in federal programs that do cardiovascular research and prevention and provides funding recommendations for key programs below.

National Institutes of Health (NIH): \$35 billion

The NIH currently invests only four percent of its budget on heart research; the ACC urges NIH to invest a higher percentage of its budget to heart research.

National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI): \$3.514 billion

The NHLBI does critical research into the causes, diagnosis, and treatment of heart disease.

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ): \$405 million

The ACC believes AHRQ's health services research related to health care costs, quality, and access are critically important.

CDC Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention: \$76.221 million

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Division for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention is helping to reduce blood pressure and cholesterol, educate about heart disease and stroke signs and symptoms, enhance emergency response and quality care, and end treatment disparities.

HRSA Rural and Community AED Program: \$8.927 million

This program provides competitively awarded grants to states to purchase automated external defibrillators (AEDs), train lay rescuers and first responders in their use, and place them in public areas where sudden cardiac arrests are likely to occur.

NHLBI and CDC: Congenital Heart Disease Research and Surveillance

Congenital heart defects are the most common birth defect in the US and those who receive successful intervention will need life-long special cardiac care and face high rates of heart failure, rhythm disorders, stroke and sudden cardiac death. There are about 800,000 children and 1 million adults in the US now living with congenital heart disease (CHD) and that rate is rising by five percent a year.

This rapidly growing and underserved population is in need of CHD surveillance through CDC and research through NHLBI. The National Congenital Heart Disease Surveillance System will collect and analyze nationally-representative, population-based epidemiological and longitudinal data to improve understanding of CHD incidence, prevalence, and disease burden, as well as assess the public health impact of CHD. The NHLBI will support research on CHD diagnosis, treatment, prevention and long-term outcomes to address the needs of affected infants, children, teens, adults, and elderly individuals.

The ACC is a 39,000 member, non-profit professional medical society and teaching institution whose mission is to advocate for quality cardiovascular care—through education, research promotion, development and application of standards and guidelines—and to influence health care policy. For more information, contact the ACC at 202-375-6000.