American Heart Association.

Research Facts
2025-26

Funding research is central to the American Heart Association's lifesaving mission. Since its founding, the Association has invested in scientific discovery and remains committed to advancing the next generation of breakthroughs. As the largest nonprofit, non-governmental funder of cardiovascular and cerebrovascular research, the Association supports researchers at all career stages and across a wide range of studies, from basic science to emerging fields such as artificial intelligence and machine learning.

The American Heart Association has invested **$6.3 billion** in research since 1949.

In 2025-26, the Association managed an average of 2,294 active awards totaling $584 million.

In 2025-26, the Heart Association funded **1,261 new projects, totaling $185 million.**

Last year **2,778 dedicated peer review volunteers evaluated 6,191 proposals** for funding! These include pre-proposals that assess an idea's relevance and feasibility before requiring a researcher to submit a time-consuming full proposal.

American Heart Association funding helped launch the careers of many of this country's most prominent cardiovascular and brain scientists, including **15 Nobel prize winners.**

The board of directors infused over $30 million for special awards: Earlier Detection and Delaying Progression of Valvular Heart Disease, a Cardiac Arrest Research Team Network, a Heart Transplant Research Network, and Rapid Impact Awards on Cardiovascular-Kidney-Metabolic (CKM) Syndrome, stroke and/or vascular dementia, and sudden cardiac arrest/ resuscitation science.

The Need for More Funding is Evident

Each year, investigators from a wide array of disciplines look to the Heart Association 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 2025-26, **the American Heart Association evaluated 3,018 full proposals requesting $564 million that we could not fund.**

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