



Association of American Cancer Institutes

Statement: Impact of Government Shutdown on People With Cancer

Decades of pioneering research, largely funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Cancer Institute (NCI), have led to a 34 percent decline in cancer mortality between 1991 and 2022. Major advances in cancer prevention, screening, and treatment have provided hope beyond measure to patients and their families.

Yet as the country enters the second month of a government shutdown—the longest in American history—momentum has slowed to a standstill. The Association of American Cancer Institutes (AACI) is deeply distressed by the effects of the shutdown, proposed funding cuts, and widespread reductions in force, which have frozen our nation’s biomedical research infrastructure and jeopardize the lives of patients with cancer.

The shutdown and other disruptions waste precious time as breakthroughs are delayed indefinitely, and clinical trials are paused or canceled. For patients with cancer, a delay of 37 days and counting—or even just a few days—could mean the difference between life and death.

Life-saving cancer treatments are not bargaining chips – and neither are human lives. It is past time to come to an agreement on the Fiscal Year 2026 federal budget. AACI urges the Trump Administration and members of Congress on both sides of the aisle to end this deadly impasse immediately and restore funding to the NIH and NCI. The lives of countless Americans depend on it.