

Maintain the Current Level of Funding for the New Jersey Commission on Cancer Research at \$4 Million

Since 1983, NJCCR has funded promising cancer research in New Jersey. NJCCR promotes significant and original research in New Jersey into causes, prevention, treatment, and palliation of cancer and serves as a resource to providers and consumers of cancer services. Throughout its 30-year history, the NJCCR has awarded over \$40 million to over eight hundred peer-reviewed cancer research grants and student fellowships. NJCCR is the only statewide institution that provides peer-reviewed scientific cancer research grants to all eligible institutions in New Jersey, and this merit-based system has a strong record of funding the best new scientists who engage in ground-breaking basic research. We applaud the Governor and Legislature for appropriating \$4 million for this program.

In 2020, a staggering 15,5641 lives were claimed by cancer. Notably, certain subpopulations within New Jersey experience cancer as the primary cause of death, particularly individuals aged 45 to 64 and those of Asian racial background. Projections from ACS estimated 56,150 new cases were expected to be diagnosed in 2023. Tragically, it is anticipated that 15,2302 individuals will succumb to this relentless disease. These statistics underscore the pressing need for comprehensive cancer research on prevention, early detection, and treatment to alleviate the profound impact of cancer on the people of New Jersey.

Why we need the Commission on Cancer Research:

- The merits of cancer research are undeniable, and the benefits are vast. An independent study of NJCCR grant recipients shows that these researchers leverage \$10 in federal funding for each \$1 of NJCCR funding.
- All eligible institutions in New Jersey can apply for cancer research funding grants. In the past, grants have been awarded to researchers at Rutgers Cancer Institute of NJ, Rutgers School of Biomedical and Health Sciences, Rutgers School of Dental Medicine, Princeton, Rider, and Rowan Universities.
- New Jersey's cancer research enterprise extends beyond the laboratory and campus. The NJCCR research and funding augments NJ's reputation as the world's medicine chest. The state has one of the highest concentrations of pharmaceutical and biotechnology firms in the nation. The ability of the pharmaceutical industry to tap NJ's cancer research talent and scientific breakthroughs bolsters their strength and in turn the NJ economy.

ACS CAN supports the mission of the New Jersey Commission on Cancer Research to ensure that the citizens of New Jersey receive the fullest benefit of our nation's fight against cancer through the promotion and funding of research into the causes, prevention, survival, and treatment of cancer.

We are hopeful the final FY 2026 budget will maintain that funding at \$4 Million.

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American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network | fightcancer.org