



aims toward “multidirectional and multidisciplinary integration of basic research, patient-oriented research, and population-based research with the long-term aim of improving the health of the public.”

However, without key basic scientific research, [translational research would be impossible](#). The NIH's

This strategic plan should fit into the larger research priorities of all federal research funding agencies to prevent duplicative research efforts. Similar to the [NIH's strategic plan process](#) and [DARPA's process](#) leaders of ARPA-H should request information from stakeholders within the scientific community when creating their strategic plan.

Planning out research priorities will prevent ARPA-H from duplicating other research efforts and a strategic research plan will also illustrate how ARPA-H's research projects will advance other research priorities. Creating a strategic plan in coordination with other federal funding science agencies and with input from the scientific community will also enable ARPA-H to collaboratively communicate with other federal agencies.

ARPA-H's research projects should be narrow in focus, but with the long-term goal of impacting the larger innovative pipeline. [As other experts have recommended](#), we urge ARPA-H to start funding a select few research projects.

Funding ARPA-H

As mentioned above, it is very important that ARPA-H and NIH remain separate in terms of funding and maintain distinct research priorities. Proposed legislation allocates a set amount of money ARPA-H for the next three years. We urge policymakers to mandate that ARPA-H funding remains separate from NIH. This will ensure the agency's autonomy and ensure that the NIH maintains adequate funding for the core scientific research supported by the NIH historically.

It is imperative that ARPA-H's budget remain lean and nimble, similar to DARPA, whose funding in [FY2020 is \\$3.39 billion](#). [The National Academy of Sciences](#) recommends that federal research agencies allocate a minimum 8% of their budget to high-risk, high-reward research. In FY2020, the [NIH's budget was \\$41.7 billion](#); an 8% share of that budget is \$3.34 billion. This is a good start for ARPA-H and the budget can be changed accordingly in the future.

We strongly urge Congressional members to follow this evidence-based recommendation on how much funding ARPA-H should get and fund high-risk, high-reward research projects. Keeping the funding separated or earmarking this amount in the appropriations process within the NIH budget will ensure strategic selection of projects and management of risk.

Ensuring a diverse and inclusive environment at ARPA-H

As other federal science agencies have a responsibility to ensure an inclusive, equitable environment, ARPA-H should strive to do the same. Considering that both [women and minorities are still underrepresented](#) in STEM despite numerous efforts to address this imbalance, ARPA-H must establish itself as a diverse and inclusive environment at the outset. We recommend three action items that will make a significant difference in ensuring that women and minorities are adequately represented, funded and supported by ARPA-H.

First, ARPA-H must have a robust anti-harassment policy, complaint procedures and appropriate repercussions for perpetrators of gender and sexual harassment. Second, ARPA-H must ensure that women and men and minorities are paid equally for equivalent work. And third, ARPA-H must fund researchers equally across gender and race. ARPA-H will thrive under these conditions and make a significant impact on scientific research and the larger innovative pipeline.