



# **B UNPACKING BOSTON'S FY2025 NIH FUNDING**

*City of Boston Planning Department Research Division | March 2026*

This report examines the National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding received by Boston in fiscal year 2025. Boston was awarded \$2.46 billion across 3,983 grants from the NIH, making the city the second-largest recipient of NIH funding in the country. The majority of funding was awarded to the city's top hospitals, including Massachusetts General Hospital, Brigham and Women's Hospital, and Boston Children's Hospital. While research institutes and private biotech firms also received support, hospital-based research accounted for the vast majority of total funding.

Boston's research community faced significant uncertainty throughout FY2025 as the Trump administration proposed cutting the NIH budget by more than 40% and moved to terminate grants tied to research areas deemed misaligned with its priorities. It also proposed capping indirect cost rates at 15%, well below Boston's FY2025 average of 40%. Congress pushed back, passing legislation that fully funded the NIH with a \$415 million increase over FY2025 levels and explicitly blocked any policy that would alter how negotiated indirect cost rates are currently applied, though the long-term impact on Boston's research pipeline remains uncertain.

Despite the uncertainty, Boston's NIH funding saw modest growth from FY2024, increasing 0.24% and remaining historically high, though the total number of awards fell by 5.1%. This decline can be attributed to the administration's shift toward awarding multi-year grants as upfront lump sum payments, reducing the pool of funding available for new awards each year. Within this national landscape, Boston continued to account for 6.7% of all U.S. NIH funding and 72% of Massachusetts' total funding.



## ABOUT NIH

The National Institutes of Health (NIH), part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, is the largest source of funding for medical research in the world. Its [mission](#) is “to seek fundamental knowledge about the nature and behavior of living systems and the application of that knowledge to enhance health, lengthen life, and reduce illness and disability.” [NIH is made up](#) of 27 Institutes and Centers, each with a specific research agenda. [More than 80%](#) of the \$48 billion NIH budget goes to funding researchers outside the NIH – at more than 2,500 universities and research organizations.

NIH provides funding for both direct and indirect research costs. Direct costs pay for project-specific equipment and inputs, including labor. [Indirect costs](#) for “facilities” and “administration” include maintenance of equipment, facility upgrades, operation of labs, depreciation, employment of support staff, accounting, research compliance, legal expenses, and research administrator salaries. Each institution negotiates its own overhead rate for facilities and administration with the government every few years. Rates vary widely based on geography (higher in urban areas) and field of research (for example, biomedical science may require expensive equipment or animal facilities) and [may still not cover all research costs](#).

Historically, NIH indirect cost reimbursements averaged [27-28%](#) of direct costs nationwide, though rates have increased in recent years. In FY2025, the national average reached 37% of direct costs, while Boston institutions had higher rates, averaging 40%. Several charts in this report illustrate the breakdown of direct and indirect funding received by various organizations.

## NIH POLICY CHANGES SINCE JANUARY 2025

Since President Trump took office in January 2025, NIH funding has been subject to significant disruption and policy change. The administration moved quickly to terminate grants tied to research areas it deemed misaligned with its priorities, including DEI, LGBTQ+ health, and vaccine hesitancy, and paused grant proposal reviews across multiple institutes. By mid-2025, roughly 2,100 grants worth an estimated \$9.5 billion [had been cut or frozen](#), though many were subsequently restored following legal challenges.

The administration also introduced two major structural changes to how NIH distributes funding. First, it proposed capping indirect cost reimbursement rates at 15%, well below the national average and far below Boston institutions' average. This policy would have significantly reduced the effective value of grants for research-intensive universities and hospitals, which have higher indirect cost rates than for-profit companies. A federal court in Massachusetts



permanently blocked the policy in April 2025, and Congress reinforced this outcome in the FY2026 spending bill by [explicitly prohibiting](#) any agency from altering negotiated indirect cost rates. Second, the administration shifted toward "forward funding," requiring NIH to disburse the full amount of multi-year grants upfront in a single lump sum rather than on an annual basis. While total NIH spending remained roughly stable, this approach concentrated funding into fewer, larger disbursements, resulting in at least [2,000 fewer grant awards nationwide](#) in FY2025 and a drop in the overall success rate for grant applicants from 27% to approximately 20%.

In its FY2026 budget, the administration proposed cutting NIH funding by more than 40%, a reduction that would have brought the agency to its lowest inflation-adjusted level in over 25 years. [Congress rejected the cuts](#) and passed a bipartisan spending bill in February 2026 that increased NIH's budget by \$415 million over FY2025 levels to \$48.7 billion. The legislation also capped forward funding at FY2025 levels and required NIH to maximize the number of new awards, providing some protection against further reductions in grant volume. Despite Congressional pushback, uncertainty remains in the federal research funding landscape. The administration has at times acted in defiance of court orders and Congressional directives, and the long-term trajectory of federal science funding policy remains unclear.

## **BOSTON'S FY2025 NIH FUNDING**

Boston's status as a global leader in life sciences is closely tied to the significant support it receives from the NIH. In FY2025, running from October 1, 2024, to September 30, 2025, Boston received the second-highest amount of NIH funding of any U.S. city at \$2.46 billion across 3,983 total grants to 46 organizations. Boston accounted for 6.7% of all NIH funding sent to U.S. organizations last fiscal year, and 72% of funding sent to Massachusetts organizations. Of Boston's NIH funding in FY2025, approximately \$1.8 billion was for direct research costs and almost \$700 million was for indirect research costs. Boston's average indirect cost rate was 40% of direct costs, and indirect costs made up 28% of total NIH funding to Boston.

Most NIH funding to Boston institutions was awarded to the city's leading hospitals and medical schools. Massachusetts General Hospital received the most funding across 1,031 awards during FY2025. Brigham and Women's Hospital and Boston Children's Hospital took the second and third spots, respectively. Massachusetts General and Brigham and Women's hospitals are in the process of merging their academic medical centers under the name Mass General Brigham, making the combined organization the largest recipient of NIH funding in the country. Several private companies also received funding, however the majority received only one award each, typically totaling around \$1 million. Most of Boston's funding went to healthcare institutions.



## TOP 10 NIH-FUNDED ORGANIZATIONS IN BOSTON

FY2025

RANK	ORGANIZATION NAME	AWARDS	DIRECT FUNDING (MILLIONS)	INDIRECT FUNDING (MILLIONS)	TOTAL FUNDING (MILLIONS)
1	Massachusetts General Hospital	1,031	\$470	\$173	\$643
2	Brigham and Women's Hospital	626	\$291	\$123	\$414
3	Boston Children's Hospital	410	\$164	\$81	\$245
4	Boston University Medical Campus	280	\$134	\$47	\$181
5	Dana-Farber Cancer Institute	234	\$122	\$55	\$177
6	Harvard Medical School	321	\$104	\$44	\$148
7	Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center	217	\$101	\$42	\$142
8	Harvard School of Public Health	148	\$89	\$21	\$110
9	Tufts University, Boston Campus	121	\$62	\$21	\$83
10	Boston University, Charles River Campus	159	\$60	\$20	\$80
<b>TOTAL CITYWIDE</b>		<b>3,983</b>	<b>\$1,774</b>	<b>\$688</b>	<b>\$2,462</b>

Source: National Institutes of Health, "NIH Awards by Location and Organization," FY2025, City of Boston Planning Department Research Division Analysis.

## BOSTON'S RESCINDED AND TERMINATED NIH GRANTS

In 2025, NIH began terminating existing research grants nationally, targeting grants tied to research areas it deemed misaligned with Trump administration priorities, including DEI, LGBTQ+ health, and vaccine hesitancy. Separately, the Trump administration [froze over \\$2.2 billion](#) in new and existing federal grants – spanning NIH and other agencies – to Harvard after the university refused to comply with White House demands related to campus antisemitism policies. According to [Grant Witness](#) NIH data, since January 2025, a total of 599 NIH research grants in Boston were ultimately affected, amounting to approximately \$1.1 billion. Harvard-affiliated institutions located in Boston (Harvard Medical School and the Harvard School of Public Health) were particularly impacted, with 514 of the 596 grants affected. By comparison, 1,181 research grants in New York City were impacted, totaling about \$2 billion.

These terminations faced significant legal challenges. A federal judge's ruling in favor of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) in [AAUP-Harvard Faculty Chapter v. Department of Justice](#) possibly reinstated<sup>1</sup> around 82% of federal funding grants to Harvard-affiliated institutions in Boston, representing roughly 70.1% of all canceled federal funds in the City. Following the ruling in September 2025, Harvard [began receiving](#) restored NIH payments both within and beyond Boston, with an initial \$46 million disbursed through roughly 200 grants across its institutions. Separate court rulings, including [APHA v. NIH](#) brought by the

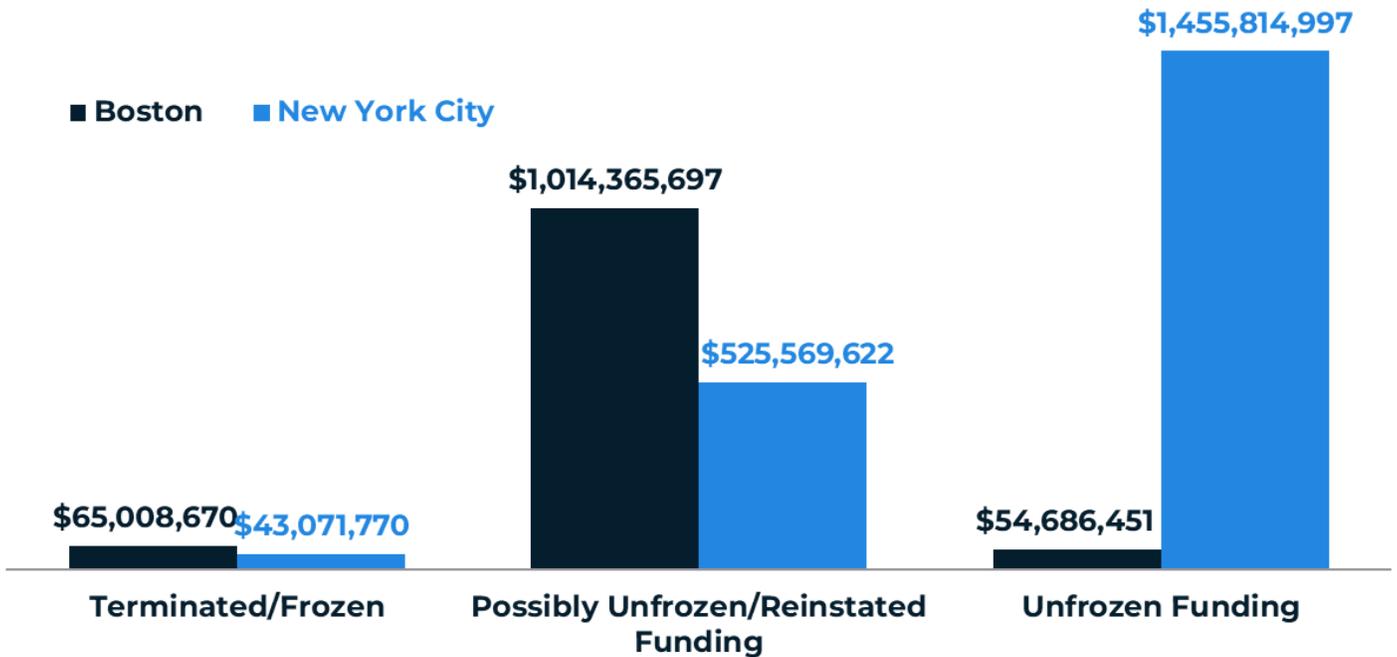
<sup>1</sup> The term "possibly reinstated" follows language used by Grant Witness to describe grants that may be reactivated following court rulings, though the timeline and process for fully reactivating each grant remain uncertain.



American Public Health Association and [MA v. Kennedy, Jr.](#) filed by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, restored an additional 3% of the funding that had been rescinded in Boston.

## FUNDING CHANGES TO EXISTING GRANTS

Distribution of Rescinded NIH Funding in Boston and New York City Since Jan 2025



Source: Grant Witness, Data Accessed 3/10/2026, <https://grant-witness.us/nih-data.html>, City of Boston Planning Department Research Division Analysis.

Note: Data is collected from court filings, HHS reports, USAspending payment data, and self reports

Of the terminated Boston grants, 231 (38.6%) were research and development grants supporting independent research projects, accounting for \$373 million in canceled funding. Another 66 (11%) were research training and career development grants, which provided supervised training for predoctoral individuals, resulting in an additional \$4 million in lost funding. Additionally, five large-scale program grants supporting complex research activities were also rescinded, representing \$151 million in canceled funding.

[A Boston Globe survey](#) of 4,000 scientists in Massachusetts receiving NIH grants highlighted broader impacts funding challenges on hiring, training, and the future of the scientific workforce. 26% of survey respondents reported that colleagues or research staff had left the U.S., and 19% reported departures from Massachusetts. A majority of respondents' institutions delayed hiring in their laboratories, and many laid off or reduced staff. Institutions also rescinded offers to students and postdoctoral researchers, with some researchers leaving for positions abroad or seeking employment outside the state.

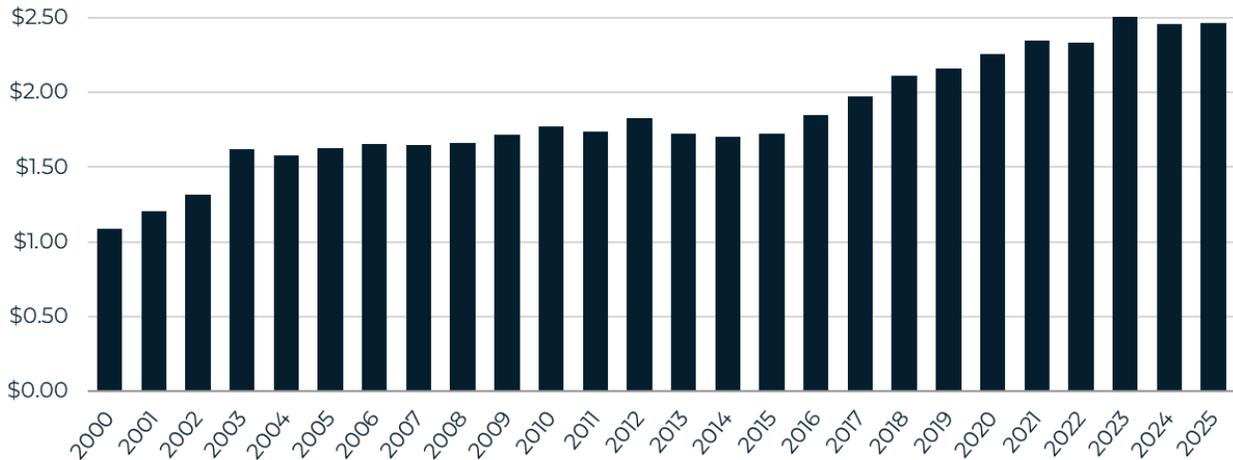


# BOSTON'S NIH FUNDING OVER TIME

Boston has a well-established history of NIH funding, having received over \$48 billion from the NIH since FY2000. In FY2025, Boston saw a modest 0.24% increase in NIH funding over FY2024, though the total remains 1.7% below FY2023 when Boston received \$2.51 billion, which represents the highest single-year NIH funding total the city has ever received.

## ANNUAL NIH FUNDING AWARDED TO BOSTON ORGANIZATIONS

In billions of nominal dollars, FY2000 - FY2025

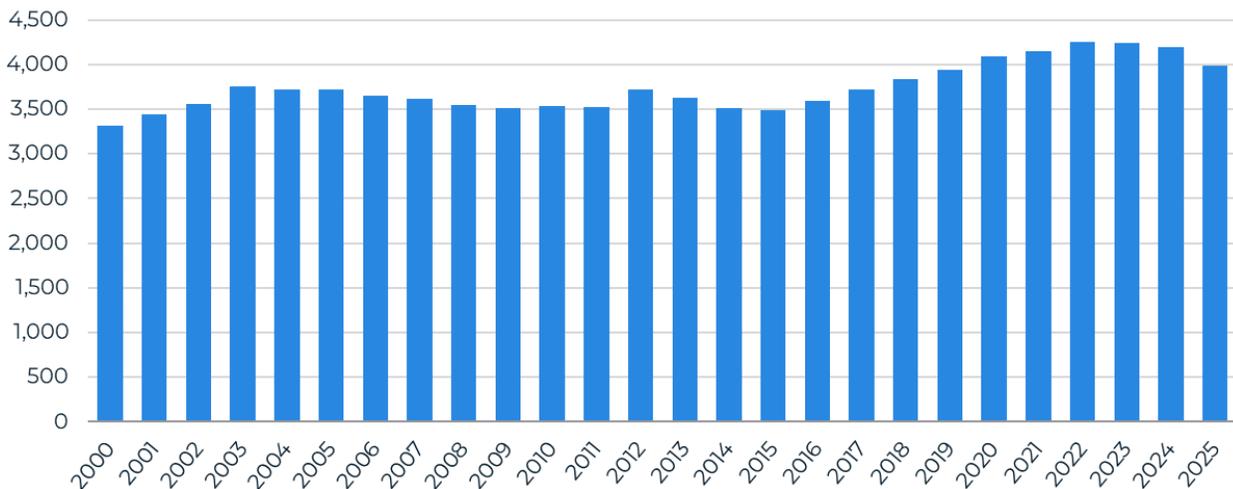


Source: National Institutes of Health, "NIH Awards by Location and Organization," FY2000-FY2025, City of Boston Planning Department Research Division Analysis.

Boston researchers received 3,983 awards in FY2025, down 5.1% from 4,199 in FY2024, and Boston's lowest total number of awards since FY2019. This decline is due in part to a nationwide reduction in grant volume driven by the Trump administration's shift to forward funding.

## ANNUAL NIH AWARDS RECEIVED BY BOSTON ORGANIZATIONS

FY2000 - FY2025



Source: National Institutes of Health, "NIH Awards by Location and Organization," FY2000-FY2025, City of Boston Planning Department Research Division Analysis.



Most of Boston's top NIH recipients posted gains relative to their FY2020-2024 averages, with Tufts University's Boston campus (+15%) and Boston University's Charles River campus (+21.1%) seeing the largest increases. The most striking declines were at Harvard-affiliated institutions – Harvard School of Public Health funding declined by 26.2% and Harvard Medical School by 15.7%. These drops coincide with the Trump administration's decision to freeze new and existing federal grants to Harvard in April 2025. Although courts subsequently ordered grants reinstated, the pause in new award activity had already reduced FY2025 funding totals.

## TOP 10 NIH-FUNDED ORGANIZATIONS IN BOSTON OVER TIME

Annual funding over time, FY2020-FY2025

RANK	ORGANIZATION NAME	FY2020	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025	% Change: FY2020-2024 Avg. to FY2025
1	Massachusetts General Hospital	\$551	\$601	\$560	\$675	\$655	\$643	+5.7%
2	Brigham And Women's Hospital	\$328	\$357	\$382	\$403	\$388	\$414	+11.4%
3	Boston Children's Hospital	\$209	\$219	\$216	\$239	\$230	\$245	+10.3%
4	Boston University Medical Campus	\$165	\$173	\$179	\$197	\$191	\$181	-0.1%
5	Dana-Farber Cancer Institute	\$174	\$160	\$158	\$163	\$164	\$177	+8.3%
6	Harvard Medical School	\$179	\$176	\$175	\$175	\$172	\$148	-15.7%
7	Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center	\$136	\$128	\$127	\$126	\$120	\$142	+11.9%
8	Harvard School of Public Health	\$147	\$152	\$139	\$150	\$156	\$110	-26.2%
9	Tufts University, Boston Campus	\$65	\$69	\$77	\$77	\$73	\$83	+15.0%
10	Boston University, Charles River Campus	\$61	\$58	\$77	\$66	\$67	\$80	+21.1%

Source: National Institutes of Health, "NIH Awards by Location and Organization," FY2020-2025, City of Boston Planning Department Research Division Analysis.

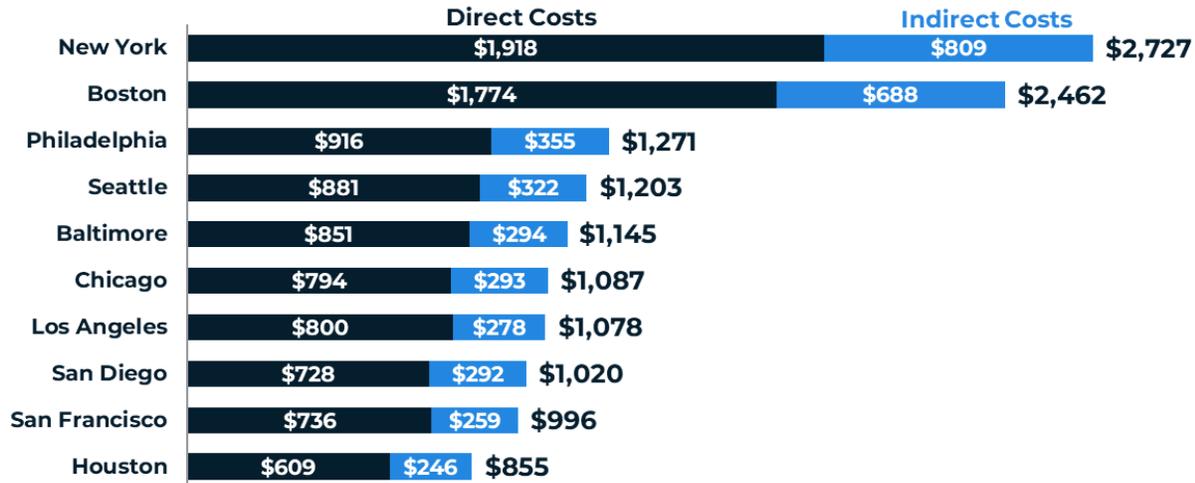
## TOP FUNDED U.S. CITIES

Boston ranked second among U.S. cities in total NIH funding in FY2025, receiving \$265 million less than New York City. Boston received \$3,438 in NIH funding per capita in FY2025, which is the highest per capita funding among the top ten funded cities. Following Boston are Philadelphia, Seattle, and Baltimore, each receiving between \$1.1 and \$1.3 billion in funding.



## TOP 10 NIH-FUNDED U.S. CITIES

In millions of dollars, FY2025

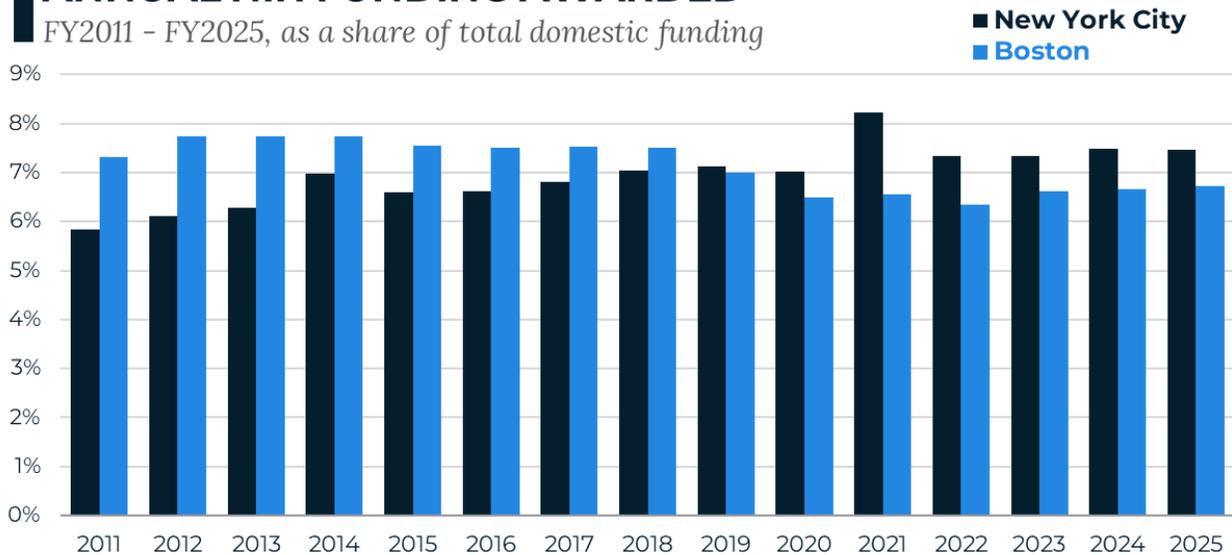


Source: National Institutes of Health, "NIH Awards by Location and Organization," FY2025, City of Boston Planning Department Research Division Analysis.

The top 10 cities received 37.8% of total domestic funding, and the top five made up 24%. Boston received about 6.73%, increasing slightly from 6.65% in FY2024. Boston was the leading U.S. city in annual NIH funding prior to FY2019, but has since been surpassed by New York City, which received 7.5% of total domestic funding in FY2024 and FY2025.

## ANNUAL NIH FUNDING AWARDED

FY2011 - FY2025, as a share of total domestic funding

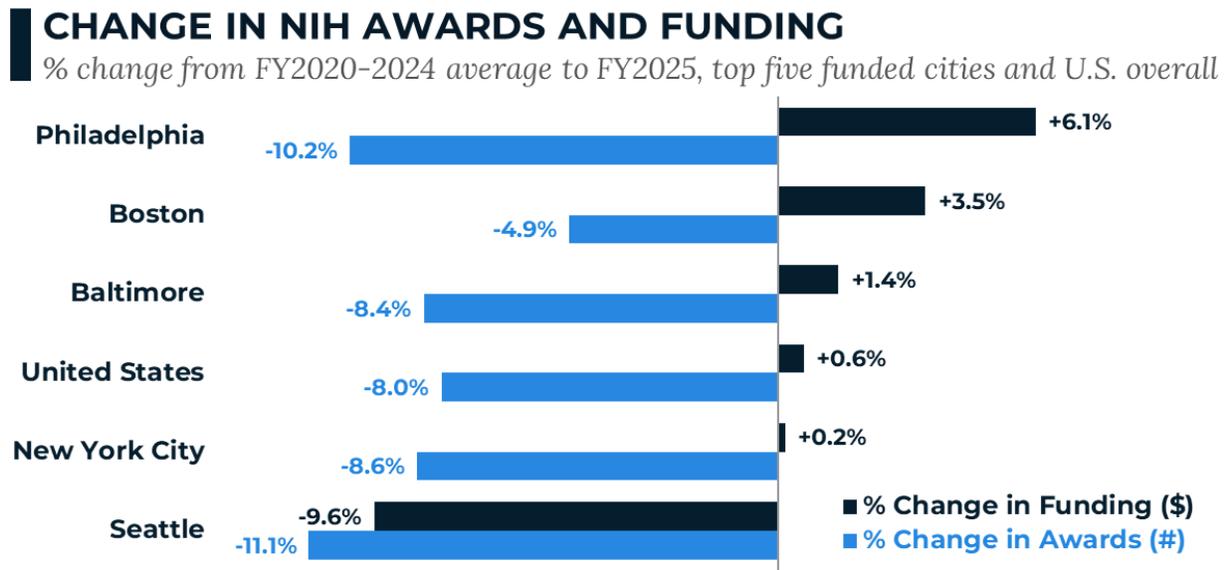


Source: National Institutes of Health, "NIH Awards by Location and Organization," FY2025, City of Boston Planning Department Research Division Analysis.

Across the top five NIH-funded U.S. cities and nationwide, award declines in the number of awards granted in FY2025 were widespread relative to the FY2020-2024 average, driven largely



by the forward funding shift. Boston's 4.9% decline in awards was notably smaller than New York City (-8.6%), Seattle (-11.1%), Philadelphia (-10.2%), and Baltimore (-8.4%), and well below the national average decline of 8%. On the funding side, four of the top five cities posted increases relative to their five-year averages, and the U.S. overall increased by 0.6%. Boston's 3.5% funding growth outpaced the national average. By these measures, Boston weathered the FY2025 funding environment better than some of its peer cities.



Source: National Institutes of Health, "NIH Awards by Location and Organization," FY2024 & FY2025, City of Boston Planning Department Research Division Analysis.

## TOP FUNDED U.S. ORGANIZATIONS

Boston's two largest hospitals, Massachusetts General Hospital (ranked 9th) and Brigham and Women's Hospital (ranked 20th), were two of only three hospitals listed among the top 25 NIH funding recipients in the United States. Together, they received 1,657 awards and over \$1 billion in funding in FY2025.

Their combined funding represents 31% of Massachusetts' and 43% of Boston's entire NIH funding. The majority (21 out of 25) of the top organizations that received funding are higher education institutions. Vanderbilt University Medical Center rounds out the three hospitals listed among the top 25, and Leidos Biomedical Research, Inc. is the only for-profit organization listed.



## TOP 25 ORGANIZATIONS BY NIH FUNDING

FY2025

RANK	ORGANIZATION NAME	CITY	AWARDS	DIRECT FUNDING (MILLIONS)	INDIRECT FUNDING (MILLIONS)	TOTAL FUNDING (MILLIONS)
1	Johns Hopkins University	Baltimore, MD	1,382	\$637	\$229	\$866
2	University of California, San Francisco	San Francisco, CA	1,426	\$596	\$229	\$824
3	Washington University	Saint Louis, MO	1,131	\$531	\$197	\$727
4	University of Michigan At Ann Arbor	Ann Arbor, MI	1,255	\$528	\$196	\$724
5	University of Pennsylvania	Philadelphia, PA	1,222	\$511	\$212	\$723
6	Yale University	New Haven, CT	1,104	\$470	\$210	\$680
7	University of Pittsburgh At Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh, PA	1,129	\$481	\$188	\$670
8	Stanford University	Stanford, CA	1,082	\$462	\$183	\$644
<b>9</b>	<b>Massachusetts General Hospital</b>	<b>Boston, MA</b>	<b>1,031</b>	<b>\$470</b>	<b>\$173</b>	<b>\$643</b>
10	Duke University	Durham, NC	956	\$452	\$171	\$624
11	Columbia University Health Sciences	New York, NY	941	\$420	\$173	\$594
12	University of California, San Diego	San Diego, CA	934	\$407	\$165	\$572
13	University of Washington	Seattle, WA	893	\$380	\$139	\$519
14	University of California Los Angeles	Los Angeles, CA	835	\$395	\$121	\$516
15	Univ of North Carolina Chapel Hill	Chapel Hill, NC	922	\$384	\$131	\$514
16	Emory University	Atlanta, GA	872	\$378	\$133	\$512
17	Icahn School of Medicine At Mount Sinai	New York, NY	703	\$352	\$149	\$501
18	Vanderbilt University Medical Center	Nashville, TN	525	\$339	\$115	\$455
19	New York University School of Medicine	New York NY	593	\$302	\$136	\$438
<b>20</b>	<b>Brigham And Women's Hospital</b>	<b>Boston, MA</b>	<b>626</b>	<b>\$291</b>	<b>\$123</b>	<b>\$414</b>
21	Northwestern University At Chicago	Chicago, IL	679	\$288	\$118	\$406
22	University of Wisconsin-Madison	Madison, WI	649	\$284	\$113	\$397
23	Leidos Biomedical Research, Inc.	Frederick, MD	68	\$382	\$0	\$382
24	University of Minnesota	Minneapolis, MN	705	\$270	\$103	\$373
25	University of Southern California	Los Angeles, CA	487	\$263	\$106	\$369

Source: National Institutes of Health, "NIH Awards by Location and Organization," FY2025, City of Boston Planning Department Research Division Analysis.

## FUNDING BY ORGANIZATION TYPE

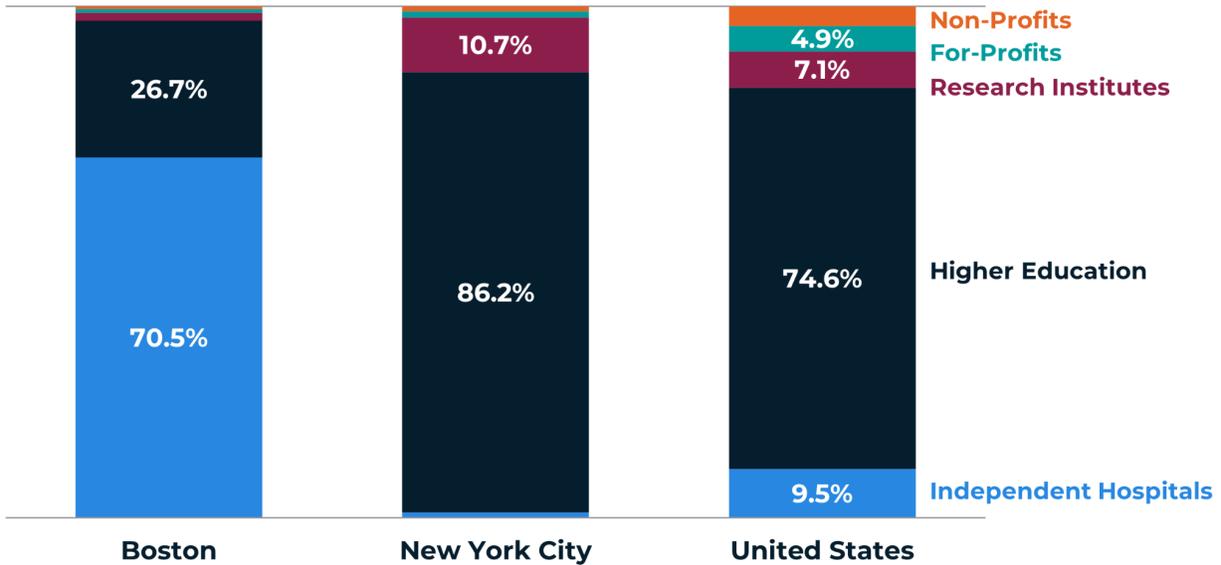
NIH funding to hospitals exceeded 70% of Boston's total NIH funding in FY2025 compared to only 9.5% of national funding sent to hospitals. The NIH also provides vital funds to research institutes, private companies, and other organizations. The major research institutes that received NIH funding in Boston were the Joslin Diabetes Center, the Boston VA Research Institute, and the Schepens Eye Research Institute, an affiliate of Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary.

Despite Boston's robust hospital funding, the vast majority of NIH funding allocated across the country was granted to higher education institutions. In fact, 86% of New York City's NIH funding was directed towards higher education. Boston's independent hospitals, however, are closely affiliated with Boston's leading medical schools and universities, and many serve as teaching hospitals for medical students.



# NIH FUNDING BY TYPE OF INSTITUTION

FY2025



Source: National Institutes of Health, "NIH Awards by Location and Organization," FY2025, City of Boston Planning Department Research Division Analysis.

## HOSPITALS AND HEALTH CENTERS

Boston’s ten NIH-funded hospitals received 2,713 awards and over \$1.7 billion in NIH funding, which is more than any other city received in total funding, apart from New York City. NIH allocated 5% of the total domestic funding towards Boston hospitals. Boston hospitals received 51% of all the funding given to Massachusetts and just over 70% of Boston’s total NIH funding. Four of the top ten NIH-funded independent hospitals in the United States were located in Boston, receiving approximately 51% of NIH funding allocated to independent hospitals nationwide. Additionally, among the top 25 NIH-funded hospitals in the country, Boston claims eight.



# TOP 10 HOSPITALS IN THE U.S. BY NIH FUNDING

FY2025

RANK	ORGANIZATION NAME	CITY	AWARDS	DIRECT FUNDING (MILLIONS)	INDIRECT FUNDING (MILLIONS)	TOTAL FUNDING (MILLIONS)
1	<b>Massachusetts General Hospital</b>	<b>Boston, MA</b>	<b>1,031</b>	<b>\$470</b>	<b>\$173</b>	<b>\$643</b>
2	Vanderbilt University Medical Center	Nashville, TN	525	\$339	\$115	\$455
3	<b>Brigham and Women's Hospital</b>	<b>Boston, MA</b>	<b>626</b>	<b>\$291</b>	<b>\$123</b>	<b>\$414</b>
4	<b>Boston Children's Hospital</b>	<b>Boston, MA</b>	<b>410</b>	<b>\$164</b>	<b>\$81</b>	<b>\$245</b>
5	Children's Hospital of Philadelphia	Philadelphia, PA	303	\$129	\$59	\$189
6	<b>Dana-Farber Cancer Institution</b>	<b>Boston, MA</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>\$122</b>	<b>\$55</b>	<b>\$177</b>
7	Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center	Cincinnati, OH	286	\$117	\$51	\$169
8	<b>Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center</b>	<b>Boston, MA</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>\$101</b>	<b>\$42</b>	<b>\$142</b>
9	St. Jude Children's Research Hospital	Memphis, TN	166	\$88	\$43	\$132
10	Cedars-Sinai Medical Center	Los Angeles, CA	160	\$85	\$35	\$119

Source: National Institutes of Health, "NIH Awards by Location and Organization," FY2025, City of Boston Planning Department Research Division Analysis.

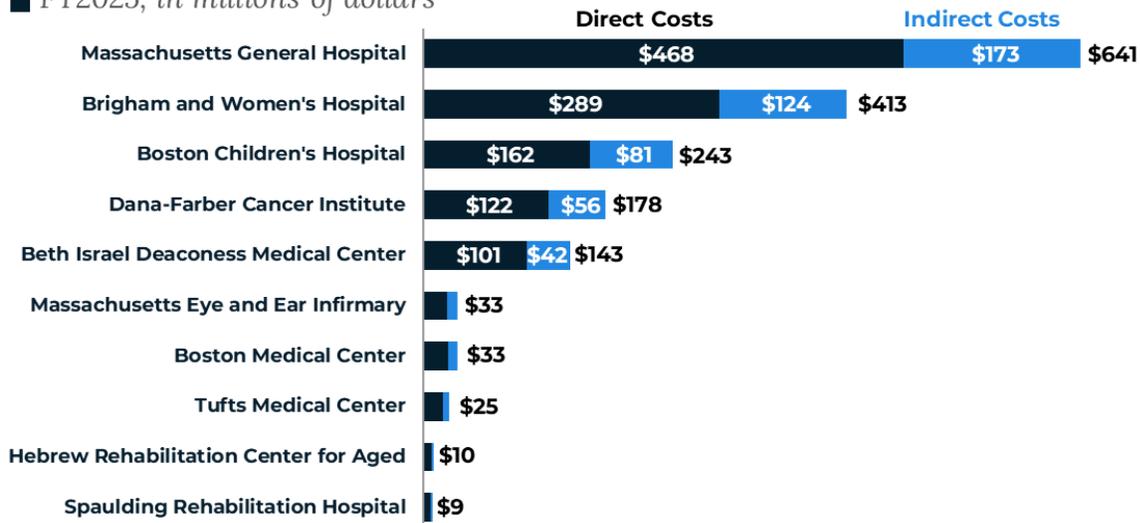
Massachusetts General Hospital was the top NIH-funded hospital in the United States, and Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Boston Children’s Hospital, and Dana-Farber Cancer Institute took the second, third, and fourth spots, respectively. Mass General Brigham, an integrated health care system and national leader in biomedical research, comprises Massachusetts General Hospital, Brigham and Women’s Hospital, and a handful of other NIH-funded hospitals. Mass General Brigham members [serve as teaching hospitals](#) for Harvard Medical School.

Massachusetts General, as the top-funded hospital in Boston, received 38% of all grants awarded to the city’s hospitals. The hospital’s research involves more than 9,500 people, including one third of their physicians, across 30 departments and 1.3 million square feet of research space, making it the [largest hospital-based research program](#) in the United States.



# TOP BOSTON HOSPITALS RECEIVING NIH FUNDING

FY2025, in millions of dollars



Source: National Institutes of Health, "NIH Awards by Location and Organization," FY2025, City of Boston Planning Department Research Division Analysis.

While Massachusetts General Hospital is located near downtown Boston in the West End, most NIH-funded Boston hospitals are located in the Longwood Medical Area. Located between Brookline, and Mission Hill, the Longwood Medical Area includes top medical institutions such as Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Dana Farber Cancer Institute, and others. As of 2026, [the Longwood Medical Area](#) has 73,000 workers, educates 24,000 people, and treats 3.8 million patients annually. Longwood Medical Area received nearly \$1.4 billion in NIH funding, which is more than funding received by each of 43 states.

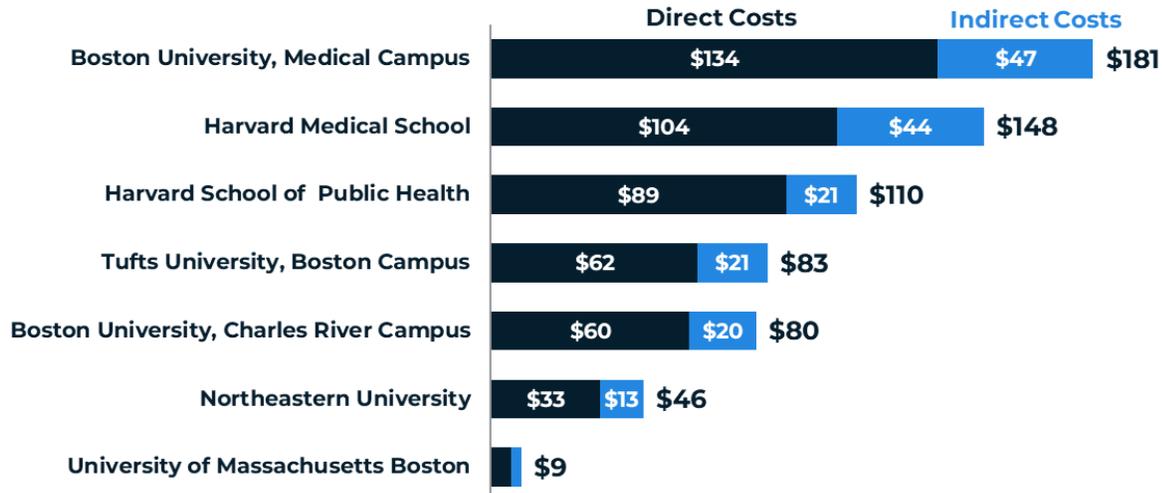
## HIGHER EDUCATION

Boston's success in biomedical research is attributed to its highly educated workforce, with [55.7% of Bostonians](#) aged 25 and over holding a Bachelor's degree or higher, compared to 34% nationally. The city's colleges and universities [enrolled 162,981](#) undergraduate and graduate students in Fall 2023, representing about 18% of Massachusetts' total student population, despite less than 10% of the state's population living in Boston. This concentration of scholars benefits companies, hospitals, and research institutes in Boston, leveraging partnerships with prestigious educational institutions and the surrounding biotech industry. Prospective students and graduates are drawn to Boston for these established collaborations. Boston University's Medical Campus in the South End leads Boston higher education in NIH funding, followed by Harvard Medical School and Harvard School of Public Health.



## TOP NIH-FUNDED BOSTON HIGHER ED INSTITUTIONS

In millions of dollars, FY2025



Source: National Institutes of Health, "NIH Awards by Location and Organization," FY2025, City of Boston Planning Department Research Division Analysis.

## BOSTON: LEADER OF A REGIONAL POWERHOUSE

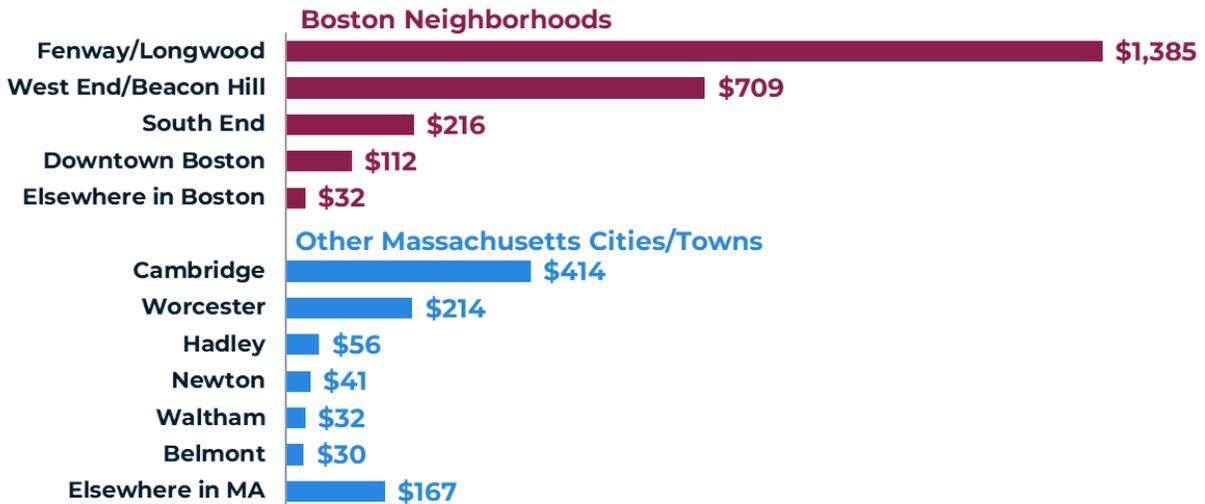
Boston continues to excel as a hub for biomedical research, with neighborhoods like the Longwood Medical Area and the West End playing a significant role in securing substantial NIH funding. In FY2025, the Fenway/Longwood area alone received an impressive \$1.4 billion in NIH. Boston benefits greatly from its collaborations with renowned institutions in neighboring cities and towns across eastern Massachusetts. Cambridge, notably home to Harvard University and MIT, hosts premier research centers. In FY2025, Cambridge-based institutions secured 510 NIH awards totaling \$414 million in funding, down from \$468 million in FY2024.

Massachusetts as a whole received nearly \$3.4 billion in NIH funding in FY2025, distributed across 5,423 awards. This remarkable funding, at \$477 per capita, more than four times the national average, reinforces Massachusetts' position as a national powerhouse in life sciences research and development, with Boston serving as the central hub of this activity.



# NIH FUNDING BY BOSTON NEIGHBORHOOD AND MA CITY

In millions of dollars, FY2025



Source: National Institutes of Health, "NIH Awards by Location and Organization," FY2025, City of Boston Planning Department Research Division Analysis.

## CONCLUSION

Boston's FY2025 NIH funding reflects the strength of an ecosystem built on leading hospitals, research universities, and a dense biotech industry. At \$2.46 billion across 3,983 awards, the city maintained its position as the second-largest recipient of NIH funding in the country, with the highest per capita funding among the top ten funded cities and the smallest award decline among its peer cities.

At the same time, FY2025 introduced meaningful disruptions. Grant terminations, the proposed indirect cost rate cap, and the freeze on Harvard-affiliated funding reduced award volume, affected staffing, and created uncertainty across Boston's research institutions. Court rulings and Congressional action restored much of what was lost, but the long-term policy environment remains unsettled. The shift to forward funding, in particular, is likely to continue compressing annual award counts even if total NIH appropriations hold steady.

Boston's research infrastructure is well-positioned relative to other cities, but continued growth will depend on stable federal partnership and the ability of institutions to retain and recruit scientific talent. How the city and its institutions navigate ongoing federal policy uncertainty will be a key factor shaping NIH funding outcomes in the years ahead.



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