

The ARPA-H Act

A new approach to accelerating cutting-edge biomedical research, bringing new discoveries to Americans.

Senator Patty Murray (D-WA) and Senator Richard Burr (R-NC)

The ARPA-H Act accelerates discoveries and addresses the gaps in today's biomedical research enterprise by establishing the Advanced Research Projects Authority for Health, within the National Institutes of Health, to support high impact biomedical research. ARPA-H will transform areas of biomedicine that cannot readily be accomplished through traditional research or commercial activity, and support the development of cutting-edge technologies to tackle tomorrow's health care challenges. Many of today's discoveries have multiple applications in health care, and ARPA-H will support research with the potential to reach these goals and address these challenges more quickly. The ARPA-H Act provides a targeted, intentional scope focused on leveraging new technologies in the prevention, diagnosis, mitigation, treatment, and cure of the most challenging health conditions and new frontiers in biomedical research. The *Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2022* includes \$1 billion for its establishment within the Department of Health and Human Services.

Specifically, the ARPA-H Act

- Establishes the Advanced Research Projects Authority for Health (ARPA-H) within the National Institutes of Health (NIH).
- Allows for the President to appoint the Director of ARPA-H to a four year term, which may be extended for one additional 4 year term.
- Allows the Director of ARPA-H to hire program managers for three year terms, who will be responsible for establishing and carrying out advanced research programs.
- Provides flexible hiring authorities for ARPA-H personnel and caps the total number of employees at 120.
- Allows the Director to award grants, contracts, cooperative agreements, prizes, and enter into other transactions.
- Ensures the activities of ARPA-H do not duplicate other research conducted or supported by the Department of Health and Human Services and other Federal Departments and agencies.
- Establishes an Advisory Committee to coordinate efforts and provide advice and assistance on ARPA-H programs and projects.
- Gives necessary authority for ARPA-H facilities and clarifies that ARPA-H, including its headquarters, cannot be located within the National Capitol region or on any part of the NIH campuses.
- Requires annual reports on ARPA-H projects, as well as broader strategic planning related to current, proposed and planned projects.
- Tasks the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to conduct an evaluation on ARPA-H, including lessons learned from its establishment and recommendations for how to improve the operation of ARPA-H.
- Authorizes such sums as may be necessary to carry out ARPA-H for each of fiscal years 2023 through 2027, and clarifies that the ARPA-H budget request must be separate from NIH budget requests.