The escalating Alzheimer’s epidemic has profound implications for government budgets.

- Alzheimer’s is one of the most expensive diseases in America, costing more than heart disease and cancer.
- In 2021, caring for people with Alzheimer’s and other dementias will cost the United States an estimated $355 billion. Cumulatively between 2021 and 2050, it will cost $20 trillion (in 2021 dollars) — two-thirds of which will be borne by Medicare and Medicaid.
- One in every 5 dollars of Medicare spending is spent on people with Alzheimer’s and other dementias.

Despite the recent increased investment in Alzheimer’s research, funding still falls short of the need.

- For fiscal year 2021, Congress provided an additional $300 million in Alzheimer’s research funding at the National Institutes of Health (NIH).
- With this increase, along with previous research investments, NIH spending on Alzheimer’s research is expected to total $3.1 billion in 2021.
- However, this is still short of the total funding scientists and the federal Alzheimer’s Advisory Council have indicated is necessary for continued progress.

Congressional action is needed to stay on the path to discovering scientific breakthroughs.

- The National Alzheimer’s Plan has established a goal of developing preventions and effective treatments for Alzheimer’s by 2025.
- To help achieve this, the NIH Alzheimer’s bypass budget — what the NIH scientists say they need — calls for an additional $289 million in Alzheimer’s research funding for fiscal year 2022.
- This increase will allow the NIH to accelerate investment in collaborations that speed discovery, groundbreaking prevention trials, and the testing of new therapeutics.