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 or cancer.
- In 2023, caring for people with Alzheimer’s and other dementias will cost the United States an estimated $345 billion. Cumulatively between 2023 and 2050, it will cost nearly $18 trillion (in 2023 dollars) — nearly two-thirds of which will be borne by Medicare and Medicaid.
- More than 1 in every 7 dollars of Medicare spending is spent on people with Alzheimer’s and other dementias.

Despite the recent increased investment in Alzheimer’s research, more funding is needed to continue the work in key areas.

- For fiscal year 2023, Congress provided an additional $226 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 nearly $3.8 billion in 2023.
- Beginning in fiscal year 2024 the NIH will begin releasing a bypass budget that emphasizes prospective research; in addition to providing updates on all ongoing research efforts.

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 $321 million in Alzheimer’s research funding for fiscal year 2024.
- This increase will allow the NIH to accelerate investment in collaborations that speed discovery, ground breaking prevention trials, and the testing of new therapeutics.