



April 2, 2025

Statement from LUNGEvity Foundation on Department of Health and Human Services Budget and Staffing Cuts

LUNGEvity Foundation expresses deep concern regarding the recent budget and staffing cuts at agencies within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), which threaten to have a devastating impact on lung cancer research and the progress that has been made in improving patient outcomes.

Lung cancer remains the leading cause of cancer-related deaths in the United States, and despite significant advances in research and treatment, there is still much more to be done. The proposed cuts to funding and staffing at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will have a profound impact on cancer research, timely review of new diagnostics and therapies, and responding to current and future public health threats.

The elimination of research positions at the NIH comes at a time when we should instead be increasing investment in the pipeline of young scientists to spur new discoveries in lung cancer and hundreds of other diseases. These cuts will have a chilling effect on our ability to recruit and retain the best researchers to help solve our most challenging health issues.

These cuts also severely weaken, and in some cases eliminate, critical lung health initiatives, including the CDC's National Asthma Control Program, the CDC's Office on Smoking and Health, the CDC's Global Tuberculosis Program, and parts of the FDA's Center for Tobacco Products. Reducing staffing and funding for these programs threatens efforts to prevent and manage respiratory diseases, curb tobacco-related illnesses, and advance public health interventions that are essential for reducing lung cancer risk.

While private organizations, such as LUNGEvity Foundation, play a vital role in funding lung cancer research, supporting patients, and advancing education, government agencies have been key drivers of this progress, and foundations and industry cannot fill the gap created by a lower investment in basic science.

LUNGEvity urges the administration to reconsider these cuts and prioritize funding for research and public health programs that are essential for lung cancer research. We stand with the researchers, healthcare professionals, and advocates who are committed to advancing science and care for all those affected by lung cancer, and we call on policymakers to protect the investments that are saving lives today and into the future.