The National Institutes of Health (NIH) is the nation’s primary medical research agency, supporting research efforts in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. 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 the burdens of illness and disability.

In FY 2016, $164 million in NIH funding was awarded to 26 NIH-funded institutions. Kentucky institutions held seven active Institutional Development Award (IDeA) grants. A total of 43 NIH-supported clinical trials were initiated at Kentucky institutions in FY 2016.

Kentucky institutions received $3.4 million in NIH grants in FY 2016 to train the next generation of innovative scientists. A total of 20 Kentucky businesses received NIH funding totaling $11 million for the research and development of technologies with potential commercial applications. In 2014, Kentucky was home to 1,090 bioscience business establishments. Residents held 12,064 bioscience industry jobs, and the average annual wage in the bioscience sector was $27,136 higher than the private sector overall.