

2025 Current Fiscal Year Report: National Advisory Eye Council

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1. Department or Agency

Department of Health and Human
Services

2. Fiscal Year

2025

3. Committee or Subcommittee

National Advisory Eye Council

3b. GSA Committee

No.

952

4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?

5. Current Charter

6. Expected Renewal Date

7. Expected Term Date

No 05/31/2023 05/31/2025

8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?

No

8b. Specific Termination Authority

8c. Actual Term Date

9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year

Continue

10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?

Not Applicable

10b. Legislation Pending?

Not Applicable

11. Establishment Authority

Statutory (Congress Created)

12. Specific Establishment Authority

42 U.S.C. 284a

13. Effective Date

11/20/1985

14. Committee Type

Continuing

14c. Presidential?

No

15. Description of Committee

Other Committee

16a. Total Number of Reports

No Reports for
this Fiscal Year

17a. Open

0 17b. Closed 0 17c. Partially Closed 1 Other Activities 0 17d. Total 1

Meetings and Dates

Purpose

Second Level Peer Review and Program
Advisory

Start

End

10/11/2024 - 10/11/2024

Number of Committee Meetings Listed: 1

Current Next

FY FY

18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18c. Administrative Costs (FRNs, contractor support, In-person/hybrid/virtual meetings)	\$0.00	\$0.00
18d. Other (all other funds not captured by any other cost category)	\$0.00	\$0.00
18e. Total Costs	\$0.00	\$0.00
19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)	0.00	0.00

20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?

This Council is composed of both scientific and public members who provide the second level of peer review, advise on policy development, program implementation and evaluation, and research needs and opportunities of the Institute.

The National Advisory Eye Council reviewed 4,876 applications requesting \$8,859,314,757.00.

The Council advised the Institute on policy development, program implementation, and

research needs.

20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?

The Council will consist of not more than 18 members appointed by the Secretary (appointed members) and at least 5 nonvoting ex officio members. The nonvoting ex officio members will include the Secretary; the Director, NIH; the Director, NEI; the Under Secretary for Health of the Department of Veterans Affairs; the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs (or their designees); and any additional officers or employees of the United States as the Secretary determines necessary for the Council to effectively carry out its functions. Appointed members must be eligible to serve as Special Government Employees (SGEs) and will serve as SGEs, as defined by 18 U.S.C. § 202. Two-thirds of the appointed members will be selected from among the leading representatives of the health and scientific disciplines (including not less than 2 individuals who are leaders in the fields of public health and the behavioral or social sciences) relevant to the activities and mission of the NEI. These include basic, translational, and clinical research to understand the eye and visual system, prevent and treat vision diseases, expand opportunities for people who are blind or require vision rehabilitation, and eliminate vision loss and improve quality of life. One-third of the appointed members will be appointed by the Secretary from the general public and will include leaders in the fields of public policy, law, health policy, economics, and management.

20c. How frequent and relevant are the Committee Meetings?

Meetings are held not less than three times each

fiscal year. There were three meetings held in FY24. The National Advisory Eye Council (NAEC) provides advice on a continuing basis on the scientific research program that should be supported and how best to carry out the designated mission and responsibilities of the Institute. It also provides ongoing review of the relevance and effectiveness of the existing programs.

20d. Why can't the advice or information this committee provides be obtained elsewhere?

The National Advisory Eye Council is composed of both scientific and public members who provide the second level of peer review for research grant applications; advise on policy development, program implementation and evaluation; and identify research needs and opportunities of the Institute. The quality, scope, and balance of advice from the NAEC cannot be obtained from NIH staff or from other established sources because the Council is constituted to meet the specific requirements of the mandated mission of the NAEC and of the Institute.

20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or partially closed committee meetings?

National Advisory Eye Council meetings were partially closed to the public for the review of grant applications. Sections 552b(c)(4) and 552b(c)(6) of the Government in the Sunshine Act permit the closing of meetings where discussion could reveal confidential trade secrets or commercial property such as patentable materials and personal information, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

21. Remarks

Committee Function: Other - National Scientific and Advisory. Reports: This committee did not produce any public reports during the fiscal year. The Charter allows the Committee to have 23 authorized members including but not limited to SGEs and Ex-Officios. The Charter authorizes five Ex-Officios (Secretary, IC Director, NIH Director, and two vacancies for the VA and DOD) which equals to the total of 23 Max number of members. NIH Director: Dr. Monica Bertagnolli (former) ex officio term ended on 1/17/2025. Dr. Matthew J. Memoli (Acting) was appointed to the committee on 1/22/2025 and his term ended on 3/31/2025. Dr. Jayanta Bhattacharya (current) was appointed to the committee on 4/1/2025. HHS Secretary: Dr. Dorothy A. Fink (acting) was appointed tot he committee on 1/20/2025 and her term ended on 2/12/2025. Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. (current) was appointed to the committee on 2/13/2025. Administrative extensions: Drs. Maguire and Moore were administratively extended to May 28, 2025.

Designated Federal Officer

Kathleen C. Anderson Director, Office of Extramural Research

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Becerra, Xavier	03/19/2021	01/20/2025	Secretary, HHS	Ex Officio Member
Bertagnolli, Monica	11/09/2023	01/17/2025	Director, National Institutes of Health	Ex Officio Member
Bhattacharya, Jayanta	04/01/2025	01/20/2029	Director, National Institutes of Health	Ex Officio Member
Chiang, Michael	12/01/2020	11/30/2024	Director, NEI, NIH	Ex Officio Member
Dana, Reza	01/30/2022	11/30/2024	Director, Harvard Medical School	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

			Eivor and Alston Callahan Endowed	Special Government
Grant, Maria	05/22/2023	11/30/2026	Chair, University of Alabama at Birmingham	Employee (SGE) Member
Kennedy, Robert	02/13/2025	01/20/2029	Secretary, HHS	Ex Officio Member
Lehrer-Stein, Janice	01/17/2023	11/30/2025	Disability Rights Advocate	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Maguire, Maureen	01/30/2022	05/28/2025	Professor Emeritus, University of Pennsylvania	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Moore, Tirin	01/30/2022	05/28/2025	Professor, Stanford University	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Mutti, Donald	05/22/2023	11/30/2026	E.F. Wildermuth Foundation Professor in Optometry, Ohio State University	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Perez Quinones, Victor	01/17/2023	11/30/2025	Stephen and Frances Foster Endowed Professorship in Ocular Immunology, Duke University	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Ramulu, Pradeep	05/22/2023	11/30/2026	Professor, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

Number of Committee Members Listed: 13

Narrative Description

NIH's 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 illness and disability. NIH works toward that mission by: conducting research in its own laboratories; supporting the research of non-Federal scientists in universities, medical schools, hospitals, and research institutions throughout the country and abroad; helping in the training of research investigators; and fostering communication of

medical and health sciences information. Section 492 of the Public Health Service Act states that "The Secretary...shall by regulation require appropriate technical and scientific peer review of (A) applications...; and (B...biomedical and behavioral research and development contracts..."The National Advisory Eye Council provides second level peer review, makes recommendations for support of grants, contracts proposals, and cooperative agreements; advises on policy development, program implementation and evaluation; and research needs of the National Eye Institute.

What are the most significant program outcomes associated with this committee?

Checked if
Applies

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Improvements to health or safety | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Trust in government | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Major policy changes | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Advance in scientific research | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Effective grant making | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Improved service delivery | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Increased customer satisfaction | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Outcome Comments

Advance in scientific research

What are the cost savings associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| None | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Unable to Determine | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Under \$100,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| \$100,000 - \$500,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| \$500,001 - \$1,000,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| \$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| \$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Over \$10,000,000
Cost Savings Other

☐
☐

Cost Savings Comments

NIH supported basic and clinical research accomplishments often take many years to unfold into new diagnostic tests and new ways to treat and prevent diseases.

What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee for the life of the committee?

47,619

Number of Recommendations Comments

Includes review of research grant applications.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Fully implemented by the agency?

0%

% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments

Information on the research funded by NIH is available through the RePORT (Research Portfolio Online Reporting Tool) website. RePORT provides access to reports, data, and analyses of NIH research activities that advance the mission of the NIH, including information on NIH expenditures, strategic plans, reports on NIH funding, and reports on the organizations and people involved in NIH research and research training. The RePORT website is located at <http://report.nih.gov>. Due to the complexity of the recommendations made by this committee on policy and program areas, staff is unable to determine which recommendations have been fully or partially implemented solely in response to this committee's activities.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Partially implemented by the agency?

0%

% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments

Information on the research funded by NIH is available through the RePORT (Research Portfolio Online Reporting Tool) website. RePORT provides access to reports, data, and analyses of NIH research activities that advance the mission of the NIH, including information on NIH expenditures, strategic plans, reports on NIH funding, and reports on the organizations and people involved in NIH research and research training. The

RePORT website is located at <http://report.nih.gov>. Due to the complexity of the recommendations made by this committee on policy and program areas, staff is unable to determine which recommendations have been fully or partially implemented solely in response to this committee's activities.

Does the agency provide the committee with feedback regarding actions taken to implement recommendations or advice offered?

Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐

Agency Feedback Comments

Information is provided to the public at the open session of each Council meeting through reports and the Director's update. The public can view information related to the Council through the council's official website.

What other actions has the agency taken as a result of the committee's advice or recommendation?

Checked if Applies

Reorganized Priorities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Reallocated resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Issued new regulation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proposed legislation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Approved grants or other payments	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Action Comments

An action of 'approved' or 'recommended' for grants receiving review by this Council does not infer that the grant will be or has been funded. Research grant applications submitted to NIH must go through a two-step review process that includes the initial peer review for scientific and technical merit and a second step of review and approval by a National Advisory Council that includes program relevance. In addition, prior to an award or funding being made, NIH staff must conduct an administrative review for a number of other considerations. These include alignment with NIH's funding principles, review of the project budget, assessment of the applicant's management systems, determination of applicant eligibility, and compliance with public policy requirements. After all these steps have been completed, NIH officials make funding decisions on individual grant applications.

Is the Committee engaged in the review of applications for grants?

Yes

What is the estimated **Number** of grants reviewed for approval

What is the estimated **Number** of grants recommended for approval 4,876
4,876

What is the estimated **Dollar Value** of grants recommended for approval
\$8,859,314,757

Grant Review Comments

NA

How is access provided to the information for the Committee's documentation?

Checked if Applies

Contact DFO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Agency Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Committee Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online GSA FACA Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Publications	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Access Comments

Contact IC Committee Management Officer 240-669-5201