

Center for Lyme Action is a 501(c)4 nonprofit dedicated to growing federal funding for Lyme disease and tickborne conditions. Its focus is to work with the federal government to create new working diagnostics and therapies, and eventually a cure. Our values are: bi-partisan, inclusive, humane, and scientific. And we're serious about them.

Lyme disease is a complex and sometimes chronic disease that is caused by an infection by the *Borrelia burgdorferi* bacteria from a tick bite. Nearly 500,000 people in the United States get Lyme disease every year, a rate of infection that is nearly 5 times the number of cases in 1991. Federal funding for patients remains exceptionally low—even with this growing public health threat and a working diagnostic, sustainable therapies, and a cure for chronic Lyme are not available.

That's why we started Center for Lyme Action. Become a member today.

LYME CASES INCREASING

Nearly 500,000 cases of Lyme disease were reported by the CDC. The 476,000 total Lyme cases in 2018 are nearly 5 times the number reported in 1991.

LYME IS A GROWING HEALTH CRISIS

LOW FEDERAL FUNDING

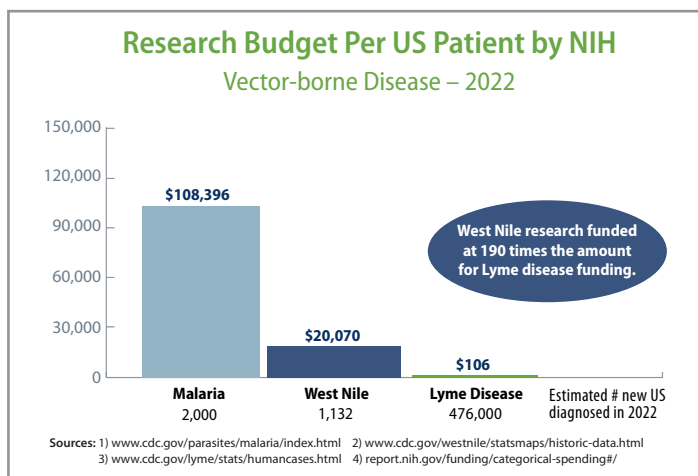
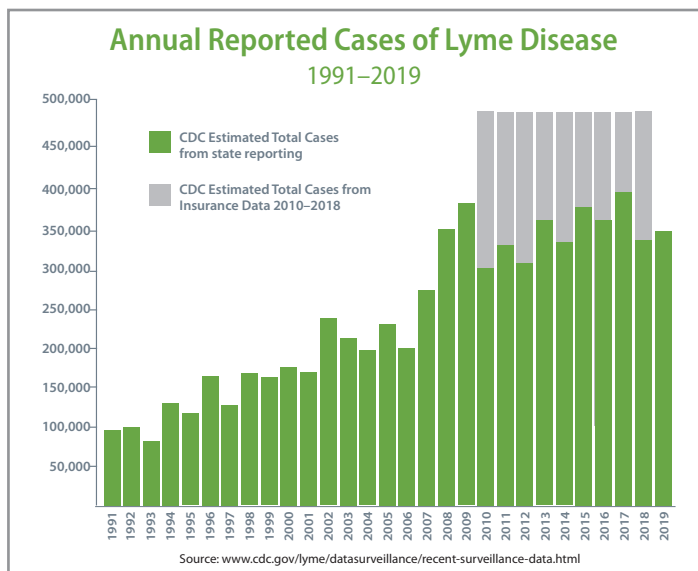
Per patient federal funding for Lyme disease is incredibly low at \$106 per patient. Less common diseases West Nile has 190 times and Malaria has 1,000 times the amount of per patient funding.

MORE FUNDING REQUIRED

NO WORKING DIAGNOSTIC OR CURE

Current diagnostics don't work—missing up to 60% of acute cases. Current treatments are insufficient for chronic patients and work for approximately 85% of acute patients.

NEED DIAGNOSTIC AND CURE



CENTER FOR LYME ACTION 2020–2023 REPORT

In 2020, despite being an election year full of massive changes due to the Coronavirus pandemic, Center for Lyme Action grew federal funding for Lyme disease from \$59M in FY20 to \$123M in FY21. The Center for Lyme Action was thrilled to be a key driver for the historic \$64M increase over FY20 for Lyme and tickborne disease funding.

For FY22 funding, Center for Lyme Action brought together 230 advocates from 40 states for its second fly-in in February 2021. Advocates made 6 requests resulting in increases for Lyme and tickborne diseases from \$123M to record breaking appropriations of \$157.5M.

The FY23 funding cycle was kicked off by 308 advocates meeting with their Senators and Representatives, making seven FY23 appropriations requests. Overall funding increased from \$157.5M to \$178.5M in FY23. Of particular note was the NIH NIAID research funding which increased nearly 5X from \$40M in FY20 to \$119M in FY23. For the first time, significant multi-million-dollar research grants were added to fund the study of persistent Lyme disease.

348 advocates returned for the annual Virtual Fly-In in February 2023 to request additional increases once again. At the time of this publication, the full Congress has not voted on the FY24 budget, but both the Senate and House Appropriations Committees have voted independently for increases.

Overall, the impact of the Center for Lyme Action advocacy organization has been very significant. Advocates participating in Center for Lyme Action programs have increased federal funding by \$282M since the organization started in 2019.

OCTOBER 2019

Launched Center for Lyme Action in Washington, DC

DECEMBER 2019

President signs Kay Hagan Tick Act into law

FEBRUARY 2020

First CLA Fly-in focused on FY21

DECEMBER 2020

President signs \$64M total increase in Lyme funding for FY21

FEBRUARY 2021

Second Fly-in (virtual) for FY22

FEBRUARY 2022

Third Virtual Fly-in for FY23

MARCH 2022

President signs FY22 increase of \$34.5M for Lyme & tickborne (TBD) programs

DECEMBER 2022

President signed FY23 increase of \$21M for Lyme and TBD programs

FEBRUARY 2023

Fourth Virtual Fly-in for FY24

ABOUT CENTER FOR LYME ACTION

In 2019, a group of dedicated advocates and several Lyme and tickborne disease foundations came together to support a new initiative to grow federal funding for Lyme and tickborne conditions. Bay Area Lyme Foundation, Alexandra Cohen, Project Lyme, and Laure Woods saw the need to create a new organization and became the founding charter members. The organization is member-supported with the goal to increase federal research funding for Lyme and tickborne diseases. The Center for Lyme Action is grateful to all its members and particularly its Charter Members who also serve on its Advisory Board.