

Center for Lyme Action

FY27 Appropriations Requests

February 18, 2026



The Problem with Lyme & Tick-borne Diseases

TICK-BORNE DISEASE CASES INCREASING

The CDC estimates nearly 500,000 cases of Lyme disease each year. The 476,000 total Lyme cases in 2018 are nearly 5 times the number reported in 1991.

TICK-BORNE DISEASES ARE A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS

UNDERPERFORMING DIAGNOSTICS AND NO CURE

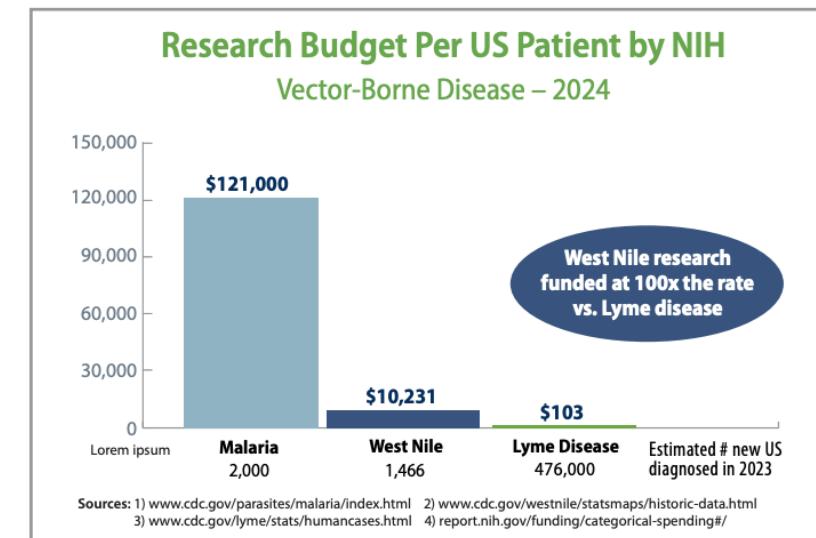
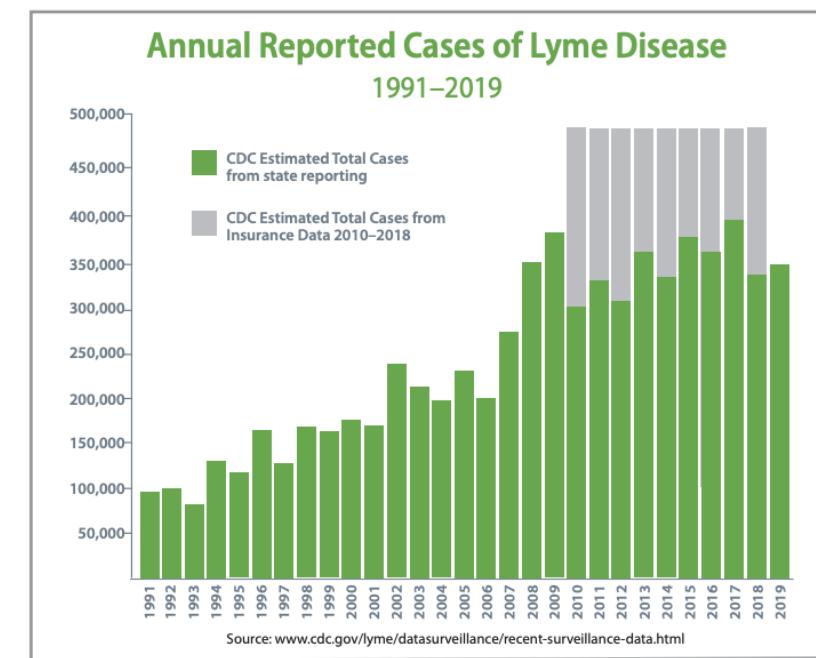
Most available diagnostics don't work—missing up to 60% of acute cases. Current treatments are insufficient for chronic patients and work for approximately 85% of acute patients.

NEED DIAGNOSTICS AND CURE

LOW FEDERAL FUNDING

Per patient, federal funding for Lyme disease is incredibly low at \$103 per patient. Less common diseases West Nile has 100 times, and Malaria has 1,100 times the amount of per patient funding.

MORE FUNDING REQUIRED



FY27 Appropriations Requests

1. \$74.5M CDC Lyme & Tick-borne Disease

\$30M – CDC – Fund Kay Hagan Tick Act

- FY26 \$20.5M
- FY27 \$30M

\$40M – CDC - Fund Lyme and tick-borne disease prevention programs

- FY26 \$27M
- FY27 \$40M

\$4.5M – CDC – Fund Alpha-gal Syndrome

- FY26 \$0M
- FY27 \$4.5M

2. \$5M – HHS LymeX Funding

- FY26 \$5M
- FY27 \$5M

3. \$135M – NIH NIAID Lyme & Tick-borne Disease Research

- FY26 \$122M
- FY27 \$135M

4. \$50M – Fund ARPA-H TICK Clinical Trials

- FY26 \$0M
- FY27 \$50M

5. \$9M – DOW CDMRP Tick-Borne Disease Research Program

- FY26 \$7M
- FY27 \$9M

1. Fund CDC Lyme & TBD Programs

REQUEST \$74.5M

DVBD, NCEZID, CDC, HHS

- Fully fund the Kay Hagan Tick Act (Request: \$30M)
 - \$10M for Centers of Excellence
 - \$20M for States and Tribes
- Fund Lyme and Tick-borne Disease Prevention Programs (Request: \$40M)
- Fund Alpha-gal Syndrome Healthcare Provider Education and Surveillance (Request: \$4.5M)



2. Fund HHS LymeX Innovation Accelerator

REQUEST: \$5M

Office of the Secretary, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

- \$25M public-private partnership with Steven and Alexandra Cohen Foundation
- Foundation funds prize challenges for Lyme diagnostics
- Phase 4 teams are executing clinical validation plans and submitting to FDA
- \$5M needed for federal implementation



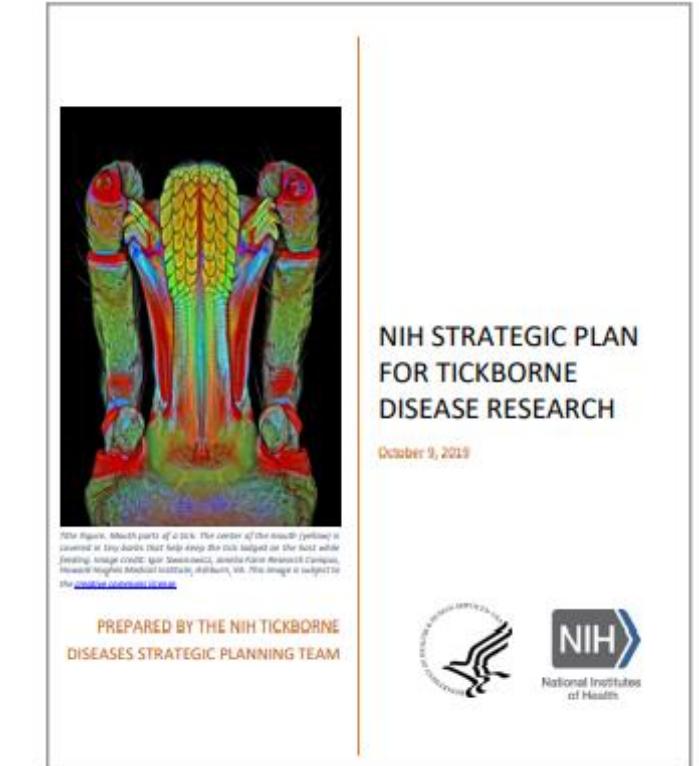
The image shows a promotional graphic for the LymeX Diagnostics Prize Phase 4. At the top, it says "LYMEX DIAGNOSTICS PRIZE". Below that, it says "LymeX - Now in Phase 4". The graphic features logos for several partners: BlueArc Biosciences, Drexel University College of Medicine, HELIXBIND, Northwestern Medicine Feinberg School of Medicine, GNOMX, and GALAXY. It also includes the logo for Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH). Below the logos, the text "What is LymeX Phase 4?" is followed by a list of bullet points: "Clinical validation plans", "Regulatory submissions to the FDA", "Awards up to \$3 million in prizes", and "Additional prizes for FDA clearance". At the bottom, it says "SOURCE: <https://www.lymexdiagnosticsprize.com/phase-4-launches/>".

3. Fund NIH Lyme disease and other tick-borne disease research

REQUEST: \$135M

National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (HHS NIH NIAID)

- CDC estimates at least 476,000 (cases) Americans get Lyme disease in the US each year
- Only \$103 per patient is allocated toward Lyme funding for NIH NIAID research
- Underfunded compared to more rare infectious diseases:
 - West Nile (1,466 cases) - \$10,231
 - Malaria (2000 cases) - \$121,000



4. Fund ARPA-H TICK Clinical Trials Network

REQUEST: \$50M



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

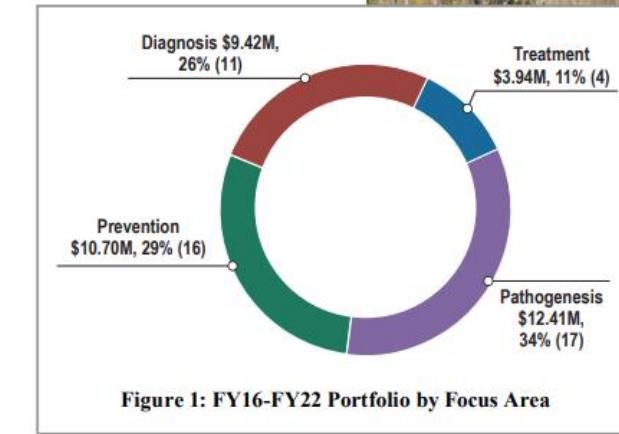
- Private sector does not fund clinical trials for Lyme and tick-borne disease therapeutics
- Building upon existing Lyme and Tick-Borne Disease Clinical Trials Network supported by Steven and Alexandra Cohen Foundation
- New ARPA-H TICK Clinical Trials Network fits ARPA-H model because program is high risk
- TICK = Tick-borne Innovation, Collaboration, and Knowledge

5. Fund Defense Peer-reviewed Tickborne Disease Research

REQUEST: \$9M

Department of Defense Programs, Defense Health Program, Department of War

- Peer-Reviewed Tickborne Disease Research under the **Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program** within Department of Defense (DOD CDMRP TITLE V)
- Unique peer review includes government experts and Lyme community experts
- Funded just 16% of proposals in FY24, could fund more with additional resources



SOURCE: <https://cdmrp.health.mil/tbdrp/pdfs/TBDRP%20Strategic%20Plan%202023.pdf>

TBDRP	Funding	Applications	Funded
FY 2019	\$5M	62	8
FY 2020	\$7M	39	8
FY 2021	\$7M	44	8
FY 2022	\$7M	30	6
FY 2023	\$7M	37	7
FY 2024	\$7M	43	7

Q&A

