

# New Biden Executive Order Emphasizes Women's Health

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Following an initial funding **announcement last month**, the Biden administration has kept its foot on the gas to build out the White House Initiative on Women's Health Research. Last month, we wrote about ARPA-H's \$100 million **Sprint for Women's Health**. During the president's State of the Union speech, he called on Congress to invest \$12 billion in new funding for women's health research, which would be used to create a Fund for Women's Health Research at the National Institutes for Health (NIH).

Last week, President Biden signed an **executive order** (EO) that contributes to the administration's objective to create solutions to long-lasting women's health issues that have been historically understudied and under-evaluated.

**Specifically, the EO directs agencies participating in the White House's Initiative on Women's Health Research to:**

- Set robust data and research standards pertaining to women's health in relevant funding opportunities.
- Encourage innovation in women's health through ARPA-H and multi-agency initiatives like the Small Business Innovation Research Program (SBIR) and the Small Business Technology Transfer Program (STTR).

**The EO also includes direct actions for certain agencies to take:**

- Health and Human Services (HHS) and the National Science Foundation (NSF) will examine how artificial intelligence can contribute to advancements in women's health research.
- HHS will prioritize women's midlife health by expanding its data collection efforts and providing ways for women to better navigate prevention and treatment options relating to menopause.
- The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and the White House's Gender Policy Council will assess gaps in federal funding for women's health research.

**In addition to the EO, several agencies announced efforts they are taking to contribute to the initiative. Some of the highlights include:**

- NSF announced a **funding opportunity** to support science and engineering research related to women's health.
- NSF's Engineering Research Visioning Alliance (ERVA) will **convene** top researchers from June 5-6, 2024 to evaluate near- and long-term strategies for the formation of new applications concerning women's health. You can nominate participants to attend this convening through [this link](#).
- NIH will solicit new proposals for small businesses engaged in research and development on women's health through their SBIR and STTR programs.
- NIH will also **launch** its first Pathways to Prevention series on the management of menopausal symptoms.
- The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) will issue guidance for the industry concerning the inclusion of women in clinical trials.
- The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) will publicize its intent to release a research-based funding opportunity to make improvements around the science of primary care, with a focus on women's health.

ML Strategies welcomes the opportunity to assist you in approaching participating agencies regarding their public and upcoming federal policy and funding opportunities related to women's health.

## Authors



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