

STATE FUNDING FOR CANNABIS RESEARCH

Many states have funded cannabis research through academic institutions and state agencies to support evidence-based policymaking related to legalization, examine public health outcomes, research the medical implications of cannabis use, and more. State funding is necessary and important as federal funding for cannabis research is greatly limited due to its Schedule I placement on the Controlled Substances Act.

In 2022, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) surveyed researchers about interest in and barriers to conducting cannabis research. Researchers identified lack of funding as the top barrier.¹

A March 2025 paper published in the Journal of Cannabis Research examines the cannabis research funding made available in states with legalized cannabis (both recreational and medical)². The paper found that 17 of 38 states that have passed medical or recreational cannabis laws have legislation that funds cannabis research. Of these 17 states, six distributed funds directly to an academic institution with five others relying on state agencies for distribution and one state, California, distributing research funding through both channels.

1 U.S. National Institutes of Health. "Request for Information (RFI): Investigators' interests in and barriers to research studies on the health effects of cannabis and its constituents." Notice # NOT-AT-22-026. (Aug. 29, 2022).

2 Balla, A., Boyle, R.G. & Dempsey, C. State funding for cannabis research: an analysis of funding mechanisms and levels. *J Cannabis Res* 7, 15 (2025). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s42238-025-00264-0>

STATE	FUNDING MECHANISM	YEAR	AMOUNT
California	University of California San Diego's Center for Medicinal Cannabis Research; Public Universities via Department of Cannabis Control (DCC)	2020-present	\$2 million annually (UCSD); \$10 million annually (for 10 years, to public universities in CA, selected by DCC); \$50 million to-date
Colorado	Funding via Marijuana Tax cash fund to Colorado State University System (CSU) since 2016; and the Institute of Cannabis Research (ICR) since 2019	2016	Varies, \$900,000 (2016-2017) - \$2.8 (2023)
Florida	Consortium for Medical Marijuana Clinical Outcomes Research within the University of Florida with participation of 11 Florida universities	2019	\$1.5 million
Kentucky	Kentucky Center for Cannabis within the University of Kentucky	2022	\$2 million
Michigan	Funded from cannabis sales taxes for center within the University of Minnesota School of Public Health; grants funding to the University of Minnesota	2023	\$2.3 million annually; additional \$100,000 annually for grants
New York	Directly allocated to Cornell University and SUNY Morrisville for hemp research via the Industrial Hemp Agricultural Research Pilot Program (2017); NY Gov. Hochul announced funding to various public universities to create/expand credential cannabis programs	2017, 2024	\$5 million, hemp research grants (2017); \$1 million, industrial hemp research with Cornell and SUNY Morrisville (2017); \$5 million (2024)
Utah	Established the Center for Medical Cannabis Research at the University of Utah	2023	\$650,000 from University of Utah Education and General from Qualified Patient Enterprise Fund; \$650,000
Washington	Funding via excise taxes to the University of Washington and Washington State University	2012	6/10 of 1% from the state's cannabis excise taxes to UW and 4/10 of %1 to WSU