

Innovating to Slow the Spread: CDC Combats Antimicrobial Resistance

Each year in the United States, **more than 3 million people** are infected by an antimicrobial-resistant germ or *Clostridioides difficile* (sometimes called *C. diff*, a germ associated with antibiotic use), and **nearly 50,000 people die** as a result. Since 2016, CDC has invested in research and innovation to drive aggressive action and empower the United States to comprehensively respond to antimicrobial resistance (AR). While some investments focus on a specific AR threat, most of these investments are cross-cutting, building broad capacity that can be applied to combat AR as well as other infectious disease threats. CDC continuously works to address AR threats and **invests in critical innovation to address gaps across health care, the community, and the environment.**

Investing in Innovation, 2016-2025

\$35M

CDC invested roughly **\$35 million** per year of annual appropriations in new ways to stop AR threats.

20%

Nearly **20%** of all appropriated dollars for CDC's AR Solutions Initiative supported public health innovations.

200+

CDC has supported **200+** public and private institutions to find scalable, innovative solutions to protect Americans from AR.

Leveraging CDC'S Innovative Programs for Impact

CDC leverages various programs to invest in innovative solutions to address AR research gaps across health care, the community, and the environment.

- **CDC's Prevention Epicenters Program** works with 11 leading academic medical institutions and networks to conduct innovative research focused on preventing healthcare-associated infections (HAIs), other healthcare-associated adverse events, and the emergence and spread of AR, and translate this research into clinical best practices. <https://bit.ly/PreventionEpicenters>
- CDC's **Safety and Healthcare Epidemiology Research Development (SHEPheRD) Program** supports partners researching innovative approaches to prevent HAIs and the emergence and spread of AR across the healthcare spectrum. <https://bit.ly/SHEPheRD>
- Through **Broad Agency Announcements (BAAs)**, CDC supports investigators identifying and implementing innovations to combat antimicrobial-resistant infections and slow the spread of dangerous pathogens (germs). More than \$51 million has been awarded through the BAAs for domestic projects to fight AR. <https://bit.ly/BAAs>
- The **Modeling Infectious Diseases in Healthcare Network (MInD - Healthcare)** is a virtual laboratory where researchers investigate factors that drive the spread of HAIs and simulate multiple prevention strategies to estimate their benefits in a timely and cost-effective manner. <https://bit.ly/MInD-Healthcare>
- The **Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program** provides "seed funds" for small business concerns (SBCs) to explore their technological potential and the incentive for SBCs to profit from commercialization of their innovations, including diagnostics, data science, and more. https://bit.ly/SBIR_Program



Learn more about CDC's AR Solutions Initiative:
<https://bit.ly/ARInvestments>



Revised January 2026