National Institutes of Health

ODSS-CIT Collaboration

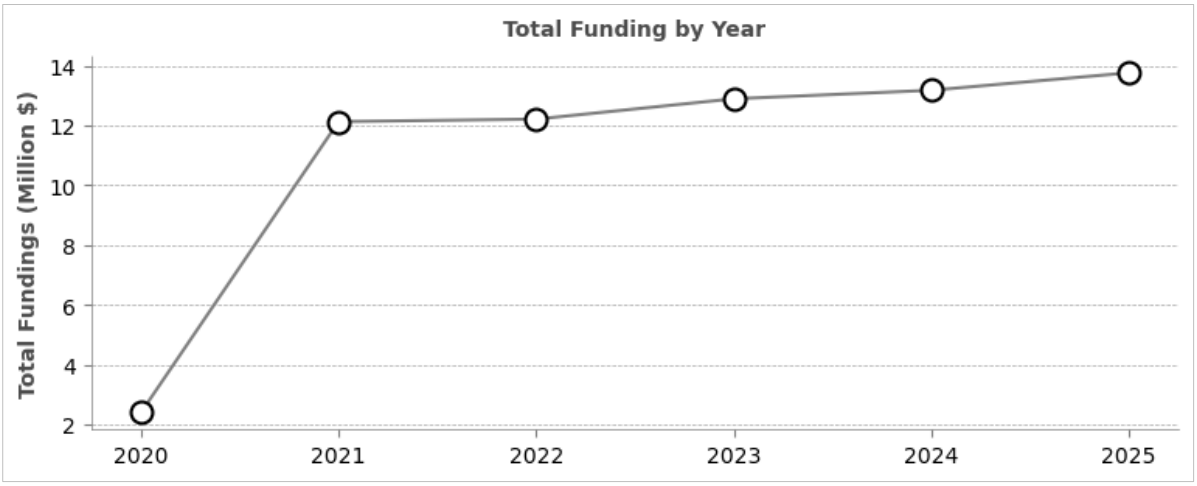
2025

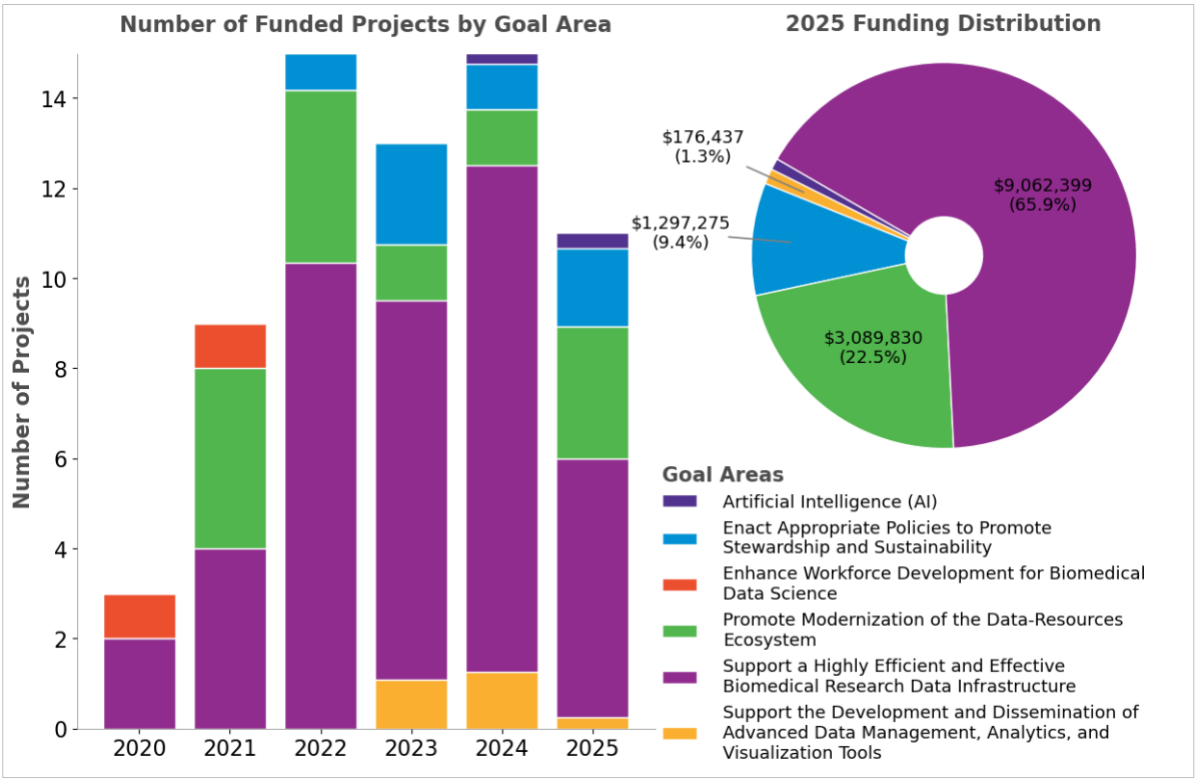


2025 ODSS Funding for CIT

In 2025, ODSS provided $13,759,275 in funding to CIT, supporting 11 projects across 5 goal areas.

- **Funding Trend:** Funding has increased more than five-fold from 2020 to 2025.
- **Strategic Goal Trends**: CIT and ODSS have consistently partnered to develop data infrastructure and data ecosystem, with recent expansion into AI, advanced tools and data stewardship.





Funding Highlights

- **The STRIDES Initiative**, managed by CIT with oversight by ODSS, allows NIH to explore the use of cloud environments to streamline NIH data use. ODSS provided a total of $8,471,872 to CIT to implement, operate, and grow the STRIDES Initiative in the FY2025. As of July 31, 2025, there are 2,113 STRIDES accounts across 29 ICOs. The fundings to STRIDES Initiative support four goal areas — data infrastructure, data resource ecosystem and advanced tools development, and data stewardship.
- ODSS provided a total of $4,562,403 to CIT for **operations and maintenance support for the Researcher Auth Service (RAS)** and **CIT DME Support for the RAS**. These fundings support three goal areas — data infrastructure and data resource ecosystem development and data stewardship.
- ODSS provided a total of $725,000 to CIT to support **the Biomedical Research Information Computing System (BRICS) (Contract #: 75N97024F00081)** for the following projects. These fundings support five goal areas — data infrastructure, data resource ecosystem and advanced tool development, data stewardship, and AI.
  - Enhancing Research Authentication Services (RAS) to the Biomedical research information computing system (BRICS) infrastructure ($200,000)
  - LLM Query Pilot for the BRICS Project ($400,000)
  - CDE tools enhancements to improve NIH CDE support [PO: Dr. Matthew McAuliffe] ($125,000)

Collaboration Output

2	34	1	283
DATA Scholars[1,*]	ChIRP users[2]	Coursera user[3]	STRIDES accounts[4]

[1] ODSS sponsors the Data and Technology Advancement (DATA) National Service Scholar Program to recruit and engage advanced data science experts to come to the NIH for one or two years and help tackle challenging biomedical and health data problems. DATA Scholars are supported 50% by ODSS and 50% by the ICO where they are matched.
* Please note that the two DATA scholars in CIT (supervisor in CIT) worked on projects in NIA and NINDS respectively.
[2] ODSS, in collaboration with OD, CIT, NHLBI, and NIA, developed an NIH community pilot LLM chatbot called ChIRP. ChIRP is funded by ODSS and OIR, aiming to create a secure environment for NIH staff to safely explore how generative AI technologies.
[3] To enhance NIH workforce training, ODSS collaborates with NLM to fund and manage the NIH Coursera Program that offers a limited number of free Coursera licenses to NIH staff. Over the course of FY25, there were a total of 1388 Coursera users, covering all 27 ICs. Please note that Coursera paused on 9/6/2025 due to contract processing delay but will restart as soon as acquisition is processed in the new fiscal year.
[4] (Collaborative support from CIT and ODSS) The NIH Science and Technology Research Infrastructure for Discovery, Experimentation, and Sustainability (STRIDES) Initiative is a partnership with commercial cloud service providers (CSPs) to allow NIH-supported researchers to affordably explore the use of cloud services and environments to streamline NIH data use.

Collaboration Highlights

- ODSS, in collaboration with OIR, OD, CIT, NHLBI, and NIA, developed and implemented a NIH community pilot LLM chatbot called ChIRP to create a secure environment for NIH staff to safely explore how generative AI technologies. As of Nov 2025, ChIRP has 863 active users, including 400 in research, 306 in administrative, and 157 in other.
- ODSS collaborated with CIT to develop RAS as part of NIH's efforts toward a modernized, FAIR, biomedical data ecosystem. RAS already supports access to 26 data resources from 14 NIH ICOs. In 2024, NIH required all NIH Controlled Access Data Repositories (CADR) use RAS for identity and access management. Currently 43 NIH controlled access data repositories are working on implementing these requirements.
- Dr. Saba Al-Sayouri, a DATA Scholar at CIT played a critical role in harmonizing longitudinal data from the Health and Retirement Study (HRS), improving the comparability of aging-related data across multiple cohorts. Dr. Al-Sayouri also Led enhancements to the Unified Medical Language System (UMLS), improving the standardization of biomedical terms across NIH databases. These improvements support interoperability in biomedical informatics and enhance the accuracy of AI-driven clinical decision support systems.