



## Supporting Federal Research

### Legislative Request

We urge Congress to support robust and sustained federal funding for the NIH and CDC, and to ensure the inclusion of individuals with Down syndrome in Alzheimer's disease-related activities and policies.

### Background

Federal investment in research is critical to enhance the understanding of Down syndrome and co-occurring health conditions. The National Institutes of Health's (NIH) INCLUDE (INvestigation of Co-occurring conditions across the Lifespan to Understand Down syndromE) Project investigates health conditions that affect individuals with Down syndrome, such as Alzheimer's disease, congenital heart disease, and diabetes. NDSS is proud to support Global Down Syndrome Foundation's leadership in advocating for the INCLUDE Project. For more information on INCLUDE, please visit our colleagues' website at [www.globaldownsyndrome.org](http://www.globaldownsyndrome.org).

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) plays an important role in public health promotion and data related to Down syndrome. The CDC's Alzheimer's Disease Program develops evidence-based, scientific information on Alzheimer's disease and related dementias.

### Impact

Medical research has produced life-changing results for the Down syndrome population. Life expectancy for people with Down syndrome has increased dramatically in recent decades, from 25 years in 1983 to 60 years today. Sustained federal funding supports better medical treatment, the development of new therapies, and improved wellbeing for individuals with Down syndrome. Continued investment is also essential to addressing key challenges such as Alzheimer's disease. Individuals with Down syndrome have a higher than 90% lifetime risk for developing Alzheimer's disease, and the disease is the number one cause of death for adults with Down syndrome. The inclusion of the Down syndrome population in Alzheimer's disease-related activities and policies is vital.

**For more information, please contact our policy team at [policy@ndss.org](mailto:policy@ndss.org).**