

Proposed report language

ARPA-H.— The National Institutes of Health and the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy held 15 listening sessions to inform the creation of ARPA-H, engaging more than 5,000 individuals. The summary document identifies scientific themes that emerged, including ‘Prioritizing programs that consider individuals holistically, including behavior and the context for these behaviors...’. The Committee strongly supports this emphasis and directs ARPA-H leadership to include an update on efforts to engage behavioral and social scientists in the staffing and leadership of ARPA-H as well as in its programs and priorities in the fiscal year 2024 Congressional Justification.

Or

ARPA-H.— The National Institutes of Health and the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy held 15 listening sessions to inform the creation of ARPA-H, engaging more than 5,000 individuals. The summary document identifies scientific themes that emerged, including the need for rapid and accessible early detection to revolutionize preventative medicine. The Committee strongly supports this emphasis and urges ARPA-H leadership to engage opportunities to support health before disease onset, and specifically considering the societal and environmental influences. The Committee directs ARPA-H to include an update on efforts to engage behavioral and social scientists in the staffing and leadership of ARPA-H as well as in its programs and priorities.

[ARPA-H Listening Sessions Summary Report](#)

Proposed hearing questions

- As I consider many of the most pressing challenges currently facing our society – COVID, climate change, racial inequality - and the consequences on our physical and mental health, I am struck by the underlying behavioral and social science questions not easily supported by the current structure of disease-specific NIH institutes.

How might ARPA-H, with additional flexibility and nimbleness, consider the whole human and advance our understanding of critical behavioral and social science questions such as effective science communication, individual decision making, trust in medical advice, and adherence to prevention and treatment?

- It is the deepest desire of this committee, that with the additional funding and flexibility of the ARPA-H model, we will see significant progress tackling some of the most pernicious threats to good health. Will ARPA’s framework allow it to address some of the challenges that cut across multiple diseases and conditions? How will ARPA-H advance our understanding of how to effectively promote uptake of health interventions and maintain preventive practices? Could

ARPA-H aid in keeping medical practice up to date with the latest scientific knowledge?
Implementing this knowledge in care of patients?

- Many of our nation's leading health concerns share underlying behavioral and social risk factors (e.g., poverty, obesity, poor nutrition, and insufficient sleep), the social determinants of health. Will the ARPA-H framework allow for research that advances our understanding of how these factors affect health, and how healthcare providers can most effectively encourage ongoing behaviors that support positive health outcomes?
- The ARPA-H model holds the potential to revolutionize early detection – before the onset of disease - and preventative medicine, including promoting sustained healthy behaviors. How will ARPA-H consider the societal and environmental influences and behavioral measures, in addition to biomarkers, that have the potential to predict disease?
- Do you see ARPA-H as having the potential to address the antecedents of good health, quality of health care and the prevalence of health-related behaviors for example: caloric intake, fastening seatbelts, firearms, traffic accidents? ([Shorter Lives, Poorer Health. U.S. Health in International Perspective](#))
- The ARPA-H model has been lauded for the potential to meet marketplace failures of our health care infrastructure. Would you consider prevention and early detection to be areas where the market has failed? What are some of the opportunities for ARPA-H to best support the behavioral and social aspects of effective prevention and early detection?