National Strategy to Close the Women's Health Gap

The **Society for Women's Health Research (SWHR)**, the **American College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists (ACOG)**, and the **Women First Research Coalition (WFRC)** serve as the architects of a shared framework for measuring against a $20 billion over 10-year investment at the federal level that will close the women's health gap. Leaders and organizations across the health care ecosystem are coming together to advocate for this federal initiative.

For more information, go to:
swhr.org/national-strategy-to-close-the-womens-health-gap

Our vision is clear: Mobilize Congress to make a $20 billion strategic commitment to close the women's health gap over 10 years.

The message is clear: Investing federal dollars in a meaningful way to address the women's health gap will support economic growth, accelerate access to new therapies, and enhance health, well-being, and longevity for all Americans. This is the women's health moonshot.

The Framework

The framework addresses five areas of need for increased investment and integration of women's health research and improved care across federal agencies.

I. Research & Innovation.....*Proposed Investment: $7 Billion*

WHAT: Increase the federal investment in women's health research.

HOW: Increase funding dedicated to women's health research and sex differences across all National Institutes of Health (NIH) Institutes and Centers. Create Women's Health Research Interdisciplinary Funds across the federal government that are accessible to all Institutes and agencies, including but not limited to NIH, the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health, the Department of Defense, and the Department of Veterans Affairs. Establish a national network of interdisciplinary Centers of Excellence to accelerate translation of women's health research into clinical care.

II. Regulatory Coordination & Modernization.....*Proposed Investment: $1 Billion*

WHAT: Create a pathway for agencies and regulatory bodies to collaborate and address sex differences and the needs of women's health to improve health outcomes.

HOW: Modernize and expand the HHS Coordinating Committee on Women's Health to include agencies across and outside of HHS to ensure that activities and investments are coordinated and integrated across federal programs. Revitalize NIH, Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) pathways for better tracking, data sharing, drug and medical device approval pathways, and reimbursement and coverage of women's health interventions. Leverage existing infrastructure, identify gaps in research, reimbursement, and coverage, and remove barriers to collaboration and innovation across agencies and stakeholders, including private payers, medical societies, device and drug developers, and hospital systems.

III. Bolstering the Workforce .....*Proposed Investment: $7 Billion*

WHAT: Build a robust pipeline of new investigators and clinicians in women's health to strengthen the field's workforce.

HOW: Fund the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine report recommendations on the research and clinical workforce including loan repayment, training, expansion of early-career grant mechanisms, mid-career awards, NIH programs including Specialized Centers of Research Excellence (SCORE), the Women's Reproductive Health Research (WRHR) Career Development Program, the Reproductive Scientist Development Program (RSDP), and the Building Interdisciplinary Research Careers in Women's Health (BIRCWH), and support fellowships and training across women's health Centers of Excellence.

IV. Data & Evidence Infrastructure .....*Proposed Investment: $4 Billion*

WHAT: Use the existing federal and private sector data and fill the data gaps that exist to understand exactly where the health gaps are and determine how to address them through research and clinical practice.

HOW: Start by establishing a public-private partnership for women's midlife health data to develop a standardized process for safely collecting deidentified health data and sharing. Establish public workshops to review and address women's health research data. This work could inform a data infrastructure that supports conditions that are unique to women or that differently or disproportionately affect women.

V. Public Awareness & Education.....*Proposed Investment: $1 Billion*

WHAT: Empower and educate the American public about the women's health gap and how to take charge of their health and well-being.

HOW: Create a national women's health and sex differences campaign that will increase knowledge, ultimately improving health and quality of life outcomes for women across the country. Opportunities include education on the importance and value of women's health research and participation in research, specific diseases and life stages, key health care screenings and preventive care, and information on Medicare that is specifically geared toward the care of women.

Questions? Contact: policy@swhr.org