

A Perspective on the FY22 NCI Budget Appropriation

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NCI Board of Scientific Advisors meeting

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Thanks for burning lots of midnight oil:

Omnibus budget released March 9, signed into law March 15

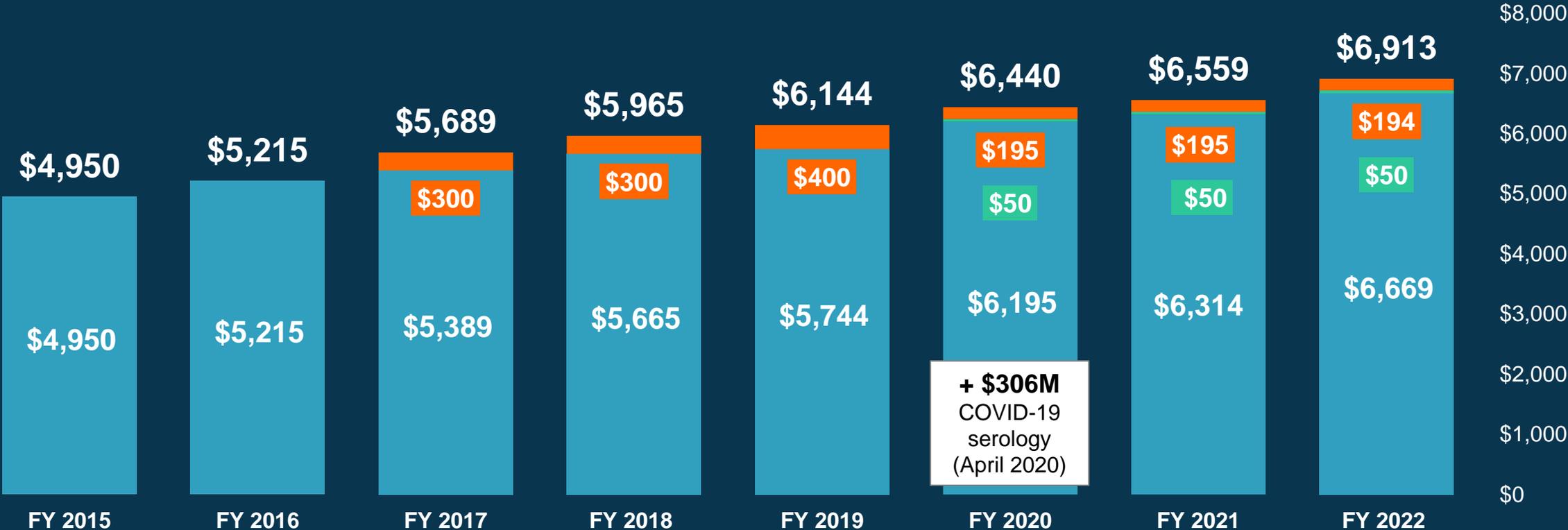
- **Holly Gibbons & MK Holohan:** Office of Government & Congressional Relations
- **Weston Ricks & Angela Perkins:** Office of Budget & Finance
- **Vivian Pham, Tenille McCatty, Denise Brandenburg, Wendy Teng & Nelson Garcia:** Office of Extramural Finance & Information Analysis
- **Kelli Marciel & Esther Pak:** Office of Communications & Public Liaison

Topics

- FY22 paylines
- RPG pool: a critical part of NCI budget; other parts of the budget also support key research activities
- Some RPG trends 2016-2022
- How NCI reaches RPG pool budget decisions

NCI Appropriations FY 2015 – 2022 (in millions)

21st Century Cures Act - orange
Childhood Cancer Initiative - green

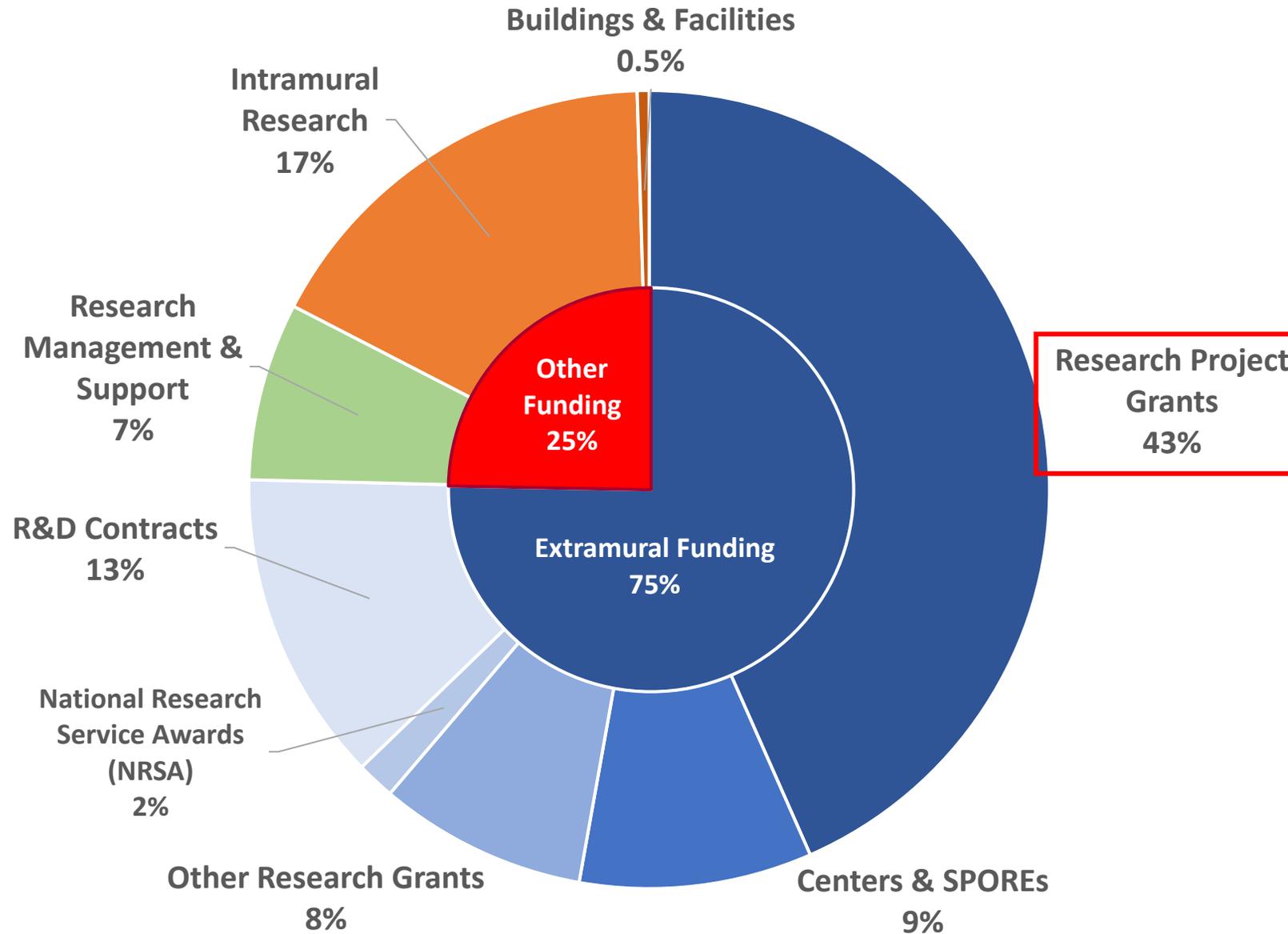


Also, ARPA-H: \$1B
(available FY 2022 - 24)

NCI Research Project Grants (RPG) Funding Policy for FY 2022

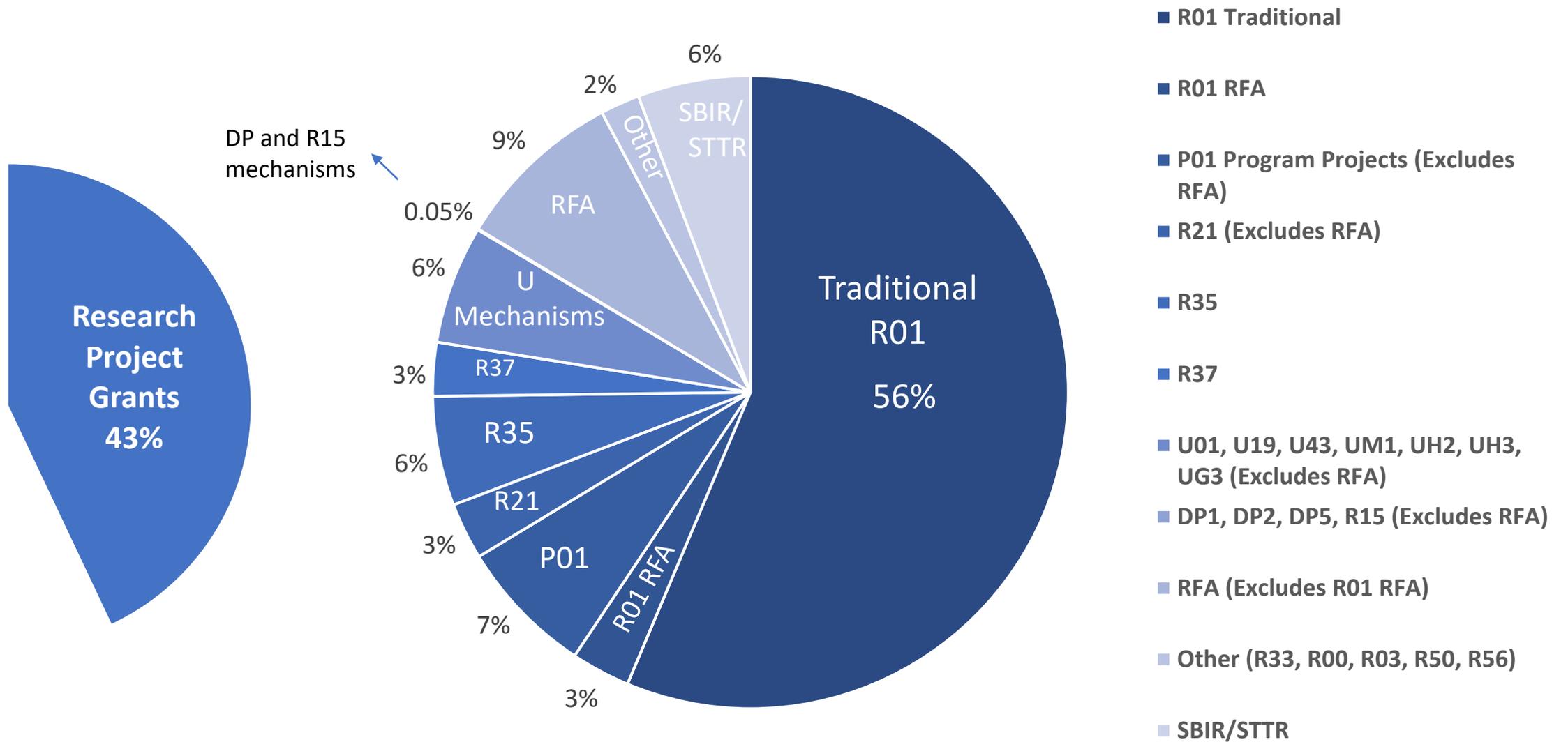
Competing Grants		Non-Competing Grants
TYPE	PAYLINE	
R01 Grants for Established and New Investigators	11th Percentile	Will be funded at the 98% of the committed level Exempt from 2% reduction: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>ESI R01s and R37s</i> • <i>Training awards</i> • Some other awards TBD
R01 Grants for Early-Stage Investigators (ESIs)	16th Percentile	
R21 Exploratory Grants	9th Percentile	

How does NCI spend its money? Based on FY20 actuals and excludes Cancer Moonshot

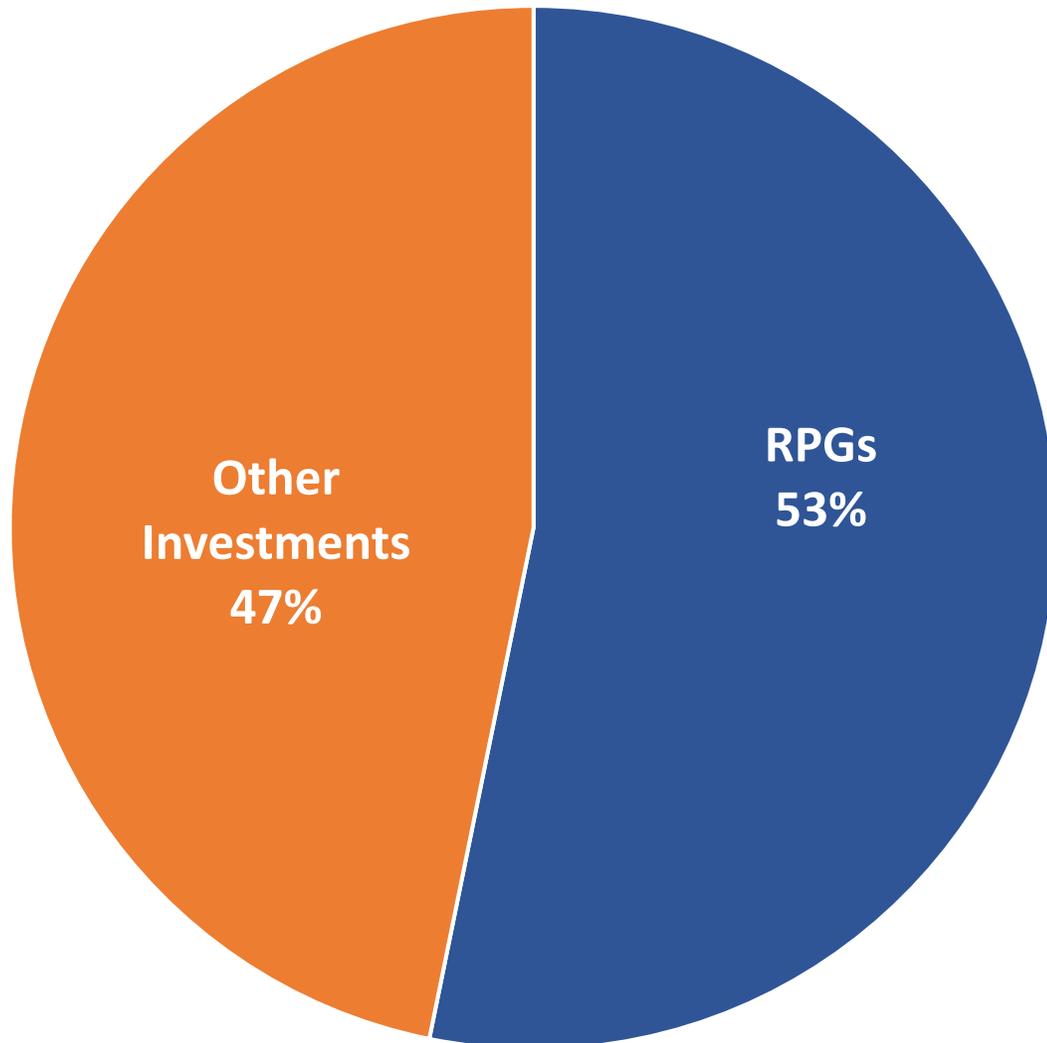


- From September 2021 NCAB presentation: <https://deainfo.nci.nih.gov/advisory/ncab/0821/Lowy.pdf>
- NCI supports a lot of research and other activities that are outside the RPG pool
- A few non-RPG activities: Cancer center support grants, SPORES, training

Distribution of FY 2020 Research Project Grants



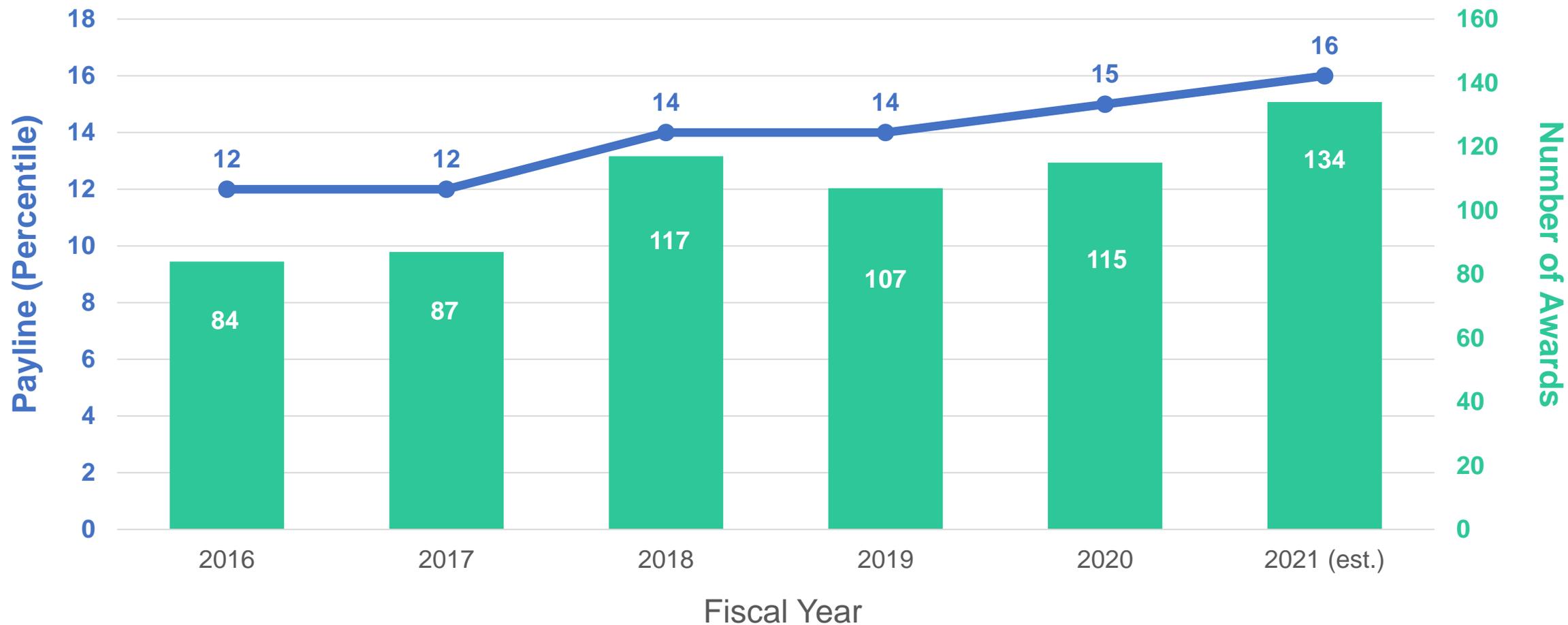
NCI budget increased ~\$1,054 M 2018-2022; distribution of the increase between RPGs and non-RPGs*



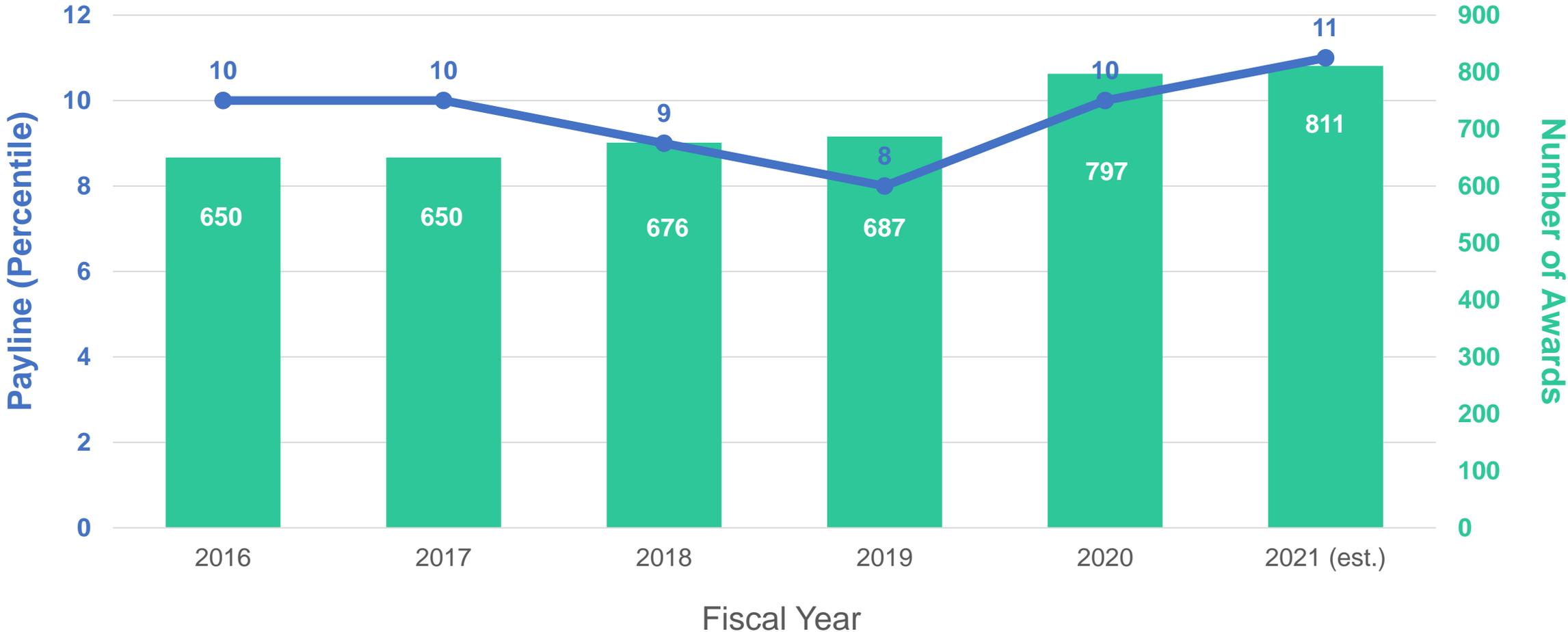
The RPG portion of NCI's total budget increased from ~41% to ~44% between 2018 and 2022

**This is an estimated projection, as it includes projected FY22 expenditures; the increase does not include the Cancer Moonshot, which decreased by \$104 M 2018-2022*

Early-Stage Investigators (ESI): R01/R37 payline, awards 2016-2021



Established Investigators: R01 payline, competing awards 2016-2021

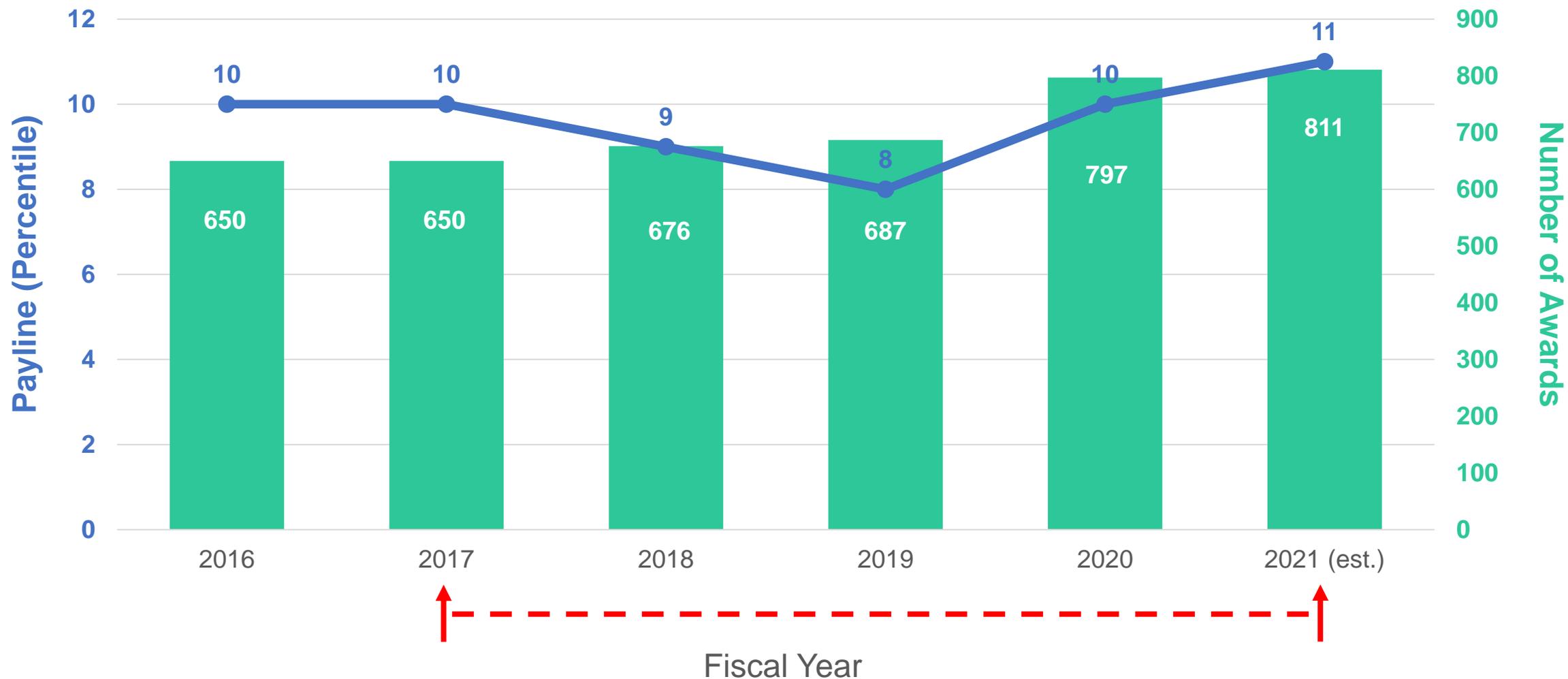


Some RPG pool funding categories & priorities

- Although almost all RPG awards are multiyear awards (average duration almost 5 years), NCI generally funds only the first year in the fiscal year the awards are made, to prioritize funding competing awards
- With the proposed FY22 paylines, ~52% of the increase in the FY22 NCI appropriation will be invested in the RPG pool
- Each year, there are two overall investment categories within the RPG pool
 - 1) Competing awards; 2) Non-competing awards

Established Investigators: R01 payline, competing awards 2016-2021:

Most awards completed in 2021 were initially awarded in 2017



Funding competing and non-competing RPG awards

- **Two main funding sources**

- Turnover of funds from non-competing RPG awards completed in the prior year
- Addition of funds from the NCI appropriation, if turnover dollars are insufficient

- The dollars derived from completed awards are usually lower than what is needed; several factors account for this discrepancy

- **For competing awards:**

- *Number of completed awards* will be smaller than the number of competing awards
- *Inflation*: the average cost of each competing award will be higher than average cost of each completed award

- **For non-competing awards:**

- Each year, the *total number of awards* and *average amount of each award* will usually be higher than in previous year

Funding non-competing RPG awards at <100% of commitment level

- NCI considers this option only when funds from turnover of completed awards plus funds from NCI appropriation are insufficient
- In these situations, the overall issue is whether to prioritize making more awards, i.e., having a higher payline, or to prioritize funding non-competing grants at 100% commitment
- NCI usually prioritizes funding more competing awards

Summary

- NCI has prioritized RPG funding
 - But is not neglecting the other parts of its research portfolio
- Despite the RPG prioritization, NCI has decided the FY22 R01 payline for experienced investigators will be at the 11th percentile, the same as FY21, and to support non-competing awards at 98% and to exempt ESI awards and training awards
- Multiple factors have contributed to these decisions



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