FAQ: $5 Million Annual State of Kansas Appropriation

Does the State of Kansas provide direct funding for the University of Kansas Cancer Center?

During the 2006 Kansas Legislative Session, the Kansas Legislature approved $5 million in annual support for the University of Kansas Cancer Center (KU Cancer Center) as part of Governor Sebelius' Fiscal Year (FY) 2007 budget. The $5 million is a direct appropriation to the KU Cancer Center and is distributed from the State General Fund.

Why did Governor Sebelius and the State Legislature approve the $5 million in annual support?

The $5 million from the State General Fund provides support for the KU Cancer Center's quest to build a world-class comprehensive cancer center and achieve designation from the National Cancer Institute (NCI) within 10 years. To be successful in gaining NCI designation, ongoing, dedicated support from a cancer center's state is considered essential.

Kansans are currently underserved by the NCI's National Cancer Center Program and achieving NCI designation will help to reduce the $1.6 billion annual burden of cancer on the state. The annual $5 million investment by the State of Kansas is only slightly more than the $4.4 million economic burden imposed by cancer on the state every 24 hours.

Allocating $5 million per year to the KU Cancer Center was an important demonstration of the State of Kansas' commitment to fighting cancer. It is providing financial stability to the KU Cancer Center and has helped attract additional private donations.

How will Kansans benefit from the $5 million of support for the KU Cancer Center?

The $5 million annual support for the KU Cancer Center means many things to many Kansans:

- The KU Cancer Center is more effectively battling cancer because it has the resources to hire world-class researchers and clinicians, outfit state-of-the art labs and clinics, and build the necessary basic and clinical research infrastructure and programs. The recent hire of lung cancer specialist, Karen Kelly, M.D., to be the Deputy Director of the KU Cancer Center, is an excellent example of the impact of the $5 million.

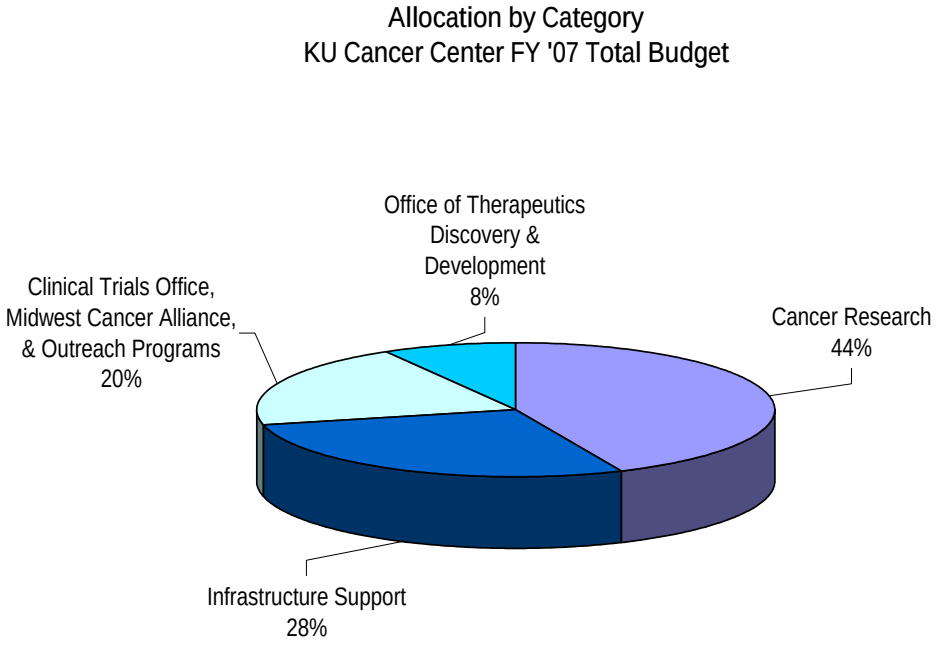
- In FY 2007, it is expected that more than 10,000 Kansans from across the state will receive screenings and education to help prevent cancer, facilitate earlier diagnoses, and receive important second opinions as a result of the KU Cancer Center's outreach programs. From July 1 to October 15, 2006, 4,419 Kansans have already benefited from participating in the KU Cancer Center's outreach programs (e.g., Kansas Masons' Days, health fairs and festivals, mobile mammogram van, breast education and smoking cessation kiosks).

- Kansas cancer patients will be among the first to gain access to discoveries emanating from the KU Cancer Center researchers because the Office of Therapeutics Discovery and Development, led by Director Scott Weir, Pharm.D., Ph.D., is improving and streamlining the process of getting discoveries from the lab into the hands of physicians.

- The Midwest Cancer Alliance is in the early stages of development. It has begun the process of bringing oncologists from across the State of Kansas together to form an alliance dedicated to advancing cancer care and facilitating access to clinical trials in cancer patients' own communities. The $5 million from the State is enabling the launch of that organization and directly supports the Medical Director position. Initial discussions with oncologists to refine the MCA's purpose and organizational structure have occurred in Wichita, Topeka, Salina, and Hutchinson and many more meetings around the state are planned before the end of 2006.

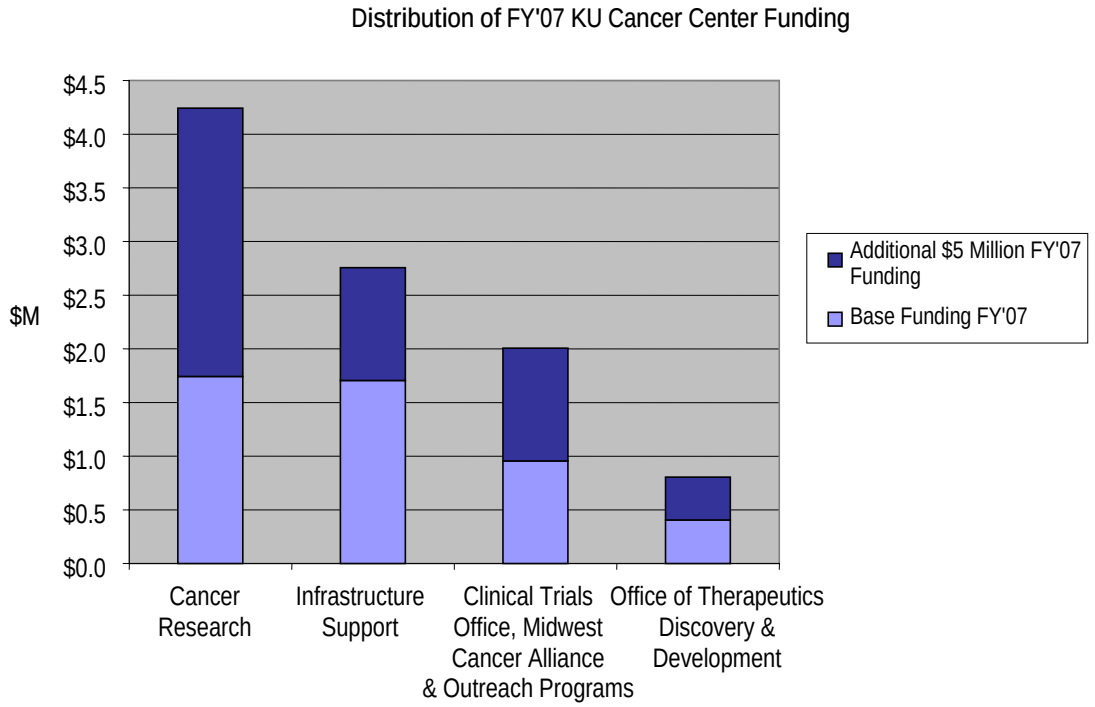
How is the KU Cancer Center allocating its total financial resources for FY 2007?

For FY 2007, the KU Cancer Center's total budget is approximately $9.8 million (not including the research grant funding provided by the National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health, and other grant organizations). The KU Cancer Center's budget is allocated across four strategic areas: Cancer Research; Infrastructure Support; Clinical Trials Office, Midwest Cancer Alliance and Outreach Programs; and Office of Therapeutics Discovery & Development.



What will the $5 million support at the KU Cancer Center in FY 2007?

The $5 million appropriation essentially doubles the KU Cancer Center's FY 2007 resources making it possible to accelerate the process of pursuing National Cancer Institute designation. In FY 2007, the $5 million has been allocated across the four strategic areas as illustrated in the below figure and table.



Cancer Research	Support for faculty salaries and start-up packages, research programs, and shared resources.
Infrastructure Support	Support for leadership and administrative staff salaries, advisory boards, and office expenses.
Clinical Trials Office, Midwest Cancer Alliance and Outreach Programs	Support for expanding the clinical trials infrastructure, establishing the foundation for a regional alliance of oncologists and cancer care professionals, and delivering screening, prevention, and cancer education programs throughout the state.
Office of Therapeutics Discovery & Development	Support for the creation of a more streamlined and effective drug discovery and development process.

Does the KU Cancer Center plan to fully utilize the $5 million allocated in FY 2007?

The KU Cancer Center has spent approximately 24 percent of the $5 million as of September 30, 2006, and is on course to fully deploy the state funding by June 30, 2007.