

July 1, 2022 Position Statement of The ARPA-H Georgia Coalition

In March, 2022, Congress [provided](#) \$1 Billion to the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to establish the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA- H) (P.L. 117-103).

Modeled after DARPA, whose headquarters is in the D.C. Region, ARPA-H has three critical missions:

1. *To push the limits of biomedical and health research to diagnose and cure major diseases (including cancer, heart disease, diabetes, Alzheimer's disease, and infectious diseases).*
2. *To ensure that medical breakthroughs are accessible and maximally benefit the American people, especially those who are disproportionately affected by health inequities.*
3. *To work with global partners to solve our global and national health care challenges since disease and pathogens know no geographic boundaries.*

The ARPA-H Georgia Coalition (AGC), was formed in May, 2022, to bring the ARPA-H headquarters to Georgia. The AGC includes: Emory University, Morehouse School of Medicine, Georgia Institute of Technology, Georgia State University, Mercer University School of Medicine, Georgia BIO, Center for Global Health Innovation, Georgia Research Alliance, Task Force for Global Health, Transwestern, Baker Donelson, and Metro Atlanta Chamber.

Georgia is the best location for the nation's first federal agency dedicated to developing breakthrough innovations in health and health equity.

Locating ARPA-H in Georgia provides a unique opportunity for ARPA-H to realize its mandate to address health equity in Georgia and across our Nation. Georgia's significant HBCUs host leading voices on addressing health disparities and access to basic health care.

Morehouse School of Medicine and Emory University's School of Medicine, as Grady Health System's Medical Staff, see and treat the effects of health disparities firsthand and are leaders in health equity research. Similarly, the Schools of Medicine at Mercer University and Augusta University host centers that are national leaders addressing rural health disparities.

ARPA-H would bring economic development and jobs to Georgia.

ARPA-H would bring sophisticated and talented federal health care and biotechnology industry staff and create high paying jobs in Georgia.

Based on the AGC's initial estimate, ARPA-H could bring hundreds of direct and indirect jobs to Georgia. As a comparison, according to USA Spending,¹ an estimated \$449 Million was spent on DARPA contracts performed by companies near its headquarters in 2021.

Georgia's world class universities, medical schools, schools of engineering, and its dynamic commercial technology sector are at the forefront of addressing public health crises. Together with the CDC and NGOs, such as The Carter Center, these institutions have played, and continue to play, a pivotal role in combating polio, smallpox, multiple pandemics, Ebola, and other major diseases. These experiences provide Georgia with the unique infrastructure to work with ARPA-H to address the public health challenges the country faces today and to support the talent pipeline ARPA-H will need.

HHS Secretary Becerra has acted to place ARPA-H within NIH and has started to staff up the agency with an acting director but has not made any decisions on where the ARPA-H headquarters will be located.

The location of the ARPA-H headquarters will be a decision likely made by Secretary Becerra and/or the White House.

Working with the AGC, Georgia's entire congressional delegation, led by Sen. Raphael Warnock and Rep. Buddy Carter, signed a [letter](#) to Sec. Becerra highlighting Georgia's distinct advantages and assets.

We ask that you please join us in our efforts to urge the Biden Administration to place the ARPA-H headquarters in Georgia.

For more information, please visit our website: <https://cghi.org/arpa-h/> or Contact: Leanna Brown, Metro Atlanta Chamber 404.586.8406 lbrown@macoc.com

¹ [USA Spending Estimate](#) includes DARPA as the awarding agency, with the place of performance by the prime contractors in FY2021 in the Washington, D.C. region, including the counties of: Arlington, Fairfax, Howard, Ann Arundel, Prince Georges, Manassas, Alexandria City, Montgomery, Loudon, and the District of Columbia. This data does not include classified contracts, which are likely significant.