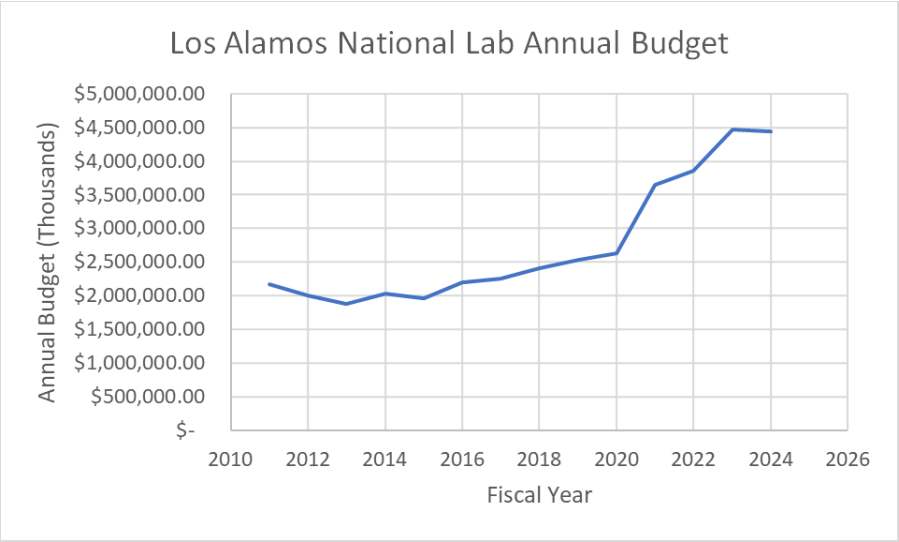




Senator Heinrich’s Support for Los Alamos National Laboratory

Increasing Appropriations

As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, and past member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, U.S. Senator Martin Heinrich (D-N.M.) has consistently advocated to increase funding for Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL). His efforts have been hugely successful. LANL’s budget has more than doubled since 2013, going from [\\$1.88 billion in FY2013](#) to [over \\$4.47 billion in FY2023](#) – an increase of nearly 140%. See chart below.



In addition to increases to LANL’s operating budget, Heinrich has worked to secure funding for construction at LANL. In 2015, [Heinrich secured \\$255.19M for six construction projects to expand capacity at LANL](#). This included \$25 million for TA-3 substation replacement; \$18.2 million for TA-55 reinvestment project III; \$3.9 million for TA-55 reinvestment project II; \$11.53 million for the radioactive liquid waste treatment facility; \$40.95 million for the transuranic liquid waste facility; and \$155.61 million for to replace the Lab’s Chemistry and Metallurgy Research building.

In [2018](#), [2019](#), and [2020](#), Heinrich secured hundreds of millions more for construction to replace the outdated Chemistry and Metallurgy Research building at LANL, complete fire suppression and protection upgrades, conduct power and communication improvements, and improve transuranic liquid waste handling.

Growing LANL's Workforce

Heinrich has worked tirelessly to grow the number of employees at LANL, while also ensuring that all New Mexicans can benefit from the opportunities that come from LANL's operation in New Mexico. His efforts have been [highly successful](#).

LANL's employment has doubled since 2013, going from [7,495 career employees](#) to [a record 15,932 employees who earned \\$1.8 billion in salaries in 2023](#), cementing LANL as [one of the largest employers in the state](#) and a major economic driver in the region.

In addition to his work to expand LANL's mission and secure expanded appropriations, Heinrich's advocacy for LANL's workforce and workforce pipeline have also included:

- Working to better align [apprenticeships, training programs](#), and [university coursework](#) with the workforce opportunities at LANL.
- Addressing [workforce transportation needs](#) at LANL.

Expanding Economic Impact

Heinrich has also worked extensively to expand the economic impact of LANL within nearby communities and throughout New Mexico. In [2023](#), LANL had nearly 16,000 employees who earned \$1.8 billion in salaries, and LANL spent over \$930 million with New Mexico businesses and paid \$155 million in New Mexico gross receipts tax. By comparison, in [2016](#), LANL had 10,904 employees who earned over \$970 million in salaries, and LANL spent \$77 million in New Mexico gross receipts tax.

Heinrich's efforts have included:

- Pushing the Department of Energy (DOE) to recognize the critical importance of LANL's subcontracting with local businesses, [including microbusinesses](#), highlighting [how specific contracting requirements help maximize economic opportunities for local workers and businesses](#), and ensuring that contract [pricing benefits for northern New Mexico businesses](#) would be maintained.
- Strengthening the [technology transfer program](#) for LANL, SNL and other NNSA labs, highlighting the [importance of tech transfer to the local economic impact](#) of LANL and SNL, and later celebrating [federal grants](#) to local New Mexico companies that serve as [examples of the potential in tech transfers from LANL](#).

Unwavering Support for LANL's Mission

Heinrich has been a staunch advocate for LANL's mission, bolstering America's national security and scientific research, while also ensuring the safety of LANL workers.

Heinrich's efforts include:

- May 2015 - Heinrich was an original cosponsor of [the America COMPETES Act](#) to reauthorize energy research programs, including those that benefit LANL and SNL. This legislation eventually passed as the [American Innovation and Competitiveness Act](#) (S.3084).

- June 2017 - During a Senate Energy and Natural Resources hearing, Heinrich [secured a commitment](#) from then-Secretary of Energy Rick Perry to maintain LANL's plutonium mission into the future.
- November 2017 - [Udall and Heinrich passed a measure to strengthen the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board \(DNFSB\)](#) in the final FY2018 NDAA. The amendment required the DNFSB members to report to Congress each year about whether the White House's budget request for the board is sufficient to fund the safety reviews the board members believe are necessary to ensure that operations at DOE nuclear weapons sites are kept safe for workers and the community, including at LANL.
- March 2018 - During a Senate Armed Service Committee hearing to review DOE's atomic energy defense programs for FY2019, [Heinrich secured a commitment from Energy Secretary Rick Perry to support maintaining LANL's role as the nation's Center of Excellence for Plutonium Research.](#)
- March 2018 – At a Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee hearing, Heinrich [pressed General John Hyten on meeting the nation's nuclear program needs](#), working to protect LANL's mission.
- June 2018 – In the FY2019 NDAA, Heinrich fought for full funding and reasserted the Senate Armed Service Committee's strong support to [maintain LANL's role as the nation's Center of Excellence for Plutonium Research.](#) It also authorized \$361 million—an increase of \$150 million over fiscal year 2018—for LANL's plutonium research and pit production. The increased funding support personnel, equipment and other activities in PF-4 to meet pit production requirements by 2026. The bill authorizes an additional \$235 million for construction related to replacing the outdated Chemistry and Metallurgy Research (CMR) building at LANL.
- May 2018 – Heinrich [pushed back against then-President Trump's efforts](#) to scale back LANL's mission.
- May 2019 – In the FY2020 NDAA, [Heinrich fought for full funding and reasserted LANL's role as the nation's Center of Excellence for Plutonium Research.](#) The bill authorizes \$551 million for LANL's ongoing plutonium research and pit production programs. The funding supports personnel, equipment and other activities at LANL to meet pit production requirements by 2026; highlights include \$232 million for plutonium operations and \$21 million to support pit production.
- June 2019 – In the FY20 NDAA, [Heinrich successfully passed an amendment with unanimous support to permanently remove the overhead burden on NNSA labs](#) for Laboratory Directed Research and Development (LDRD) that double-taxed Sandia National Laboratories and Los Alamos National Laboratory. LDRD is a strategic research and development program that is critical to maintaining the scientific vitality of the national laboratories. In 2016, Congress suspended the overhead burden on the labs' LDRD for three years. Senator Heinrich's FY20 amendment permanently eliminates it for all NNSA nuclear laboratories and facilities.
- October 2019 - Heinrich [announced that the entire Senate unanimously passed a resolution](#) designating October 30, 2019, as National Day of Remembrance for workers who helped develop and support the nation's nuclear weapons program.

- May 2021 – Heinrich sent a [bipartisan letter](#) to Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) and Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) pushing for the Endless Frontier Act be modified to elevate the role of the Department of Energy and National Laboratories in strengthening American leadership and competitiveness in science, technology, and innovation. A modified version of the Endless Frontier Act became law as the [CHIPS and Science Act](#) in August 2022.
- December 2022 – Heinrich secured NDAA authorization of [\\$3.22 billion for LANL](#), up from \$2.3 billion fiscal year 2020. Within NNSA’s funding, Heinrich delivered full funding of \$2.7 billion for modernization of the stockpile. Additionally, Heinrich ensured full funding to cement LANL’s role as the nation’s [Center of Excellence for Plutonium Research](#). The bill authorizes \$1.1 billion for LANL’s ongoing plutonium operations and pit production programs.
- December 2023 – Heinrich supported the FY24 NDAA [which authorized \\$1.79 billion for LANL’s ongoing research and development programs](#). The funding supports personnel, equipment, and other activities at LANL.

Additionally, Heinrich has been a strong supporter of LANL’s Laboratory Directed Research and Development (LDRD) program, which helps LANL solve national security challenges through mission-focused science, technology, and co-engineering. The LDRD program is funded with 5 – 6% of the Lab’s operating budget and provides a competitive internal “free market” for scientists and engineers to pursue cutting-edge research to solve the nation’s most difficult challenges, including advancement of next-generation energy sources, supercomputing simulations of drug-resistant bacteria, and advances in artificial intelligence. LANL’s LDRD program has steadily increased from [~\\$120 million in 2016](#) to [over \\$200 million in FY23](#).

Ensuring Environmental Cleanup

Heinrich has been a steadfast advocate for ensuring environmental cleanup, including ensuring inclusion of New Mexico subcontractors in the work, as noted above. His advocacy includes:

- May 2013 – Heinrich, Udall, and Lujan [welcomed the restoration of \\$19M for LANL environmental clean up and advocated for an additional \\$21M in annual appropriations](#).
- May 2015 – Heinrich advocated for and secured authorization for [an increase of \\$20M to \\$208.6M for LANL environmental cleanup](#), which was needed to help resume the safe processing of transuranic (TRU) waste containing nitrate salts.
- June 2016 – Heinrich secured [an authorization increase of \\$10M for LANL environmental clean up](#) in the FY 2017 NDAA.
- December 2020 - [Heinrich secured an increase of \\$100 million above the president’s request for soil and water remediation and removal of legacy radioactive waste at LANL in the FY21 NDAA](#). The president’s FY21 budget had proposed cutting funding for LANL cleanup from \$220 million this year to only \$120 million for FY21.
- March 2020 – Heinrich [opposed then-President Trump’s proposal to cut environmental clean-up at LANL](#), grilling then-DOE Secretary Dan Brouillette on the plan.
- June 2020 – Heinrich secured an authorization [increase of \\$100 million above then President-Trump’s request for soil and water remediation and removal of legacy radioactive waste](#) at LANL.
- December 2023 – [Heinrich secured \\$276 million for environmental cleanup efforts at Los Alamos and Sandia National Laboratories in the FY 2024 NDAA](#).