

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital announces historic, \$11.5B stage of expansion, including 1,400 additional jobs

Apr 27, 2021, 10:00am CDT



PETER BARTA | ST. JUDE CHILDREN'S RESEARCH HOSPITAL
St. Jude Children's Research Hospital's Memphis campus

Construction cranes are a ubiquitous sight over the Memphis campus of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital — illustrating a multibillion-dollar expansion.

Today, April 27, St. Jude announced the next stage of expansion for the hospital: a commitment over the next six years to invest \$11.5 billion, including \$1.9 billion in new construction, and the addition of 1,400 jobs.

The hospital is calling the investment the largest strategic expansion in its six-decade history. In 2015, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and ALSAC announced a six-year, \$7 billion expansion of the hospital, then its largest-ever expansion.

The latest strategic plan covers fiscal years 2022–27 and will expand patient care as well as clinical and laboratory-based research for pediatric catastrophic diseases. Patient care and research will include work on cancer, blood disorders, and neurological and infectious diseases, among others.

“The plan is ambitious, and its goals are far-reaching,” Dr. [James Downing](#), St. Jude president and CEO, said in a release. “We’re committing substantial resources to broaden scientific understanding, raise survival rates, improve quality of life, and connect researchers worldwide in the quest to find cures and save children with cancer and other deadly diseases.”

Expansion booster

The \$7 billion expansion covering 2015 to this year has had tangible results, both in advancing St. Jude's mission and impacting Memphis' economy.

Notably, the \$412 million Advanced Research Center (ARC) building is now nearing completion on campus, a key component for expanding research and care globally for St. Jude. ARC has been a boon for local design and construction firms, as well as MWBE companies. Memphis-based The Crump Firm is the architect on the project, and Flintco LLC is the general contractor.

The ARC project has required thousands of construction workers and more than 100 vendors. And, as of 2020, more than \$60 million of the project had been awarded to MWBE companies, representing more a quarter of the building spend.

Additionally, St. Jude increased faculty by 30%, staff by 23%, and new cancer patients cared for by 20% since 2015.

The latest, groundbreaking \$11.5 billion expansion looks to build on that prior extension of St. Jude beyond Memphis.

Highlights of the 2022–27 strategic plan include:

- Hire close to 70 new St. Jude faculty members and additional laboratory support staff with a goal to explore “conceptually driven” research for clinical advancements.

- Invest more than \$250 million in cutting-edge technologies and resources, including creating a Cyro-Electron Tomography Center and establishing a Center of Excellence in Advance Microscopy. Additional data science staff and digital infrastructure will be added, too.
- Invest \$3.7 billion on cancer-focused research and related clinical care, based on increasing survival for children with the highest-risk cancers and those with relapsed diseases. This initiative will include accelerating new therapeutic agents and creating a Translational Immunology and Immunotherapy Initiative.
- Invest \$470 million in international efforts — via St. Jude Global and St. Jude Global Alliance — to increase cancer survival in limited-resource countries. The organization will create seven operational hubs staffed by St. Jude to manage the Global Alliance’s network of 140 institutions in more than 50 countries. Its operating budget will increase from \$30 million to \$100 million.
- Address other pediatric catastrophic diseases with a \$1.1 billion commitment focused on non-malignant diseases, including sickle cell disease. The commitment will involve a laboratory-based research program for infectious disease, and a research and clinical program for pediatric neurological diseases.
- Foster clinical and research advancements by investing in staff: a \$100 million investment in St. Jude Research Collaboratives to go from five to 11 teams; and \$180 million to expand the St. Jude blue-sky process, which encourages outside-the-strategic-plan ideas.
- Complete \$1.3 billion in new construction and renovations, including The Domino’s Village; Family Commons; the Advanced Research Center; and outpatient, clinical office and administrative buildings, and parking garages.

The bulk of the capital for the latest ambitious expansion will come from the private fundraising and donor contributions to ALSAC — the fundraising and awareness organization for St. Jude. ALSAC raises more than a billion dollars annually to sustain St. Jude and its research and care mission.

“We are making our biggest financial investment ever — during a pandemic — because the public, our donors, have demonstrated their commitment to us,” [Richard Shadyac Jr.](#), ALSAC president and CEO, said in the release. “It’s an incredible display of loyalty and purpose, and the power of people coming together to help the most vulnerable in our society: sick children.”



Jason Bolton
Data Editor
Memphis Business Journal