

RFCUNY Wednesday Brown Bag Research Webinar
September 10, 2025, 12 noon – 1:30 pm

Navigating the Current Federal Research Funding Landscape

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Agenda

Introduction-John Tsapogas

Executive Orders and Policy Shifts on Federal Research Funding-Rosemarie Wesson

Impact of Recent Federal Cuts to the CUNY Research Environment-Rosemarie Wesson

Latest Developments on Indirect Costs-John Tsapogas and Kondomar Maldonado

FY 2026 R&D Appropriations - Presidents Funding by Federal Agency-John Tsapogas

Litigation on Executive Orders Affecting Academia-Kondomar Maldonado

Stop Work Order (SWO) Protocol on CUNY Awards-Kondomar Maldonado

Advice and Guidance if Your Grant is Eliminated-John Tsapogas

Advice and Guidance if Your Funding Source is Eliminated

Links, Tools, and Resources on Changes in Federal Research Funding-John Tsapogas

Executive Orders and Policy Shifts on Federal Research Funding

1. Targeted Funding Freezes and Terminations

- Frozen or terminated billions of dollars in federal research funding to universities.
- University Programs related to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI), and Civil Rights were a primary target of this policy shift.
- Using these funding freezes as leverage to force universities to agree to specific policy changes.

2. Executive Orders and Regulatory Changes

- A core element of the administration's policy is to dismantle DEI and gender ideology initiatives, and support for foreign aid.
- Appoint senior political appointees at each agency to review and approve grant solicitations Injecting political oversight into funding decisions
- Make peer review is advisory, allowing political appointees to override merit-based, peer-reviews.
- Restructuring the Department of Education
- Foreign Influence and Transparency
- Capping indirect costs on grants favors institutions with lower indirect cost rates.

3. The Impact on Universities and Research

- Significant Financial Strain: Universities that depend on federal grants, causing serious budgeting problems.
- "Brain Drain": Scientific talent, as researchers and students face instability and a lack of funding for their projects. Some researchers moving to other countries.
- Legal and Institutional Challenges: Universities are navigating a complex legal and political environment.

Impact of Recent Federal Cuts to the CUNY Research Environment

Stop Work Orders (SWO)	Reason Cited in SWOs	Active SWOs (\$)
Active SWOs: 63	Not Specified: 60	Budget Amount: \$39,202,540
Rescinded: 26	Federal Bureaucracy: 13	Total Expenditures: \$18,674,651
Award Not Established: 5	DEI: 10	Budget Amount At Risk: \$20,527,889
Received: 94	Foreign Aid Cuts: 8	
	Gender Ideology: 3	

Most Importantly, Keep Applying for Grants!

There are many opportunities and many programs that are still active.

Impact of Recent Federal Cuts to the CUNY Research Environment

Federal CUNY Grant Terminations

College	Active	Rescinded	Awards Not Started	Total
The CITY COLLEGE of NEW YORK	7	6	0	13
JOHN JAY COLLEGE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE	10	1	0	11
HUNTER COLLEGE	5	6	0	11
The GRADUATE CENTER	8	0	0	8
QUEENS COLLEGE	4	2	2	8
LEHMAN COLLEGE	3	3	1	7
LAGUARDIA C. C.	6	0	0	6
CUNY SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH	3	2	0	5
NYC COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY	4	0	0	4
BROOKLYN COLLEGE	1	2	0	3
BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN C. C.	2	1	0	3
MEDGAR EVERS COLLEGE	2	1	0	3
COLLEGE OF STATEN ISLAND	2	0	1	3
YORK COLLEGE	1	0	1	2
KINGSBOROUGH C. C.	1	1	0	2
QUEENSBOROUGH C. C.	1	1	0	2
BARUCH COLLEGE	1	0	0	1
OFFICE OF EXEC VC & UNIVERSITY PROVOST	1	0	0	1
HOSTOS C. C.	1	0	0	1
TOTAL	63	26	5	94

Impact of Recent Federal Cuts to the CUNY Research Environment

Federal CUNY Grant Terminations By Sponsor

Sponsor	Active	Rescinded	Awards Not Started	Total
National Institutes of Health	2	16	0	18
National Science Foundation	17	1	0	18
National Endowment for the Humanities	9	0	4	13
US Dept of State	3	1	0	4
National Aeronautics and Space Administration	0	4	0	4
National Endowment for the Arts	4	0	0	4
Institute of Museum and Library Services	0	2	0	2
US Department of Interior – Fish and Wildlife Service	2	0	0	2
Environmental Protection Agency	2	0	0	2
US Dept of Agriculture	0	0	1	1
US Department of Justice	1	0	0	1
US Department of Education	1	0	0	1
Social Security Administration	1	0	0	1
Department of Transportation	1	0	0	1
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	1	0	0	1
Department of Homeland Security	1	0	0	1
Other (mostly pass through)	18	2	0	20
TOTAL	63	26	5	94

Latest Developments on Indirect Costs

Overview of Current State

- Between February and June of 2025, four federal research agencies [the [National Institutes of Health](#), the [Department of Energy](#), the [National Science Foundation](#), and the [Department of Defense \(PDF\)](#)] implemented an immediate indirect cost rate cap of 15% for federal grants.
- These policies disregarded the existing system of negotiated rates between academic institutions and the federal government, on which grantee institutions relied.
- Litigation immediately halted implementation of all four of these harmful policies, none of which are currently in effect.
- In April, the Joint Associations Group (JAG) on Indirect Costs, a collaborative effort of national organizations, was formed to develop a new model to account for and fund the full costs of research.

Latest Developments on Indirect Costs

New Proposed Model For Indirect Cost Reimbursements

Financial Accountability in Research (FAIR) Model

Component 1: Research Performance Costs (RPC): Formerly known as “direct costs,” RPC represents costs that reflect project-specific research activities.

Component 2: Essential Research Performance Support (ERPS): Formerly within the “indirect costs” category, ERPS represents costs that are necessary for carrying out research and that can be linked explicitly to a given project. They consist of four elements:

- Regulatory Compliance (RC), (e.g. human and animal subject protections, biosafety, radiation safety, clinical trial monitoring, system security plans and project-specific research security policies, and other related regulations).
- Award Monitoring, Oversight and Reporting (AMOR), (e.g. project-specific costs related to administrative, financial, and performance management of federal awards).
- Research Information Services (RIS), (e.g. journal subscriptions, database access, institutional repositories, and related resources).
- Essential Research Performance Facilities (ERPF), which are project-specific costs for research space, including utilities, maintenance, operations, building depreciation, leases, and other facility expenses directly supporting research activity.

Component 3: General Research Operations (GRO): Formerly within the “indirect costs” category, GRO represents institution-wide infrastructure and services that are necessary to conduct research and support every sponsored research project but are impractical to allocate to a given project (e.g. human resources such as onboarding, payroll, and benefits; procurement; and general services) GRO is the residual of “indirect costs” that remain after the items shown above have been moved to the ERPS category.

Latest Developments on Indirect Costs

FAIR Model

1. **Eliminates Facilities and Administration (F&A) terminology**
2. **Eliminates the F&A Cost Negotiated Rate Process**
3. **Moves All Costs Into Direct Funding Categories**
4. **Will Apply to All Types of Institutions**
5. **Accommodates Geographic Cost Differentials**
6. **Will Require Additional Accounting Structures**
7. **Has 2 Accounting Options (Base Option and Expanded Option)**
8. **Institutions Are Allowed Flexibility on Which Option Can be Used**
9. **Will Require Changes to the OMB Guidance**
10. **Will Take 2 Years to Implement**

Latest Developments on Indirect Costs

FAIR Model Options

Detailed Option – Example Project Budget

Research Performance Costs (RPC)	
Senior Key Personnel (e.g., PIs)	\$\$
Other Personnel (e.g., grad students)	\$\$
Supplies	\$\$
Publication costs	\$\$
Etc...	\$\$
Essential Research Performance Support (ERPS)	
<i>Regulatory Compliance (RC)</i>	\$\$
<i>Award Monitoring, Oversight, and Reporting (AMOR)</i>	\$\$
<i>Essential Research Performance Facilities (ERPF) (% of budget)</i>	%
<i>Research Information Services (RIS)</i>	\$\$
General Research Operations (GRO) (% of budget)	15%

Project-specific costs to actually perform the research

Project-specific costs needed to support performance of the research

Items that **cannot** easily be assigned to a given project but apply to all

Simple Option

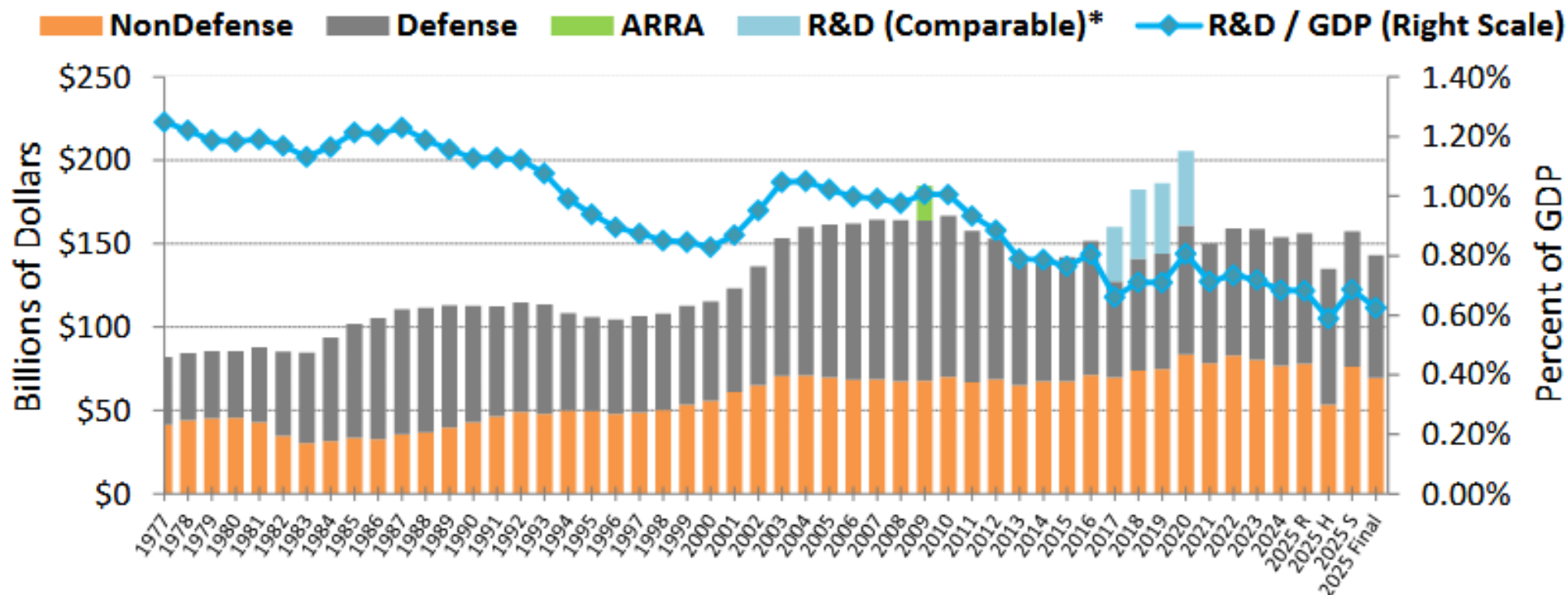
Available for all institutions and especially attractive for those with insufficient administrative resources, or lacking the type of research appropriate for, the Expanded Option

Research Performance Costs (RPC)	
Senior Key Personnel (e.g., PIs)	\$\$
Other Personnel (e.g., grad students)	\$\$
Supplies	\$\$
Publication costs	\$\$
Etc...	\$\$
Essential Research Performance Support (ERPS)	
<i>Regulatory Costs (RC)</i>	\$\$
<i>Award Monitoring, Oversight, and Reporting (AMOR)</i>	\$\$
<i>Essential Research Performance Facilities (ERPF) (% of budget)</i>	%
<i>Research Information Services (RIS)</i>	\$\$
General Research Operations (GRO) (% of budget)	15%

10% of total Budget

Figure 1: Federal R&D Budget Authority

Constant 2017 Dollars



In FY 2017-2020 late-stage development, testing, evaluation, and support, mostly in DOD, is no longer counted as R&D. The "comparable" series adds this funding back in for illustrative purposes. Based on OMB, agency, CBO, and appropriations data. House and Senate figures are estimates. | AAAS 2025

FY 2026 R&D Appropriations - Presidents Funding by Federal Agency

NIH Proposed FY 2026 Budget
Shown in millions of US Dollars

Proposed New Institutes	2025	2026 PBR	% Change
Cancer	7,224	4,531	-37%
Body Systems Research	7,229	4,152	-43%
Neuroscience and Brain Research	4,107	2,445	-40%
Allergy and Infectious Diseases	6,562	4,175	-36%
General Medicine	5,774	3,677	-36%
Disability Related Research	2,293	1,414	-38%
Aging	4,425	2,687	-39%
Behavioral Health	4,532	2,785	-39%
Nursing Research	198	-	-100%
Complementary and Int Health	170	-	-100%
Minority Health / Disparities	534	-	-100%
Fogarty International Center	95	-	-100%
ARPA-Health	1,500	945	-37%
Environmental Health Sciences	997	728	-27%

NSF Proposed FY 2026 Budget
Shown in millions of US Dollars

Program	2025	2026 PBR	% Change
Research and Related Activities	8,349	3,276	-61%
Biological Sciences	790	225	-72%
Computer and Information Science and Engineering	989	346	-65%
STEM Education	1,172	288	-75%
Engineering	741	185	-75%
Geosciences	1,577	874	-45%
Mathematical and Physical Sciences	1,554	515	-67%
Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences	290	94	-68%
Technology, Innovation, & Partnerships	618	350	-43%
Major Research Equipment and Facilities Construction	234	251	7%
Agency Operations and Award Management	448	355	-21%
Office of the Inspector General	24	18	-26%
National Science Board	5	3	-41%

FY 2026 R&D Appropriations - Presidents Funding by Federal Agency Continued

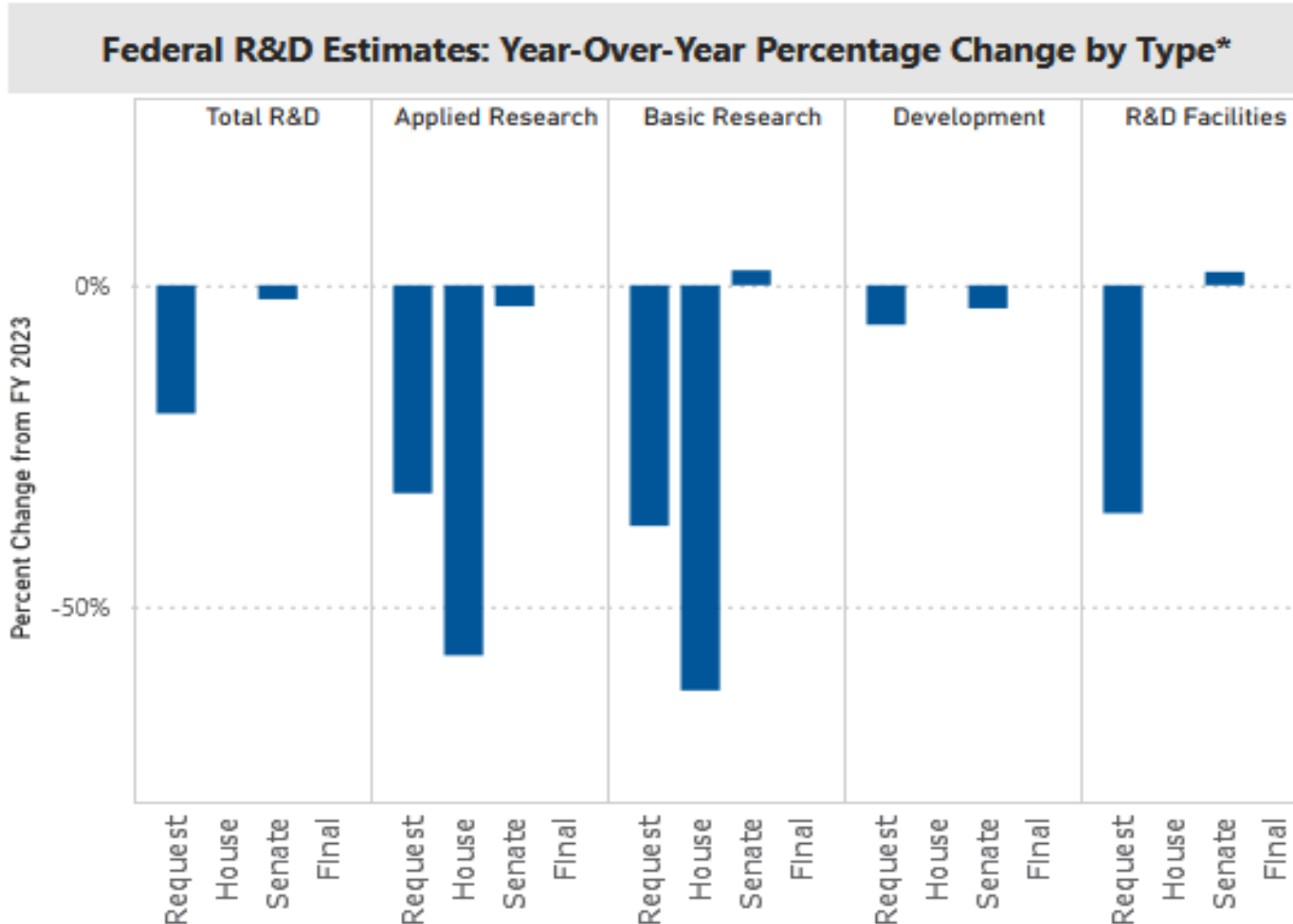
EPA Proposed FY 2026 Budget
Shown in millions of US Dollars

Program	2025	2026 PBR	% Change
Total	9,102	4,200	-54%
Science & Technology	756	501	-34%
Environmental Programs and Management	3,195	2,482	-22%
Buildings and Facilities	41	35	-14%
STAG	4,419	745	-83%
Superfund Trust	538	283	-47%
LUST	89	48	-46%
OIL	21	16	-23%

Defense Proposed FY 2026 Budget
Shown in millions of US Dollars

Program	2025	2026 PBR	% Change
RDT&E Army	11,762	14,549	24%
RDT&E Navy	18,732	25,708	37%
RDT&E Air Force	20,409	52,017	155%
RDT&E Space Force	10,894	15,486	42%
RDT&E Defense Wide	21,036	33,922	61%
Operational Test and Evaluation	349	318	-9%
Defense Health - R&D	1,695	1,047	-38%
Chemical Agents and Munitions Destruction	755	213	-72%

FY 2026 R&D Appropriations - Presidential Budget Request Continued



Litigation on Executive Orders Affecting Academia

As of August 30, 2025, there have been approximately **180 Executive Orders** and hundreds of lawsuits have been filed against all the Executive Orders.

There are 41 Executive Orders that directly affect **academic institutions** and they fall into the following four categories:

1. **AGENCY CUTS-8 LAWSUITS (5-PENDING, 3-COURT LEFT IN EFFECT)**
2. **DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION-7 LAWSUITS (3 PARTIALLY OR FULLY BLOCKED, 3 COURT LEFT IN EFFECT, 1 PENDING)**
3. **EDUCATION-5 LAWSUITS (2 PARTIALLY OR FULLY BLOCKED, 2 COURT LEFT IN EFFECT, 1 PENDING)**
4. **FEDERAL FUNDING-21 LAWSUITS (14 PARTIALLY OR FULLY BLOCKED, 1 COURT LEFT IN EFFECT, 6 PENDING)**

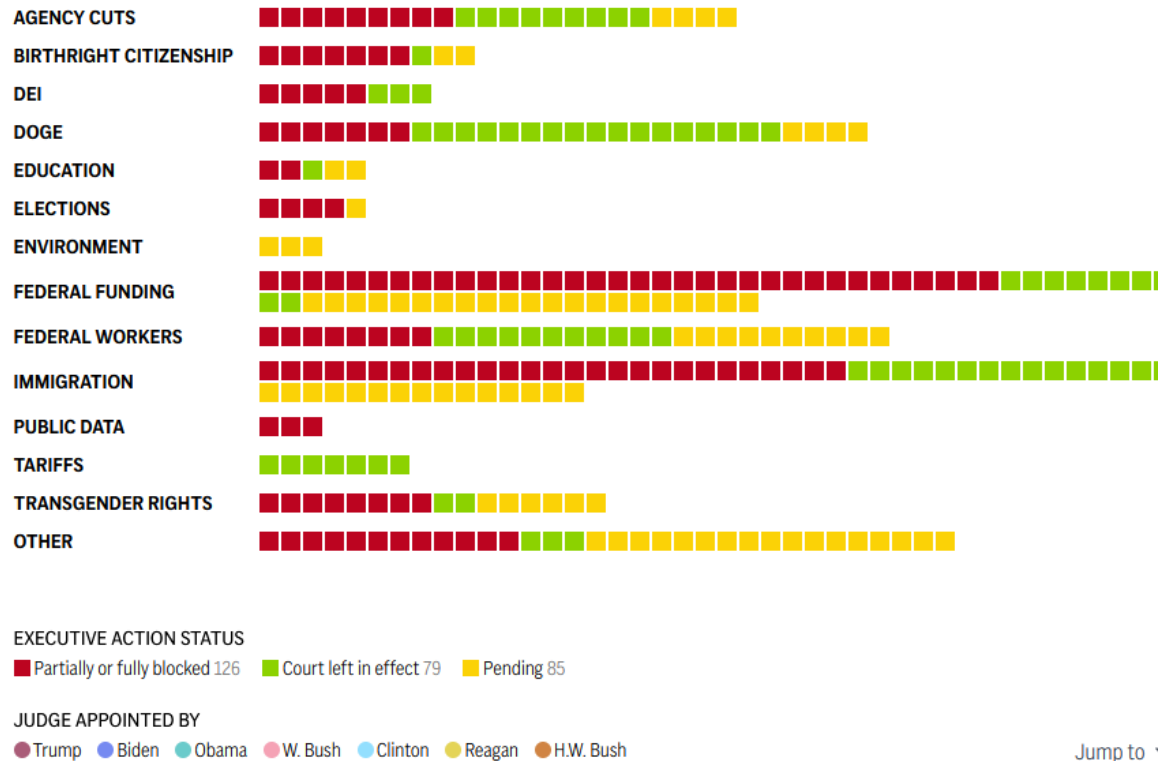
SOURCE: <https://apnews.com/projects/trump-executive-order-lawsuit-tracker/>



Tracking the lawsuits against the Trump administration

Last updated Sep 3, 2025, 4:10 PM

Hundreds of lawsuits have been filed during President Donald Trump's second administration. The suits challenge his executive orders as well as actions taken by his administration, including Elon Musk's Department of Government Efficiency or DOGE. The courts have agreed to block the president in a number of cases, and the administration is seeking appeals as well.



SOURCE: <https://apnews.com/projects/trump-executive-order-lawsuit-tracker/>



Case Status Summary

Case Closed in Favor of Plaintiff: 0

Blocked: 26

Temporarily Blocked: 79

Blocked Pending Appeal: 20

Temporarily Blocked in Part; Temporary Block Denied in Part: 10

Temporary Block Denied: 39

Not Blocked Pending Appeal: 33

Awaiting Court Ruling: 148

Case Closed: 22

Misc: Transferred: 2

Case Closed/Dismissed in Favor of Government: 7

What's included in our tracker?

- **Note-1:** We do not track cases in which the Trump administration is the plaintiff/files a civil lawsuit. Some other organizations include those cases in their litigation trackers – ours tracks only challenges to Trump administration executive actions.
- **Note-2:** We do not count appeals as separate cases. (The appeal of a district court decision to a Court of Appeals and/or Supreme Court is part of the same case.)
- **Note-3:** We treat as [one case](#) all the lawsuits involving the removal of F-1 foreign student visa registration. According to [Politico](#), there were “more than 100 lawsuits and 50 restraining orders from dozens of federal judges,” before the government [reversed](#) its decision and restored the F-1 registrations on or about Apr. 25, 2025.

Search:

Case Status



Issue



Executive Action



SOURCE: <https://www.justsecurity.org/107087/tracker-litigation-legal-challenges-trump-administration/>

Litigation on Executive Orders Affecting Academia

Hundreds of lawsuits have been filed during President Donald Trump’s second administration.

AGENCY CUTS & FUNDING FREEZE

Legal Case	Docket Link	Date of Latest Action	Current Status	Notes
National Council of Nonprofits v. Office of Management and Budget	Docket >	5/13/2025	Judge Issued Stay	Case Stayed pending appeal of the court’s preliminary injunction.
New York v. Trump	Docket >	9/2/2025	Blocked, Pending Appeal	CASE calendared: November 18, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. in Boston, MA
State of Colorado v. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services	Docket >	8/15/2025	Awaiting Motion to Respond	NY is one of the states included with Plaintiff; Injunction granted on 5/16/25 is limited to funding for Plaintiff States, including their local health jurisdictions and any bona fide fiscal agents of Plaintiff States or their local health jurisdictions.
American Public Health Association v. National Institutes of Health	Docket >	6/23/2025	Partial Final Order	NIH directives from February through May were found to be unlawful and in violation of 5 USC 706 2A.

Litigation on Executive Orders Affecting Academia

Hundreds of lawsuits have been filed during President Donald Trump’s second administration.

15% Indirect Cost (IDC) Rate Cap at Agencies

Legal Case	Docket Link	Date of Latest Action	Current Status	Notes
Association of American Medical Colleges v. National Institutes of Health	Docket >	4/8/2025	Appeal	Judge issued a permanent injunction on 4/4/25. Defendant filed an appeal on 4/8.
Commonwealth of Massachusetts v. National Institutes of Health	Docket >	4/8/2025	Appeal	Judge issued a permanent injunction on 4/4/25. Defendant filed an appeal on 4/8.
Association of American Universities v. Department of Health and Human Services	Docket >	4/8/2025	Appeal	Judge issued a permanent injunction on 4/4/25. Defendant filed an appeal on 4/8.
Association of American Universities v. Department of Energy	Docket >	6/15/2025	Prelim Injunction	Judge grants preliminary injunction.
Association of American Universities v. National Science Foundation	Docket >	6/20/2025	Final Order	"The court DECLARES that the NSF’s 15% Indirect Cost Rate and the Policy Notice: Implementation of Standard 15% Indirect Cost Rate, NSF 25-034 are invalid, arbitrary and capricious, and contrary to law."
Association of American Universities v. Department of Defense	Docket >	7/18/2025	Prelim Relief	

STOP WORK ORDER (SWO) PROTOCOL ON CUNY AWARDS

1. SWO should be immediately forwarded to RFCUNY Office of the President and CUNY Office of Research.
2. RFCUNY Director of Grants and Contracts (G&C) and the designated Project Administrator (PA) will review the SWO.
3. RFCUNY (G&C) will forward the SWO directive along with RFCUNY G&C's assessment to RFCUNY Legal Affairs.
4. The SWO directive will be reviewed by RFCUNY Legal Affairs to determine applicability to the terms and conditions of the award.
5. A consolidated RFCUNY G&C and Legal Affairs determination and impact assessment will be presented to the RFCUNY President.
6. College leadership and the Campus GO will also independently review the SWO directive and make their own independent determination of suggested next steps.
7. Within 24 hours a discussion with the College leadership should take place to make a joint determination by RFCUNY and the College. In the event RFCUNY and College determinations are different, RFCUNY will defer to the College President's discretion how they decide to proceed.
8. Once the assessment of a SWO directive is concluded, communication will be sent to the CUNY Office of Research, the College GO, and the project's PI.
9. The RFCUNY President will engage the respective College President to discuss if and how the College plans to continue personnel and other related funding for the project and for what specific performance period.
10. Risk Mitigation Steps will be taken to Comply with SWO Directive after Notification and Agreement with College President.
11. RFCUNY will inform the College GO to continue work with non-award funds as approved by the respective College President, or RFCUNY will inform the College GO to cease work on the award in part or in its entirety, as specified in the SWO directive.
12. RFCUNY will advise the respective College GO on the avoidance of incurring any new costs on the award.
13. RFCUNY will review outstanding obligations, including personnel appointments, contracts, purchase orders, and pending supplier invoices.
14. Cancelling of obligations, to the extent possible, will be done in coordination with GO, PI, and RFCUNY Legal Affairs, Human Resources and Procurement & Payables Departments. Obligations will include personnel appointments, independent contractor agreements, subawards, purchase orders and other commitments.

Should your sponsor communicate unexpected changes/suspension of any approved funding, issue a SWO, or an agency directive to pause specific activities on your grant, please forward the notice to the [CUNY Office of Research](mailto:OfficeofResearch@cuny.edu) (OfficeofResearch@cuny.edu) and [RFCUNY](mailto:PresidentOffice@rfcuny.org) (PresidentOffice@rfcuny.org).

Advice and Guidance if Your Grant is Eliminated

- **Contact Your Sponsored Research Office (SRO) Immediately:** The SRO can provide specific guidance on CUNY's policies and procedures regarding grant terminations.
- **Review the Termination Notice:** Understanding the agency's rationale (e.g., non-compliance, lack of alignment with new agency priorities) is crucial for determining your options.
- **Cease Grant-Related Activities:** As directed by your SRO and the termination notice, you will likely need to stop all activities tied to the grant, especially those that incur new costs.
- **Prepare and Submit All Required Documentation:** Work with your SRO to prepare and submit all necessary closeout reports, final programmatic performance details, and financial documentation. Timely and accurate submission is essential for a smooth closeout process.
- **Assess Your Team and Project:** Apply for CUNY Bridge funding to help you through the crisis.
- **Consider an Appeal, Contact Campus Counsel/OGC:** Reach out to your Campus Counsel/CUNY Office of General Counsel (OGC) to discuss possible grounds for an appeal. Several programs have successfully appealed their terminations. This is a CUNY campus decision.

Advice and Guidance if Your Funding Source is Eliminated

Exploring Alternatives and New Opportunities

- 1. Seek Alternative Funding Sources:** While federal agencies are a major source of funding, they are not the only ones. Diversifying your funding portfolio is a key strategy for long-term stability. Consider the following:
 - **Private Foundations:** Many foundations, like the Spencer Foundation, the MacArthur Foundation, or the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, offer grants that align with specific research areas. **Corporate Partnerships:** Companies often have corporate social responsibility (CSR) programs or dedicated foundations that support research aligned with their business objectives. Look for companies in your field that might benefit from your expertise.
 - **State and Local Government:** Explore funding opportunities at the state or local level. These can be particularly relevant for research with a community or public service focus.
 - **International Funding:** Programs at the European Union are actively seeking to attract and fund researchers whose funding has been cut in other countries. Webinar with EU Science Counselor on September 26. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TJ33NR5>
 - **Intramural Funding:** CUNY internal grant programs (PSC-CUNY, IRG), seed funding, or other institutional resources to support faculty, especially for projects that need preliminary data to apply for larger grants.
- 2. Connect with Your Program Officer:** Reach out to your program officer at the federal agency to discuss the situation. They may be able to offer context on the broader funding shifts and provide guidance on whether similar opportunities are anticipated in the future or available through different programs.
- 3. Tailor Your Research:** Research can be adapted to align with other federal or private funding priorities. Can your project be refocused or re-framed to fit a different grant's criteria? Defense Department? Department of Homeland security?

Links, Tools, and Resources on Changes in Federal Research Funding

[RFCUNY Award Pre-Proposal Support Website](#)

[CUNY Office of Research Website](#)

[CUNY Updates on Federal Funding](#)

[COGR 2025 Administration Transition Information & Resources](#)

[AAAS FY 2026 R&D Appropriations Dashboard](#)

[Resources on APLU, AAU, & ACE Legal Action Contesting Cuts to F&A Reimbursement Rates](#)

[RFCUNY Webpage to Help Faculty Navigate the Changing Federal Grant Funding Landscape](#)

Thank you!