



Timeline of Executive Branch Actions Bearing on Federally Funded Research and Public Health Activities

January 20 – 24, 2025:

- President Trump issues a series of [executive orders](#) (*below*) aimed at reducing federal spending, increasing oversight of federal programs, and meeting other Presidential objectives.
 - [Protecting the American People Against Invasion](#) (Jan. 20, 2025)
 - [Reevaluating and Realigning United States Foreign Aid](#) (Jan. 20, 2025)
 - [Putting America First in International Environmental Agreements](#) (Jan. 20, 2025)
 - [Unleashing American Energy](#) (Jan. 20, 2025)
 - [Ending Radical and Wasteful Government DEI Programs and Preferencing](#) (Jan. 20, 2025)
 - [Defending Women from Gender Ideology Extremism and Restoring Biological Truth to the Federal Government](#) (Jan. 20, 2025)
 - [Enforcing the Hyde Amendment](#) (Jan. 24, 2025)

January 21, 2025:

- Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Acting Secretary Dorothy A. Fink, MD, issues a directive, [Immediate Pause on Issuing Documents and Public Communications](#), in effect through February 1.

January 27, 2025

- OMB issues a [memo](#) directing all federal agencies to pause spending on funding tied to the executive orders (*listed above*), leading to confusion about its scope and implementation. This pause is set to take effect on January 28, 2025, at 5:00 PM EST and requires agencies to submit detailed information to OMB by Feb. 10, 2025, on all projects or activities affected by the pause.

January 28, 2025:

- **Morning:** OMB issued a [52-page document](#) requiring federal agencies to conduct a comprehensive review of all financial assistance programs to identify those implicated by the President's executive orders. Agencies must temporarily pause obligations and disbursements related to programs, including those tied to foreign



aid, NGOs, DEI initiatives, gender-related policies, and environmental programs, while reporting planned disbursements through March 15. Responses are due by February 7, with agencies also required to designate senior political appointees to oversee compliance.

- OMB [clarified](#) that the funding pause applies only to programs directly impacted by specific Executive Orders, excluding programs providing direct benefits to individuals such as Social Security, Medicaid, Medicare, SNAP, student loans, Pell Grants, and Head Start, and urges agencies to consult OMB for guidance on potential exceptions.
- **Afternoon:** A coalition of nonprofits and small businesses files a [lawsuit](#) in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, challenging the legality of the OMB's funding pause.
- 23 Democratic state attorneys general filed a separate federal [lawsuit](#) in Rhode Island challenging the spending freeze.
- **4:45 PM EST:** U.S. District Judge Loren AliKhan issues a temporary restraining order, just minutes before the 5:00 PM deadline, halting the implementation of the funding freeze. The judge schedules a hearing to further assess the legality of the OMB's directive. AliKhan's order will expire Feb. 3 at 5:00 p.m.

January 29, 2025:

- The OMB [rescinds](#) the original January 27 memorandum. However, the administration indicates that the review of federal financial assistance programs will continue, and agencies are advised to await further guidance.
- White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt [tweets](#) that agencies must still identify and pause funding subject to the executive orders, creating further confusion.
- U.S. District Judge John McConnell Jr. indicated he is inclined to block the federal funding freeze, citing concerns that its effects could persist despite the OMB memo being rescinded. He instructed the 23 state attorneys general who sued the Trump administration to draft a restraining order to protect states and organizations relying on federal funds. The Justice Department is required to respond within 24 hours to the proposed order.

January 31, 2025

- Judge John J. McConnell, Jr. [issued a temporary restraining order](#) blocking the Trump administration's efforts to freeze payments for grants and other programs.



The order blocks any suspension of federal dollars to the 22 states that were party to the suit — as well as the District of Columbia.

- A [Notice of Court Order](#) was issued providing guidance on the implications of the above restraining order. The notice states in part: *“Federal agencies cannot pause, freeze, impede, block, cancel, or terminate any awards or obligations on the basis of the OMB Memo, or on the basis of the President’s recently issued Executive Orders... **Agencies may exercise their own authority to pause awards or obligations, provided agencies do so purely based on their own discretion**—not as a result of the OMB Memo or the President’s Executive Orders—and provided the pause complies with all notice and procedural requirements in the award, agreement, or other instrument relating to such a pause.”*

February 3, 2025:

- U.S. District Judge Loren AliKhan extended a temporary [restraining order](#) against the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) plan to freeze federal loans, grants, and other financial assistance. The order will remain in effect while she decides whether to issue a longer preliminary injunction.