

Federal Funding Outlook

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THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

Agriculture, Life &
Veterinary Sciences &
Cooperative Extension

Some key updates

- Temporary Restraining Orders (TROs) remain in place such that researchers can continue to work on federal awards unless they have been issued a project specific stop work order, suspension or termination from the prime sponsor.
- UA has seven terminated awards (five USAID and two from U.S. Department of State).
- Bureau of Land Management has issued four stop work orders, but recently rescinded all of them.
- NASA has issued two stop work orders that are being addressed by UA.
- On March 5, a federal judge issued a nationwide preliminary injunction blocking the NIH policy reducing IDC to 15%. Noted that the plaintiffs have a substantial likelihood of success on the merits.
- On February 26, EO “*Implementing the President’s DOGE Cost Efficiency Initiative*” directed each agency head plus agency’s DOGE team leads to review all existing covered contracts and grants for consistency with Trump administration agenda (must complete within 30 days).

Did you receive a survey request originating from Department of State, Office of Foreign Assistance?

- Federal agencies are distributing questionnaires to institutions and researchers regarding projects with foreign components. These surveys, coming from agencies like CDC, Department of State, USDA, and USAID, have **short response deadlines** and may be sent to either administration or individual PIs.
- The CDC has clarified that their survey only requires responses from partners working outside the United States and its territories. U.S.-based partners working domestically do not need to respond.
- Any responses will come from an institutional official. This situation is still developing, and researchers should forward any emails they receive requesting questionnaires to ADRs.
- You do not need to reply to this survey at this time.

What is the forecast for federal funding under the new administration?

- UA has a contract with **Lewis-Burke Associates** – a leading full service government relations firm specializing in the public policy interests of institutions of higher education and other research organizations.
- They work together with the **UA Federal Relations team**, as well as with individual faculty, to advocate for UA's interests with the federal government, policymakers and national higher ed organizations.
- Lewis-Burke provided UA with a Federal Funding Outlook in late February.

Bottom Line

- There **will be *significant* change**; Focus on the Outcome not the “How”
- There will be **less funding overall**; there will also be major winners/focus areas in S&T
- The federal government traditionally needs **universities as partners** and with respect to its mission(s)
- **Congress is narrowly divided**; many changes require congressional action
- **Must be nimble** but also anticipate Administration actions to create reactions

Trump Executive Orders

Quickest way to focus on campaign promises/priorities

- **Topics have included:**
 - **Immigration** – increased deportations, birthright citizenship, border security
 - **Federal Workforce** – hiring freeze, in-person work, voluntary buyouts, reductions in force
 - **Energy** – new drilling on federal lands; reverse Biden regulations
 - **Climate** – end “Green New Deal” policies
 - **DEI** – ban on programs and requirements across federal government
 - **Gender** – directives that define gender as binary, specific efforts related to the military, medicine
 - **AI** – less focused on equity, env impacts, safety and things that slow down development in “space race”
 - **Antisemitism** – agencies to review complaints and enforcement efforts, deportation link
- **Many EOs are disputed by state Attorneys General, outside groups, etc. – some on hold (TROs)**
- **Federal agencies must adapt quickly, and this creates challenges**
- **MORE TO COME**

Trump Administration Expected R&D Priorities

- R&D investments will focus on **U.S. global competitiveness and national security**
 - Will lead to shift in priorities
 - Continued interest in security of U.S. research and IP
- **Critical and emerging technologies**
 - e.g. artificial intelligence (AI), quantum, advanced computing, advanced communications, advanced manufacturing, and biotechnology, are expected to be emphasized
 - Need future skilled workforce
- Reduced funding for **Climate/Clean Energy**
- Shifting **health priorities** – increased focus on preventative health, alternative therapies, AI and Health, Neuroscience
 - Potential restructuring agencies and pathways for funding
- Intense scrutiny on **DEIA** activities, but continued opportunities for All Americans
- Increased scrutiny on **Facilities and Administration (F&A)**, the indirect costs of research grants

NOTE: ALL IN THE CONTEXT OF REDUCED FEDERAL FUNDING OVERALL

Health and Biomedical Research

- **“Make America Healthy Again”** agenda will drive research priorities
 - Increasing emphasis on addressing chronic disease and combatting chemicals, pollutants, and additives in food and water
 - Shift away from infectious disease research and continued scrutiny on gain-of-function research (pathogen transmissibility)
 - Expect restrictions on fetal tissue research (as in first Trump Administration)
 - Scrutiny of research with focus on DEI, “gender ideology,” and climate change
 - Major bipartisan priorities (e.g., cancer, Alzheimer’s disease, mental health, opioids) will likely continue, in the context of anticipated overall reductions in federal spending
- **Health leadership** with non-traditional backgrounds
 - Robert F. Kennedy Jr. (pick for HHS Secretary): environmental lawyer, anti-vaccine activist
 - Jay Bhattacharya (pick for NIH Director): health economist, author of Great Barrington Declaration
 - Leadership of NCI and ARPA-H uncertain

National Security and Emerging Technologies

- Focus on **American Leadership** and competitiveness across NSF, DOD, DOE
- **Emerging technology** areas including artificial intelligence, quantum, advanced computing, advanced communications, advanced/on-shoring manufacturing, and biotechnology
- **NSF** continued focus on emerging tech and major role in AI initiatives
 - Panchanathan uncertain to stay on, term ends May 2026
 - Technology, Innovation and Partnerships (TIP) directorate may be targeted but has bipartisan support
- **Defense** - Focus on emerging tech research areas will continue
 - Emil Michael Undersecretary for Research and Engineering (tech executive)
 - Expect prioritized funding for advanced technology development, prototyping, and fieldable weapons
 - Likely fewer priorities than current 14 - AI, microelectronics, and advanced computing likely to stay
 - Emerging interest in financial security, crypto, blockchain
 - Increased focus on Space Force, potential new opportunities for partnership and research
- **CHIPS** Money may be targeted, but NatCast (non-profit that operates the National Semiconductor Technology Center) will continue – certain provisions may be cut

Energy Independence

- All-of-the-above energy strategy
- NEW National Energy Council – to coordinate energy policy and the path to U.S. Energy Dominance
- Department of Energy
 - Secretary Wright stated his priorities are Fossil fuels, Advanced nuclear, Fusion, Geothermal, Hydropower, Grid technologies, Critical minerals, Advanced computing, Quantum, and AI

Opportunities	[Expected] Cuts
Office of Science funding prioritized and protected	Applied energy programs, especially renewables
Maintain early-stage programs such as Energy Frontier Research Centers and Bioenergy Research Centers	Flat funding or elimination proposed for ARPA-E and carbon management
Artificial Intelligence – FASST Initiative	Cut new DOE Climate program for rural integrated field labs, other Earth System Science activities
Traditional fossil energy R&D; Nuclear Energy and Fusion	DEI programs – RENEW, FAIR, and PIER plans

Climate and Environment

- **Funding for key agencies is being targeted for cuts and efficiencies, especially agencies with large workforces**
 - NOAA, EPA, USDA
 - Non-authorized advisory committees likely to close
- Priorities likely to return to basic sciences, less on applied and implementation
 - Increased emphasis on industry taking the lead on implementation and operations of government services
 - **Emphasized:** Extreme weather, resilience, geosciences for energy, PFAS and pollutants mitigation, clean materials, critical technologies
 - **De-emphasized:** Environmental justice, climate change, regulations, biodiversity, land conservation, environmental health

Smaller ongoing programs likely to stay, very few new programs initiated

- Following historic investments in climate change and environmental justice, new opportunities likely to slow
 - Most funds for new programs of the last four years came from **Inflation Reduction Act** and **Bipartisan Infrastructure Law**
 - *Administration attempting to rescind unspent funds*

Resources for Federal Funding Updates

- RII page with Federal Funding Updates:
<https://research.arizona.edu/administration/federal-funding-updates>
- Council on Governmental Relations (COGR) – an association of research universities, academic medical centers, and research institutes: <https://www.cogr.edu/2025-administration-transition-information-resources>

UA Bridge Funding Investment Program (BFIP)

(Announced 3-6-25)

- <https://research.arizona.edu/research-development-services/find-funding/internal-funding/bridge-funding-investment-program>
- Focus on Ph.D. students whose support was lost as a result of terminated or delayed grant funding.
- To support faculty with an established track record of extramural funding who are experiencing temporary disruptions in external funding, particularly due to the delays or gaps in funding decisions or other disruptions to active grants.
- Aims to ensure the continuation of research projects with a particular focus on preserving Ph.D. student support.
- Submit through Dean's office to **AZ Cultivate**

New UA Technology and Research Initiative Fund (TRIF) Initiative (announced 3/3/25)

- TRIF derives from AZ state sales tax revenues
- Goal is to support researchers solving challenges that affect AZ
- On 3/3/25, President Garimella announced a new \$20M TRIF investment (via ABOR) in:
 - Space sciences, space technology, and national security
 - Commercialization of nuclear fusion energy
 - AI and machine learning in biomedical discovery
 - Modernizing mining for critical minerals
- Interdisciplinary projects, funding mechanism not yet circulated

Big Idea Challenge (announced 1/10/25)

- Inventivize transdisciplinary, convergent research teams to incubate ideas, generate new insights, and launch transformative, high-impact projects with potential for future external funding.
- Focal areas:
 - Defense and National Security
 - Energy and Environmental Sustainability
 - Future of Health and Biomedical Sciences
 - The Human Experience
 - Space Sciences
 - Data, Information Systems and Artificial Intelligence
- Proposal deadline (3 pager) **March 26, 2025**

Open Discussion

- Questions on information presented?
- ALVSCE faculty and staff experiences with federal funding issues?
- Any other research-related topics?

Chat:

Laura Scaramella to Everyone 2:37 PM

if a grant is flagged to be pulled for funding, would there be any bridge funding because the topic is DEI and they are not likely to get any funding under the current administration.

Ramin Yadegari to Everyone 2:41 PM

What is the UA Washington DC office doing to support the integrity of university's mission and its researchers?

Karletta Chief-UArizona to Everyone 2:42 PM

WEST EJ was frozen but then unfrozen

Don Falk to Everyone 2:42 PM

I second Ramin's question. UA has invested huge resources in those DC connections, and Governmental Relations generally; are we benefitting in any way?

Katie Zeiders to Everyone 2:42 PM

This is the Cruz-led investigation report and spreadsheet (at the bottom of the page) that we were referring to:

<https://www.commerce.senate.gov/2025/2/cruz-led-investigation-uncovers-2-billion-in-woke-dei-grants-at-nsf-releases-full-database>

Chat (cont'd)

Russ Toomey to Everyone 2:44 PM

My grants have not been affected yet but are up for advisory council discussion next week; however, NIH has started to terminate all funded LGBTQ+ related grants (<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-025-00703-1>). They are cancelling these grants as part of the caveat on the NOA that grants are conditional on funding continuing to be available and strategic priorities. Just highlighting another way that they are going to try and terminate funding.

Karletta Chief-UArizona to Everyone 2:45 PM

But some EPA TCTACs were terminated.

Karletta Chief-UArizona to Everyone 2:46 PM

My NSF informal geoscience with tribes was on the woke list but still have funding.

Katie Zeiders 2:50 PM

We are not aware of anything on the NSF list I posted above being terminated or stop ordered at this time.

Dave Moore (he/him) to Everyone 2:54 PM

The general goal is to have a few folks think about the 6month to 1 year outlook on funding and try to put tether teams and connect researchers more generally. I'll try to distribute widely - if you'd like to be on the mailing list please email me at davidjpmoore@arizona.edu with the subject RDS Earth and Environment

Douglas Scott Merrell to Everyone 2:55 PM

<https://azmirror.com/2025/02/21/ua-quietly-drops-diversity-language-from-indigenous-land-statement-amid-dei-rollback/>

Dave Moore (he/him) to Everyone 2:58 PM

For those of you with PostDoc and would like them to gain experience in teaching... this might be program that will interest you <https://academicaffairs.arizona.edu/cirtl>

Mike Staten to Everyone 2:58 PM

Our graduate students' potential in the classroom is underutilized. I think Ken's suggestion is a great idea to consider as a way to backfill lost research funding

Ramin Yadegari to Everyone 3:01 PM

Having audio issues

Dave Moore (he/him) to Everyone 3:01 PM

Thanks again Jon - great to get the updates even if they are difficult truths.

Paul Carini to Everyone 3:01 PM

A monthly meeting is a good idea given the pace of the changes. Thanks for doing this Jon

Alexander Bucksch 3:02 PM

Bye