

Federal Research Funding Update

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THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

Agriculture, Life &
Veterinary Sciences &
Cooperative Extension

Purpose

- Periodic (every ~1-2 months) open meetings to discuss federal funding issues of relevance to CALES and ALVSCE.
- I provide some updates with the intent of open discussion, Q&A, etc. around challenges that faculty are facing in the current funding climate.
- If you have a question about something presented, feel free to ask it, even as we're going through this information.
- There will be time for open discussion as well.
- If we don't have the answer, we will look for it and get back to you.

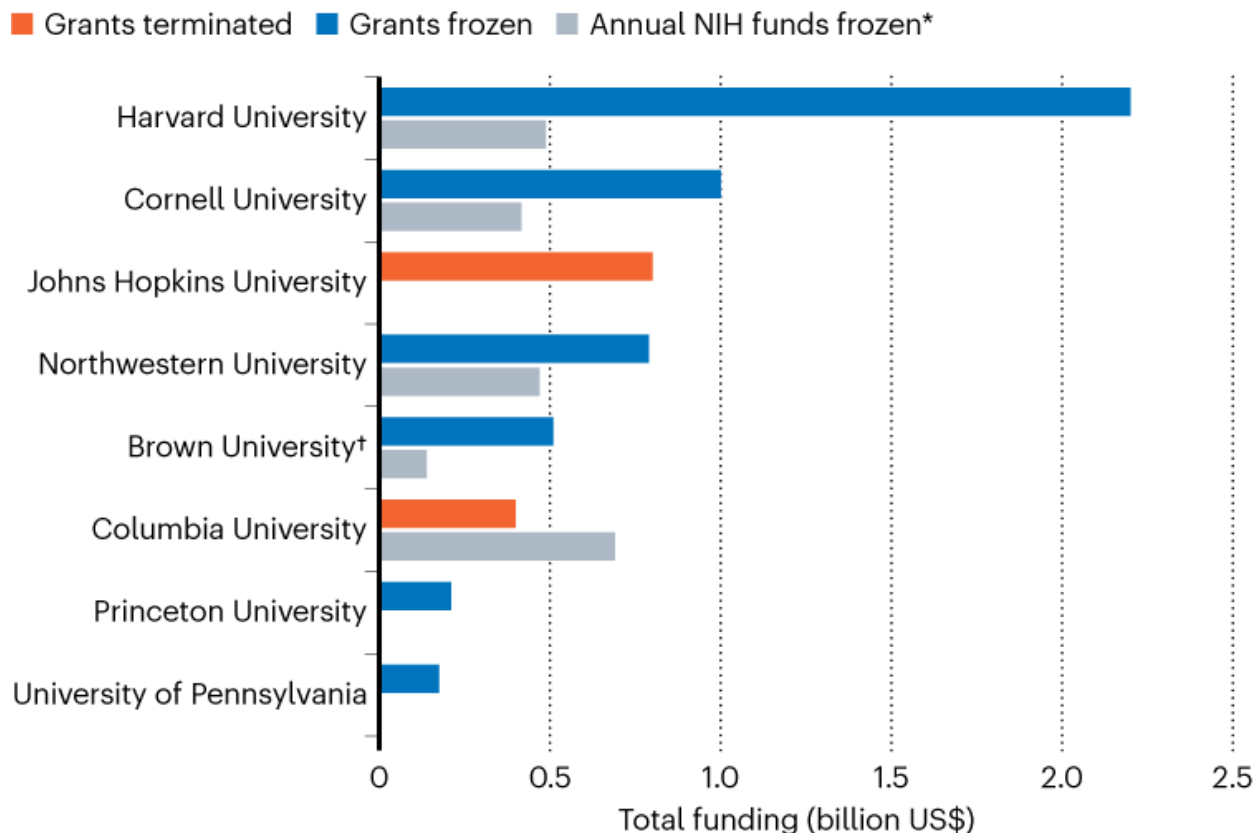


The evolving federal funding landscape

- Recent Executive Orders and changes in funding agency priorities have resulted in terminations and stop work orders.
- Billions of research dollars terminated or frozen at hundreds of universities.
- At UA, to date, 61 awards in total have been terminated or frozen with a loss of \$59.5M in research funding. Lots of delays in awards.
- Agencies clawing back funds from UA include USAID, CDC, NIH, NSF, IMLS, SAMHSA, DoS, ONR, USDA, EPA, DoE, DoEd.
- Foundation and industry support may become increasingly beneficial to research programming in affected areas.

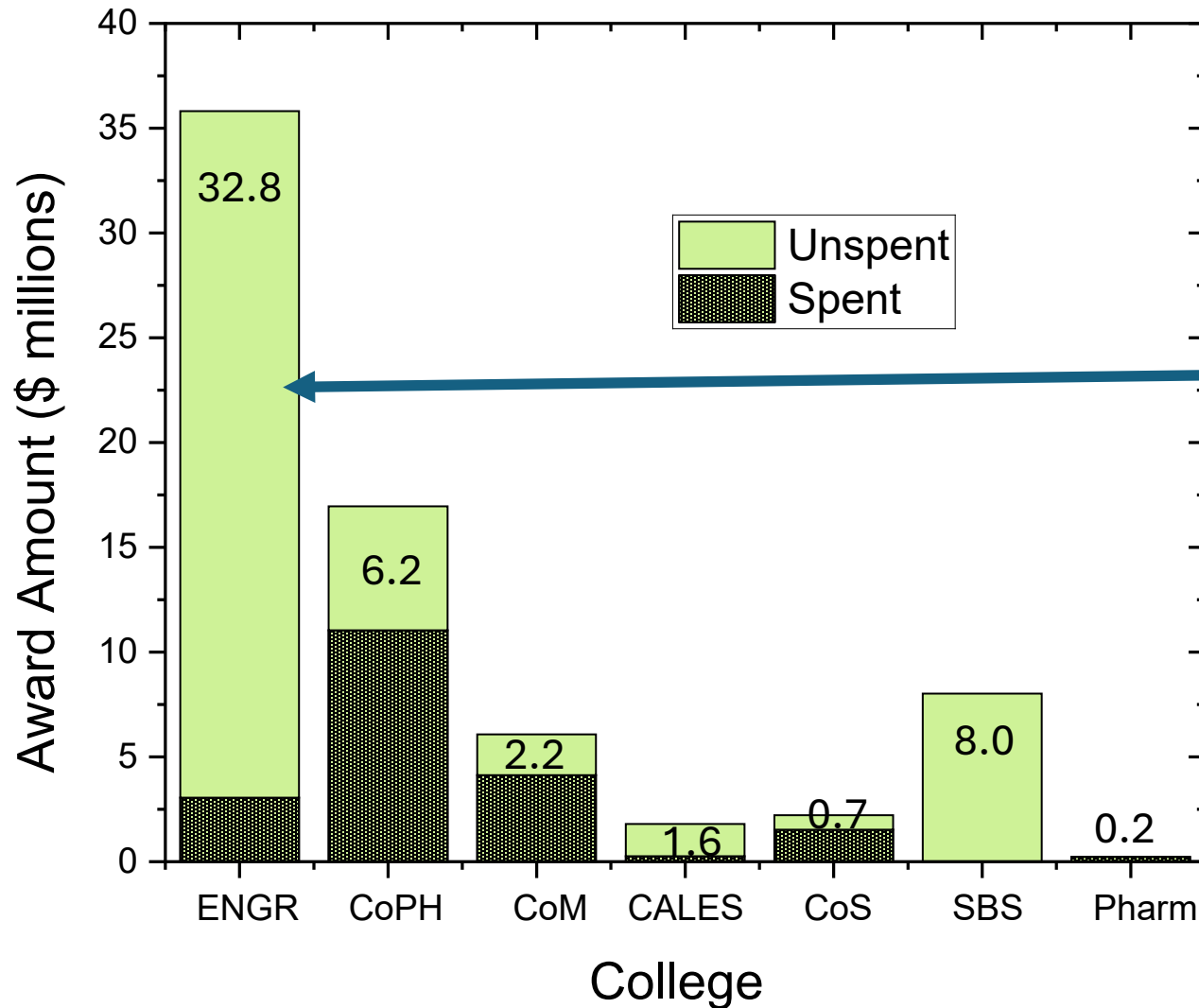
SCIENCE STALLED

The administration of President Donald Trump began its campaign against US universities by terminating funding to Columbia University in New York City and Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland. Since then, administration officials have allegedly frozen US\$4.9 billion in research funds across 6 more institutions. On 17 April, the US National Institutes of Health (NIH) was also directed to stop making any awards to five of the universities.



*Data reflect the amount that each university got from the NIH during the 2024 fiscal year. These amounts probably overlap to some extent with what has already been frozen at these universities. Please note that some amounts represent university systems; for instance, numbers for Cornell University include funds for the main campus in Ithaca, New York, as well as Weill Cornell Medicine in New York City. †Frozen grants have yet to be reported by researchers at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island.

Stop Work or Terminations at UA (*as of today*)



Climate-Smart Agriculture Program of USDA.

\$3B program initiated by Biden Administration.

The “*Partnership for Climate-Smart Commodities*” funded 135 projects (in all 50 states) that encouraged soil health, carbon sequestration, reduced methane emissions and other climate friendly practices.

Included direct funding and material support of farmers.

Suit filed against HHS and NIH on grant terminations

- Filed on 4/17/25 by the following entities:
 - Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC)
 - American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU)
 - American Council on Education (ACE)
 - Association of American Universities (AAU)
 - Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges (AGB)
 - Association of Public and Land Grant Universities (APLU)
 - Council on Governmental Relations (COGR)
 - National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (NAICU).

Suit filed by Harvard University

- On April 21, Harvard sued the Trump Administration over the \$2.2B funding freeze.
- Accused the WH of undertaking an arbitrary and unconstitutional campaign to “punish Harvard for protecting its constitutional rights”.
- The White House was requesting concessions in exchange for return of the funding including:
 - Federal audits of Harvard’s programs
 - Agreements to screen international students for their beliefs
 - Installation of administrators who will ensure the White House’s demands are carried out.
- University accused federal agencies of bypassing legally required procedures to cut off grants without fair legal justification.
- Lawsuit names DoED, DoJ, GSA, DoE, NSF, DoD, NASA, HHS and NIH as defendants.

A Call for Constructive Engagement

April 22, 2025

As leaders of America's colleges, universities, and scholarly societies, we speak with one voice against the unprecedented government overreach and political interference now endangering American higher education. We are open to constructive reform and do not oppose legitimate government oversight. However, we must oppose undue government intrusion in the lives of those who learn, live, and work on our campuses. We will always seek effective and fair financial practices, but we must reject the coercive use of public research funding.

America's system of higher learning is as varied as the goals and dreams of the students it serves. It includes research universities and community colleges; comprehensive universities and liberal arts colleges; public institutions and private ones; freestanding and multi-site campuses. Some institutions are designed for all students, and others are dedicated to serving particular groups. Yet, American institutions of higher learning have in common the essential freedom to determine, on academic grounds, whom to admit and what is taught, how, and by whom. Our colleges and universities share a commitment to serve as centers of open inquiry where, in their pursuit of truth, faculty, students, and staff are free to exchange ideas and opinions across a full range of viewpoints without fear of retribution, censorship, or deportation.

Because of these freedoms, American institutions of higher learning are essential to American prosperity and serve as productive partners with government in promoting the common good. Colleges and universities are engines of opportunity and mobility, anchor institutions that contribute to economic and cultural vitality regionally and in our local communities. They foster creativity and innovation, provide human resources to meet the fast-changing demands of our dynamic workforce, and are themselves major employers. They nurture the scholarly pursuits that ensure America's leadership in research, and many provide healthcare and other essential services. Most fundamentally, America's colleges and universities prepare an educated citizenry to sustain our democracy.

The price of abridging the defining freedoms of American higher education will be paid by our students and our society. On behalf of our current and future students, and all who work at and benefit from our institutions, we call for constructive engagement that improves our institutions and serves our republic. ***Signed by over 400 college and university presidents***

Panchanathan resigned from NSF on April 24

- Two weeks ago, DOGE staffers entered NSF headquarters and began accessing grant databases.
- On April 25, NSF canceled approximately 700 more scientific research projects that had previously been funded.
- This was one week after 400 grants were cancelled by NSF as “wasteful DEI” funding.
- Over 1/3 of these were from the Education Directorate.
- About 80% of the terminated awards overlap with the list of about 3500 grants included in the Cruz report, released in February.
- Last week, an analysis by Democratic staff for the US House of Representatives Committee on Science, Space, and Technology found that the Cruz list contained “*a slew of embarrassing mistakes*” and used flawed methodology.
- NSF had previously cut its graduate research fellowship program awards from about 2,000 to 1,000.

More on NSF

- NSF was directed by DOGE to review all funded grants for any indication that they seek to (return for “mitigation”):
 - Increase diversity in the scientific workforce
 - Foster environmental justice
 - Study the spread of misinformation, malinformation, disinformation on social media sites
- NSF being directed by DOGE to accept a 55% cut to \$9B budget next year (\$4B) and fire half of its 1700-person staff led to Panchanathan’s resignation.

Department of Energy IDC rate

- On April 11, DoE announced it was unilaterally cutting IDC rates to 15% (something NIH was disallowed from doing by permanent injunction).
- On April 16, federal judge in Massachusetts imposed a Temporary Restraining Order on the change in IDC and set a 28 April hearing on the case.

Major European institutes join race to save US science data

As the administration of US President Donald Trump slashes budgets, crucial data sets on climate and other subjects could disappear.

- Several research institutes in Germany are joining a worldwide grass-roots effort to save US science data sets that are in danger of deletion or decommissioning.
- Pangea, a massive environmental data repository run by University of Bremen and Alfred Wegener Institute are working with NOAA and EPA to back up at risk geoscience and toxicological data bases.

All Authors Working on Flagship U.S. Climate Report Are Dismissed

NY Times April 28

The Trump administration told researchers it was “releasing” them from their roles. It puts the future of the assessment, which is required by Congress, in doubt.

- The *National Climate Assessment*, mandated by Congress, has been published every few years since 2000. (Last one was published in 2023)
- Focused on how climate change will affect human health, agriculture, fisheries, water supplies, transportation, energy production and other aspects of U.S. economy in various regions of the U.S.
- Comprises up-to-date mitigation and adaptation measures used by policy makers, businesses, etc.
- This one planned for publication early 2028, involved volunteer researchers from across the US, including here at UA.
- Process overseen by the Global Change Research Program (est. 1990) supported by NASA.

President's Budget Request (PBR) for FY26

- Federal agency budgets are being developed for FY 2026, which starts October 1, 2025. It starts with the President's Budget Request (PBR).
- Currently in the “passback” stage when White House OMB shares its budget proposal with federal departments and agencies.
- Passback proposes the following decreases in funding:
 - 42% for NIH
 - 37% for ARPA-H
 - 44% for CDC
 - 55% for NSF (from \$9B to \$4B)
 - Reorganization of NIH (elimination of some institutes, consolidation of others)
 - IDC to 15% for all federal grants
- PBR is not final budget because Congress accepts or rejects funding levels or policy proposals in the PBR.

Trump Administration Expected R&D Priorities

- R&D investments will focus on **U.S. global competitiveness and national security**
 - 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
- Focus on **Energy Dominance** and unleashing American energy
 - New National Energy Dominance Council
- Reduced funding for **Climate/Clean Energy**, shift towards extreme weather and resilience
 - New NSF program for “Fire Science Innovations through Research and Education”
- 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
 - NIH F&A rate change, could see expansion to additional agencies

NOTE: ALL IN THE CONTEXT OF REDUCED FEDERAL FUNDING OVERALL

Trump Stated R&D Priorities

President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology EO

- “PCAST will restore excellence by bringing together the brightest minds from academia, industry, and government to prioritize measurable results, foster innovation, and dismantle barriers to scientific progress.”
- Plan to build on first Trump Administration initiatives on **AI** and **Quantum** to build frameworks for areas such as:
 - **autonomous driving systems, unmanned aerial systems, and biotechnology**
 - accelerating projects including the **NAIRR, spectrum auctions to advance 5G, and supercomputing systems**

Trump's Letter to OSTP Director Michael Kratsios

- Refers to the “Golden Age of American Innovation” and includes three goals for OSTP:
 - Securing U.S. position as world leader in **critical and emerging tech – AI, Quantum, nuclear technology**
 - Revitalizing America's S&T enterprise by “**reducing administrative burdens**, and empowering researchers” looking at e.g. “**innovative models for funding** and sharing scientific research, **redefining how America conducts the business of discovery.**”
 - Ensuring “scientific progress and technological innovation fuel economic growth and better the lives of **all Americans**”

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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 ADR's (zaidaz@arizona.edu) office to **AZ Cultivate**

Bridge Funding to date

- Bridge Funding Grant Requests Submitted to Date: 27
- Pending: 20
- Declined: None yet, but asked for more information on 5
- Awarded: 7
- Not all have been funded at the level requested.
- Need student to be named (not TBD).
- Need reasonable future funding.
- Materials and supplies cost requests should be minimized to maximize student support.

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) was **March 26, 2025**
- 72 proposals were submitted, 22 teams selected to go to next phase, 12 of which will be selected to pitch their ideas on Monday, May 12, 1-5 pm.

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>

Open Discussion

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