



CONGRESSWOMAN

VERONICA  
ESCOBAR

*Texas' 16th Congressional District*

**Prepared by the House Appropriations Committee-Democratic Staff**

## **Trump and Republicans' Unlawful Power Grab Raises Costs for Families, Endangers Public Safety**

**Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Memo Undermines Congress's Power of the  
Purse, Threatens U.S. National Security, Denies Resources Promised to  
States, Localities, Families, and Businesses**

**President Trump and Republicans are unilaterally stealing investments promised to American families.** President Trump's unlawful executive orders and the new memoranda issued by OMB directing agencies to withhold vast swaths of approved federal funding will hurt hardworking Americans. President Trump and Republicans are pushing an illegal scheme—straight out of Project 2025—that is sowing chaos across states, families, and communities.

**The Constitution is clear that President Trump cannot freeze this funding.** Congress, not the President, has the power of the purse. This action is a lawless attack on our system of checks and balances. If Republicans care about the people they represent and their oath to the Constitution, they should join us to restore this critical funding and stop the Senate confirmation of Russ Vought, Project 2025 author and mastermind of this unlawful freeze.

**By stealing American taxpayer dollars promised to communities across America, President Trump and Republicans are raising costs for working people, weakening national security, abandoning veterans, and jeopardizing public safety and community health.**

These are just some of the grants and programs that will cease to deliver urgently needed resources across our communities:

### **Increases the Cost of Living and Damages the Economy**

President Trump and Republicans are freezing:

- **Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)** nutrition benefits for pregnant, recently pregnant, and breastfeeding women, infants, and children under 5.
- **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program** grants to states and administrative funding. While the Administration claims these funds are exempt from the freeze, SNAP is included among the more than 2,000 financial assistance programs on an OMB list circulated to federal agencies.
- **Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)** providing federal funding to States to support heating assistance in winter and cooling assistance in summer for nearly 7 million low-income households.
- **Title I Grants to States** providing academic support for children in low-income classrooms and impacting an estimated 25 million students.
- **IDEA Special Education** providing academic support for an estimated 7.5 million children with disabilities.
- **Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG)** providing federal funding to states for child care subsidies for low-income families with children under age 13.
- **Head Start and Early Head Start Grants** providing federal funding for preschool services for low-income families with children from birth to age 5. While the Administration claims these funds are exempt from the freeze, Head Start is included among the more than 2,000 financial assistance programs on an OMB list circulated to federal agencies.
- **Adult Job Training grants** providing grants to state workforce development systems to provide adult job seekers with employment services and training.
- Assistance for **Rural Electric Cooperatives and Rural Energy for America Program (REAP)** loans and grants.
- Nearly all **Rural Utilities Service** affordable electricity programs, including the **New ERA** program, **Electric Infrastructure Loan & Loan Guarantee Program**, **Energy Efficiency and Conservation Loan Program**, **Energy Resource Conservation** program, **Rural Energy Savings Program (RESP)**, and the **Powering Affordable Clean Energy (PACE)** program.
- **The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) Reach and Resiliency** grants to expand nutrition benefits into rural, tribal, and low income areas.

- **Home Energy Rebates** programs, funded by the Inflation Reduction Act, putting money directly back in the hands of American households. The rebates can help consumers save money on select home improvement projects that can lower energy bills by providing up to \$14,000 per household in rebates. It is estimated that these programs will save households up to \$1 billion per year on energy bills and support over 50,000 U.S. jobs.
- **Weatherization Assistance Program** that reduces energy costs for low-income households by increasing the energy efficiency of their homes, while ensuring their health and safety. Through weatherization improvements and upgrades, these households save on average \$372 or more every year.
- The Department of Energy's **Loan Programs Office** providing loans and loan guarantees available to help deploy innovative clean energy, advanced transportation, and Tribal energy projects in the United States. Financing available through DOE Loan Programs has supported over 47,000 jobs.
- **Solar Energy Technologies** program that accelerates the advancement and deployment of solar technology. Given the technology advancements for solar, the median U.S. homeowner will save almost \$50,000 over 25 years after installing solar panels.
- **Building Technologies** program conducting research, development, and demonstration activities to accelerate the adoption of technologies and techniques that enable high-performing, affordable buildings that meet Americans' need for resiliency and health while also supporting a reliable energy system. Through technical and financial assistance, the program made thousands of buildings more energy efficient, averting 155 million tons of greenhouse gas emissions and saving more than \$15 billion in energy costs.
- **Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI)** Program-Loans, grants, equity investments, deposits, and credit union shares, will be paused which CDFIs need to meet the demand for affordable financial products in economically distressed communities and contribute to the revitalization of those communities.
- **Small Business Administration (SBA)** Loans and **Disaster Assistance-Halting** SBA loans and disaster assistance will significantly impact small businesses by limiting their access to crucial financial support. This will lead to increased business closures, loss of jobs, and financial instability for affected communities. Additionally, the broader economy will suffer from reduced consumer spending and slower recovery in areas hit by disasters. While the Administration claims these funds are exempt from the freeze, SBA Disaster Assistance Loans are included among the more than 2,000 financial assistance programs on an OMB list circulated to federal agencies.
- FEMA's **Public Assistance** and certain **Individual Assistance** programs are paused including crisis counseling, Other Needs Assistance, disaster unemployment, and case management services.
- The **Indian Health Service**, disrupting health care services to Native Americans and Alaska Natives, endangering their lives.
- **Tenant-based Rental Assistance, Project-based Rental Assistance, Public Housing Fund, Section 202 Housing for the Elderly, Section 811 Housing for Persons with Disabilities, and Homeless Assistance Grants** a time when housing prices are pinching families' budgets, there would be an unprecedented loss of existing affordable housing that would force evictions for millions of low-income and working families from Section 8 and public housing, leaving private landlords without rent payments for months

and causing an unprecedented loss of affordable housing for our elderly, disabled, and veterans across rural, urban and Tribal communities. While the Administration claims these funds are exempt from the freeze, Project-based Rental Assistance is included among the more than 2,000 financial assistance programs on an OMB list circulated to federal agencies.

- **Homeless Assistance Grants**, increasing housing costs for low-income and working families, while putting more people on the streets at a time when more than 771,000 people are already experiencing homelessness and nearly eight million households in the United States with the lowest incomes pay more than half of their income towards rent, live in severely inadequate conditions, or both.
- Mayors' and governors' hands would be tied with a pause to their annual **Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)** funding, which is used for addressing pressing local needs - stalling critical street, water and sewer improvement projects and supportive services for our youth and elderly.
- Most grant programs funded under the **Bipartisan Infrastructure Law** will be paused; America's infrastructure, including American-owned business that supply construction materials and create livable-wage jobs, will come to a halt. Forcing workers to leave the job with shovels in the ground, delaying safety-critical improvements to our roads and bridges, and crippling local and regional economies that will add to the cost of doing business with the American government – at a time when 43 percent of our public roadways are in poor or mediocre condition.

### **Weakens National Security, Abandons Veterans**

- Delays in providing military support and assistance to our allies through the **Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA)** will only endanger them and us and provide new opportunities for Russia and China to fill the void we create.
- The Department of Defense's **Research and Development Accounts for Army, Navy, Air Force and Defense** provides grants and loans to innovative, for universities and domestic, small- and medium-sized businesses across the country that are intended to support their growth, strengthen U.S. technological competitiveness, and increase the U.S. military capabilities. These entities will not have the capacity to weather sudden freezes in their government funding without doing harm to these activities.

President Trump and Republicans are abandoning veterans by freezing:

- **VA Homeless Provider Grants** supporting community-based organizations that provide transitional housing and other services for homeless veterans.
- **Veterans State Nursing Home Care** grants providing nursing home care for veterans who need skilled nursing care.
- **Veterans Transportation Program** grants providing transportation for veterans in highly rural areas to VA medical centers.
- **Suicide Prevention Grant Program** providing suicide prevention resources to vulnerable veterans and their families.
- **Food Security Pilot Grant Program** ensuring food security for veterans.

- **Veterans Employment and Training** providing grants for employment and job placement services for eligible veterans and veterans at risk of homelessness.

This freeze:

- Stops funds for refugee processing overseas, including **Special Immigrant Visas** – Strands nearly 3,000 Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) applicants from Afghanistan, including unaccompanied minors, that have passed initial clearances. These are Afghans who assisted the United States during our 20-year presence in the country, many risking their lives for American servicemembers.
- Cancels programs overnight with allies in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East make the United States an unreliable partner and **drives more countries into the arms of our competitors such as China and Russia.**
- Stops assistance programs in Central America and throughout the hemisphere that reduce irregular migration to the United States. These programs reduce corruption, crime, and violence; increase economic opportunity; and integrate refugees – encouraging and enabling vulnerable populations to remain in partner countries. For example, in Peru and Ecuador, nearly 100,000 refugees will lose access to critical services through a grant that is helping them legally stay in South America and not migrate to the United States.

### **Jeopardizes Public Safety and Global Health**

President Trump and Republicans are freezing:

- The **President's Emergency Program for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR)** that is preventing treatment that is currently in warehouses and clinics from reaching the 20.6 million people who are living with HIV and rely on these medications to not only stay alive but to reduce their ability to transmit the virus to others. If we lose the last 20 years of progress, HIV will continue to kill millions and lead to increased HIV drug resistance, having not just a global impact, but also the health of the US.
- **The Crime Victims Fund** that provides assistance and services to victims of crime, including state victim compensation and assistance formula grants.
- **State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance**, including **COPS grants** and **Byrne Justice Assistance** grants and reentry programs, helping state and local agencies to implement programs that improve the criminal, civil, and juvenile justice systems. These grants help states and localities to fight crime.
- **Violence Against Women Act** prevention and prosecution programs, which reduce domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking by strengthening services to victims and holding offenders accountable.
- **Economic Development Administration** grants, including grants to enable the long-term recovery of areas impacted by natural disasters. The Economic Development Administration provides grants to local governments and non-profits to support projects that support economic development and job creation through infrastructure improvements, workforce development, and support for small businesses.
- **National Science Foundation** funding for scientific researchers and graduate students, who often depend on grants for financial support. The National Science Foundation provides grants to researchers and graduate students to support basic scientific research and technology development.

- **Forest Service, State and Volunteer Fire Capacity Grants** that provide critical financial assistance to states for wildfire preparedness activities and support for the many thousands of rural, volunteer fire departments across the Nation. Freezing this funding will leave communities vulnerable to fire.
- **EPA Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds** that provide billions of dollars for states to finance water infrastructure improvements across the country, additionally, funding for more than 2,000 Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending projects are impacted.
- **EPA Lead Testing in Schools** grants going to local schools and child care facilities to test and remediate for lead in drinking water. Blocking these funds leaves school children across the country vulnerable to lead poisoning.
- **Community Health Centers** provide health care services in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and U.S. Territories for more than 30 million low-income patients.
- **CDC Grants to States** providing the majority of funding, as much as 70 to 80 percent, for State health departments.
- **NIH – Biomedical Research Grants** supporting thousands of grants for research to develop life-saving cures and treatments for diseases and health conditions, including cancer, Alzheimer's disease, diabetes, infectious diseases, and opioid addiction, among others.
- **SAMHSA – Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant** providing funding to all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and U.S. Territories to prevent and treat substance abuse.
- **SAMHSA – State Opioid Response Grants** providing funding to all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and U.S. Territories to prevent and treat opioid abuse.
- **Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA)** funding. Stopping HIDTA funding will severely impact efforts to combat drug trafficking, including opioids, and organized crime in high-risk regions, leading to reduced coordination and resources for law enforcement. This could result in an increase in drug-related violence, crime rates, and public safety concerns.
- **Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), Drug-Free Community (DFC)** resources. Holding back DFC funding would disrupt programs designed to prevent youth substance use and promote healthier communities, reducing the resources available for local prevention efforts. This could lead to a rise in substance abuse among young people, as schools and organizations would struggle to provide education and support services.