

# Navigating the Federal Funding Landscape

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Office of Research Development

September 29, 2025



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# Agenda

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- Introduction
- Overview of the Federal Funding Landscape
- Proposal Strategies
- Wrap-Up
- Resources

# Introduction

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# Workshop Expectations

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- Workshop focus is on going over the federal funding landscape and strategies for navigating changes
- Not meant to be a political discussion; please refrain from using politicized language
- If you have something personal to discuss, please reach out to us to schedule a private discussion

# Overview of the Federal Funding Landscape

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# Changes in the Federal Funding Landscape

- Postponement or cancellation of grant review meetings
- Delayed postings of grant opportunities and notification of awards
- Reorganizations; layoffs of federal workers; firing of agency or center leadership
- Attempts to cap indirect costs at 15% across agencies

**192 Executive Orders  
Issued**

**324 Active Cases  
Challenging  
Administration  
Actions**

**9,002 bills and  
resolutions currently  
before Congress**

Agency	Number of Awards
ED	103
DOE	153
NIH	3,080
NSF	2,899

Agency	Number of Terminated Grants
NSF	~1600
NIH	~2200

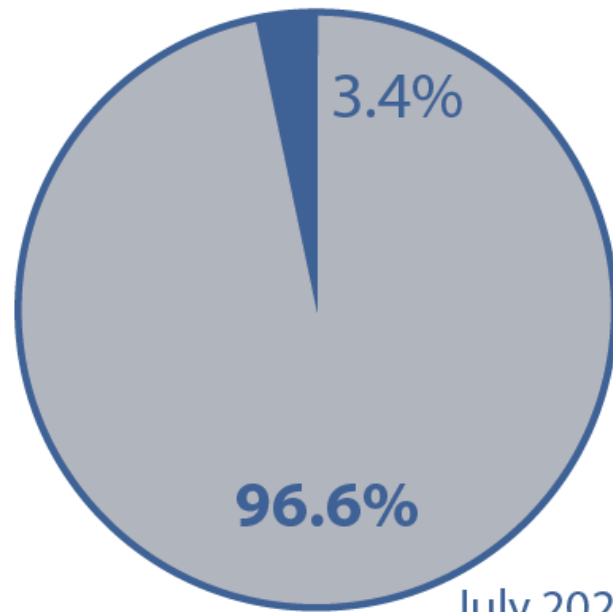
# National Science Foundation Grant Funding

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- [NSF grant funding levels in 2025 \(through May 21\) compared to the past decade](#)

# NIH Grant Terminations (Jan-July 2025)

## Grant Terminations



July 2025

Totaling ~\$8.9 billion

NIH 2025 Portfolio  
~41 billion in Active Funding

Agarwal, K. (2025, June 27). NIH halts grant terminations (for now). Association of American Universities. <https://www.aau.edu/newsroom/leading-research-universities-report/nih-halts-grant-terminations-now>

National Institutes of Health. (n.d.). *RePORTER*. <https://reporter.nih.gov/>



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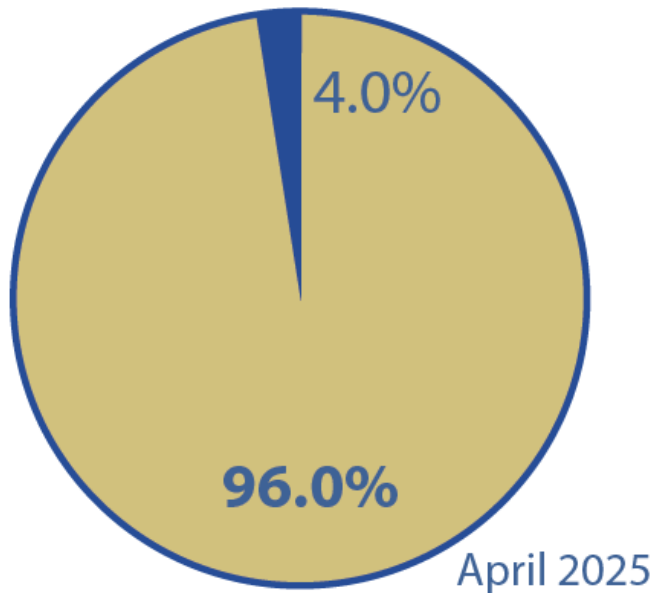
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# NSF Grant Terminations (Jan-April 2025)

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## Grant Terminations



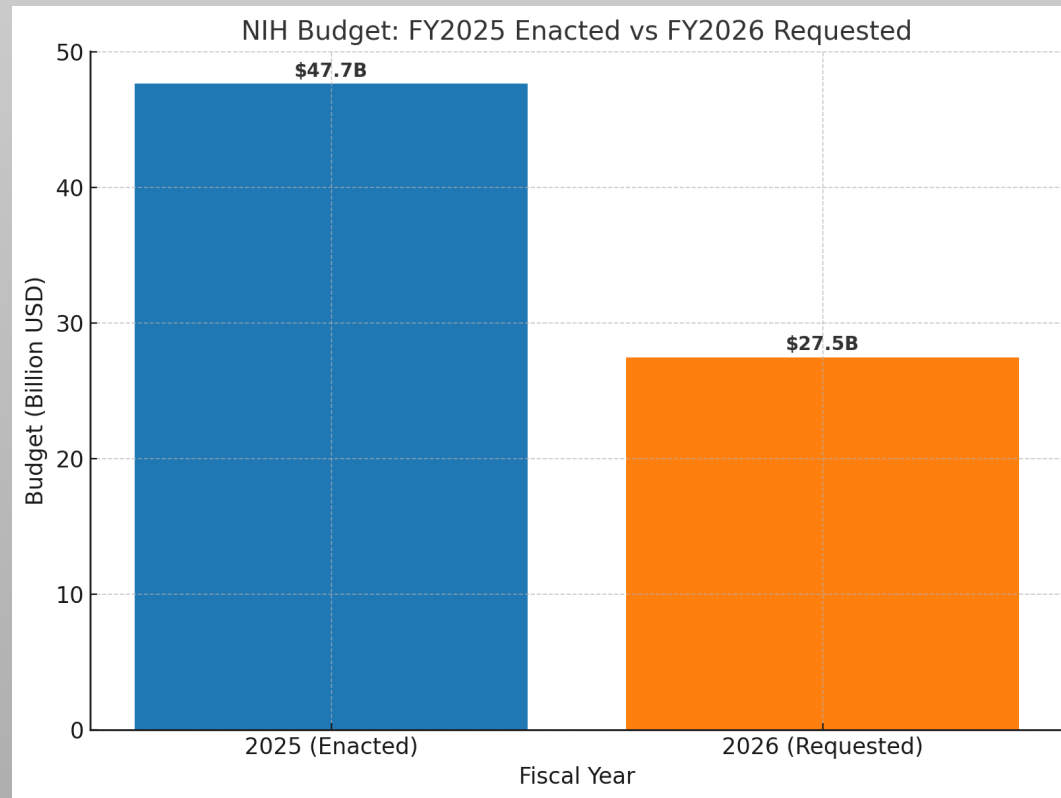
Totaling ~\$1.0 billion

NSF 2025 Portfolio  
~28 billion in Active Funding

<https://www.urban.org/urban-wire/nsf-has-canceled-more-1500-grants-nearly-90-percent-were-related-dei>

Grant Witness. (n.d.). *Grant Witness*. Retrieved September 29, 2025, from <https://grant-witness.us/>

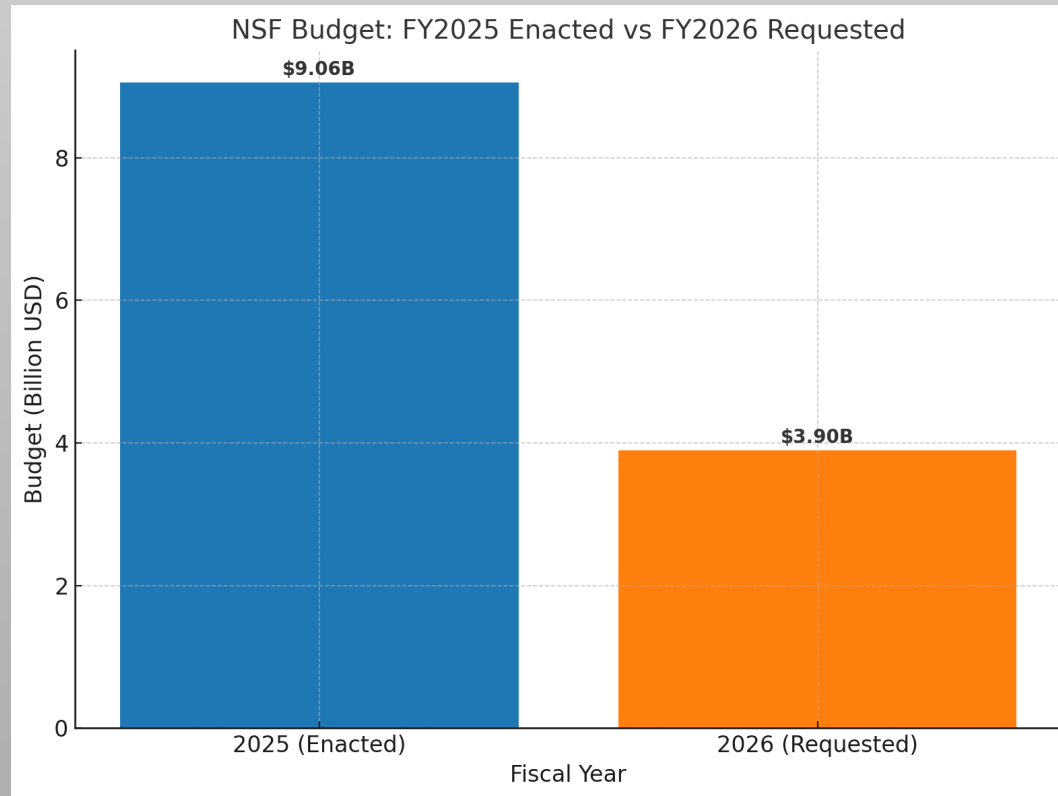
# NIH White House 2026 Proposed Budget



**42.3% budget cut  
(worst case)**

National Institutes of Health, Office of Budget. (n.d.). *Budget request*. Retrieved September 29, 2025, from <https://officeofbudget.od.nih.gov/br.html>

# NSF White House 2026 Proposed Budget



**57% budget cut  
(worst case)**

National Science Foundation. (2025, May 2). *Fiscal Year 2026 budget request to Congress*. <https://www.nsf.gov/about/budget/fy2026>

# What Does This Mean For You?

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# Executive Orders – Gold Standard Science

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- Directs agencies to update policies related to implementation of “Gold Standard Science”
- Defines “Gold Standard Science” as science conducted in a manner that is:
  - Reproducible
  - Transparent
  - Communicative of error and uncertainty
  - Collaborative and interdisciplinary
  - Skeptical of its findings and assumptions
  - Structured for falsifiability of hypotheses
  - Subject to unbiased peer review
  - Accepting of negative results as positive outcomes
  - Without conflict of interest

# What Does This Mean For You?

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- Funding opportunity notices and award terms and conditions may change to include requirements to adhere to core Gold Standard Science tenets

# Executive Orders – Improving Oversight of Federal Grantmaking

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- Requires a senior political appointee to create a review process for new funding opportunities
- Establishes evaluation rubric for assessing grant proposals, which includes prohibiting funding that has race-based selection criteria, denies there are only two sexes, facilitates illegal immigration, and/or compromises public safety or promotes anti-American values
- Permits grant termination for convenience, including when the award no longer advances agency priorities or national interests
- Prohibits direct drawdowns of general grant funds without explicit agency authorization and requires written, specific justification for each drawdown request

# What Does This Mean For You?

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- Grant review process will change
- Grants can be terminated at any point if they are determined to no longer advance agency/national priorities
- Grant drawdown process will likely involve additional steps



# Executive Orders – Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity

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- Requires agencies to include in grant awards that the recipient does not operate any programs that promote DEI in violation of federal laws
- The university has to agree to this

# What Does This Mean For You?

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- Some grants and grant programs have been terminated due to their focus on DEI activities
- Solicitations have been revised to remove requirements for DEI activities

# F&A and the FAIR Model

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- Multiple agencies announced they would be implementing a new indirect cost rate of 15%
- Some of these policies have been challenged in court, with some on hold (NIH, DOD, DOE) and some vacated (NSF)
- The Joint Associations Group on Indirect Costs proposed [The FAIR model](#) to ensure financial accountability in research, but it is unlikely to be considered or implemented

<https://www.nafsa.org/regulatory-information/nih-caps-indirect-costs-nih-grants>

<https://www.nsf.gov/updates-on-priorities#idc>

<https://www.cto.mil/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/48-Order-Granting-TRO.pdf>

[https://dcg.usc.edu/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/AAUvDOE\\_TRO\\_4-16-25\\_US-District-Court-of-MA.pdf](https://dcg.usc.edu/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/AAUvDOE_TRO_4-16-25_US-District-Court-of-MA.pdf)



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# What Does This Mean For You?

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- NIH, NSF, DOD, DOE indirect rate policies are on hold or have been vacated, but new policies may be implemented or injunctions/holds may be removed
- NSF: new awards will include a term applying the 15% IDR policy if NSF is allowed to apply the policy in the future
- Negotiated F&A rate still in effect

# Shifts in Federal Agency Priorities

Agency	Biden Administration	Trump Administration	Changes in Administration Priorities
<b>AHA</b>	Did not exist	Chronic Care, Disease Prevention, Low-Income Healthcare	Consolidate the work of multiple HHS agencies that includes OASH, HRSA, SAMHSA, ATSDR, and NIOSH
<b>DoD</b>	Defense Modernization, Basic Research, STEM Pipeline	Hypersonics, AI / Machine Learning, Quantum, Biodefense, Supply Chain Resilience	Increased focus on global competition
<b>DOE</b>	Clean Energy, Climate Science, Basic Energy Research	Critical Minerals, Nuclear Innovation, Energy Security, AI for Grid Resilience	Pivot from climate mitigation to energy dominance and industrial resilience
<b>NASA</b>	Earth Science, Climate Monitoring	Lunar and Mars Missions, Commercial Partnerships, Defense Aligned R&D	Deprioritization of climate science, shift to space and exploration dominance
<b>NIH</b>	Public health, Biomedical innovation, DEI, Health disparities	Biosecurity, Biotechnology, Nutrition, Chronic Disease Management	Shift from institute autonomy to a centralized model, proposed reorganization from 20+ institutes and centers to 8
<b>NIST</b>	Standards Developments, Manufacturing Innovation	AI and Quantum Standards, Semiconductors	Focusing on national security and technology sovereignty
<b>NOAA</b>	Climate Modeling, Oceanic Research, Weather Forecasting	Commercial Weather Data, Arctic Security, Deep Sea / Critical Mineral Access	Reduced emphasis on climate change
<b>NSF</b>	Basic Science, STEM Education, DEI, Open Science	AI, Quantum, Biotechnology, National Security, Industry Collaboration	Shift from inclusive, curiosity-driven research to applied, security-focused science
<b>USDA</b>	Climate-Smart Agriculture, Rural Development, Food Equity	Biosecurity, Robotics, AI in Agriculture	Shift from sustainability and equity in agriculture to argi-biodefense and technology-driven production



# What Does This Mean For You?

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- Some research areas/disciplines are now higher priority and will receive more focus and funding
- Some research priority areas have been eliminated entirely



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# Proposal Strategies

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# Positioning Tactics for the Current Climate

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- Lead with the problem and national benefit
  - Economic competitiveness
  - Security
  - Measurable outcomes
- Highlight how the research aligns with new priority areas
- Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 Administration Research and Development Budget Priorities and Cross-Cutting Actions:  
<https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/M-25-34-NSTM-2-Fiscal-Year-FY-2027-Administration-Research-and-Development-Budget-Priorities-and-Cross-Cutting-Actions.pdf>



# Positioning Tactics for the Current Climate

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- Memo was developed and issued jointly by the White House Office of Management and Budget and Office of Science and Technology Policy.
- Acknowledges the importance of the U.S. S&T enterprise to American prosperity and the partnership of government with academia, non-profit research institutions, and, increasingly, industry and the private sector for applied research and commercialization.
- "Following years of unfocused Federal investments weighed down by woke ideology and diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives, we are realigning the Federal R&D portfolio to serve its core purposes: driving economic growth and high-wage employment for all Americans, promoting high quality of life, and ensuring U.S. leadership in critical sectors to our national security."
- Calls for aligning federal R&D for targeted, mission-driven investments in artificial intelligence (AI), quantum science, nuclear energy, biotechnology, technology for national security, and space exploration.



# Positioning Tactics for the Current Climate

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- **R&D Priority: Ensure Unrivaled American Leadership in Critical and Emerging Technologies**
  - Artificial Intelligence (AI)
  - Quantum Information S&T
  - Semiconductors and Microelectronics
  - Advanced Communications Networks
  - Future Computing Technologies
  - Advanced Manufacturing

# Positioning Tactics for the Current Climate

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- **R&D Priority: Unleash American Energy Dominance and Explore New Frontiers**
  - American Energy Dominance
  - Polar Regions Research
  - Ocean Exploration and Observation
- **R&D Priority: Strengthen American Security**
  - Advanced Military Capabilities
  - America's Golden Dome
  - Preparedness and Resilience

# Positioning Tactics for the Current Climate

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- **R&D Priority: Strengthen and Safeguard American Health and Biotechnology**
  - America's Health
  - Biosafety and Biosecurity
  - Domestic Biomanufacturing Capabilities
- **R&D Priority: Assure America's Continued Space Dominance**
  - R&D for human space exploration and development, including long-duration travel and habitation, in-space aggregation and assembly, local resource utilization, space weather hazard prediction and mitigation, space nuclear power systems and biotechnologies for space applications

# Positioning Tactics for the Current Climate

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## CROSS-CUTTING PRIORITIES

- **Implement and Support Gold Standard Science**
- **Build the S&T Workforce of the Future** ("provide all Americans with access to high-quality STEM education and workforce development pathways")
- **Expand and Make Accessible World-Class Research Infrastructure**
- **Revitalize and Strengthen America's S&T Ecosystem** ("government, academia, nonprofits, and industry working together")
- **Focus on High-Value Research Efforts** ("Funding programs may require reorganization to address changes in funding levels to focus on promising and high-value research. These programs should be consolidated and managed, as necessary, to focus research on efforts that produce meaningful outcomes.")



# Positioning Tactics for the Current Climate

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- Translate technical merit into use cases, stakeholders, and adoption pathways
  - Testbeds
  - Pilots
  - Industry
  - Community partners



# Positioning Tactics for the Current Climate

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- De-emphasize politicized labels
- Preserve substance by reframing around skills, workforce, access, and impact metrics



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# Positioning Tactics for the Current Climate

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- Show institutional readiness
  - Research security policies
  - Disclosure practices
  - Data protection
  - Export control awareness



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# Positioning Tactics for the Current Climate

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- Avoid outreach and/or recruitment activities that show preference to specific protected groups
  - Activities must be open and available to all groups
- Be aware that lead institutions are also responsible for activities conducted by subaward organizations

# Positioning Tactics for the Current Climate

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- Read solicitations carefully – sections may have been removed or new language added
- Check notice of award for new terms & conditions language
- Attend appropriate agency webinars to keep up with agency/program changes
- Keep an eye out for changes in agency strategic plans
- Read agency implementation plans
- Contact program officers

# Positioning Tactics for the Current Climate

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- Develop collaborations with researchers in different fields to maximize opportunities
- TigerSphere can help you identify potential new collaborators in your area of interest



# Keeping Up To Date

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- <https://www.cogr.edu/cogr-summary-executive-orders>
- <https://research.umich.edu/federal-funding-updates/>
- <https://grant-witness.us/>
- Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 Administration Research and Development Budget Priorities and Cross-Cutting Actions:  
<https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/M-25-34-NSTM-2-Fiscal-Year-FY-2027-Administration-Research-and-Development-Budget-Priorities-and-Cross-Cutting-Actions.pdf>

# We're Here to Help

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- Contact ORD for help with proposal development/editing (for those 1.5 million or higher)
  - Complete a Request for Service [here](#)
- Drop by our office hours on Thursdays from 10:30-11:30 am in STI 238 or online at [clemson.zoom.us/my/janejacobi](https://clemson.zoom.us/my/janejacobi) to ask us questions
- Can help connect you with others for collaboration
- Teach you how to search for funding opportunities



# We're Here to Help

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**Jane Jacobi**  
Team Lead



**Brett Levi**  
Program Manager



**Morgan Simpson**  
Research Development  
Specialist



**Brad Walters**  
Program Manager



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# Questions and Discussion

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# Resources

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- Executive order summary table: <https://www.cogr.edu/cogr-summary-executive-orders>
- Federal funding updates: <https://research.umich.edu/federal-funding-updates/>
- More info on the FAIR model: <https://linktr.ee/JAGTownHall>



# Resources

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- [Fiscal Year \(FY\) 2027 Administration Research and Development Budget Priorities and Cross-Cutting Actions](#)
- Federal Agency Updates/Priorities
  - [NSF](#)
  - [NIH](#)
  - [Department of Education](#)
  - [NEH](#)
  - [Department of Energy](#)
  - [Economic Development Administration](#)
  - [CDC](#)

# Resources

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- Agency plans for implementing Gold Standard Science EO
  - [NSF](#)
  - [NIH](#)
  - [NASA](#)
  - [Department of Education](#)
  - [Department of Energy](#)
  - [Department of Commerce](#)
  - [Department of Agriculture](#)
  - [Food and Drug Administration](#)