

2025 Federal Funding Disruptions and Call to Action Courtesy of RBW Strategy, LLC

Context: Since January 20th, a new Presidential administration has transitioned, which has led to significant changes in the grants sector. There has been a flurry of Executive Orders (EOs), Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Memos, notably OMB Memo 25-13 (the infamous “federal funding freeze” memo), and federal agency and program cuts, which have impacted those who receive federal assistance in the form of grants and contracts. Agencies are continuing to evaluate funding alignment with the EOs. The continuing resolution is scheduled for March 15, 2025, including budgetary earmarks for discretionary grant programs.

Areas of Proactive Assessment: It is important to note which federal funding agencies you are targeting for grants (or are currently managing) because each will interpret the EOs differently. Also, keywords might be flagged if detected within the agencies' grant systems.

Pre- and Post Award

1. Monitor the timing and instructions of any notice of funding opportunities. You should also revisit planned grant designs and applicants/partners to streamline or eliminate any items/entities that have actual or perceived conflicts with the federal administration's updated priorities.
2. Until the continuing resolution is released on March 15, 2025, refer to these flagged areas developed by OMB, which federal agencies were requested to disclose per the new administration's priorities: removable or illegal aliens; foreign assistance or overseas activities; revocation and rescission of the U.S. International Climate Finance Plan; undue burdens on domestic energy resources; diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility mandates, policies, programs, preferences, and activities; gender ideology promotion; and abortion promotion or support.
3. Organizations that are currently administering federal grants should review their grant agreements to understand the terms, especially clauses related to funding availability and reimbursement.
4. Monitor policy updates to keep an eye on announcements from the agency overseeing grants for any updates on funding or compliance updates. In addition, continue ongoing compliance work to avoid any opportunity for adverse actions by federal agencies. Here is a helpful checklist:



Review the notices of grant award

- Understand your drawdown method and how much funding is available.
- Know what's been obligated, expended, and what remains unobligated.



Drawdown as much funding as possible

- Request as much funding as possible, as allowed under 2 CFR 200.305.
- Be aware that some payment management systems may experience delays.



Stay Informed and monitor updates from your federal agency program officers, including

- What process the agency is undertaking to evaluate alignment with the EOs.
- What to know about funding for your organization and what immediate or proactive steps you can take.
- When the agency will make decisions and how they will be communicated.
- Keep an eye on lawsuits and judicial decisions that may impact funding.

How RBW Strategy Can Assist

Many mission-driven organizations struggle with securing consistent grants or navigating funding disruptions. They often lack the internal expertise to find, acquire, and administer awards. Founded in 2013, RBW Strategy helps organizations seek and manage grants across the lifecycle—from pre-award planning and strategy through research and writing to post-award compliance.

We have deep knowledge of the fundraising landscape on both the pre- and post-award sides and have raised over \$450 million in grant revenue and managed \$2.5 billion+ in federal funding.

In 2022, we partnered with MyFedTrainer (MFT), a grants compliance training platform. This has transformed RBW/MFT into a one-stop shop for helping organizations and complementing our approach through educational training to ensure compliance.

Our team strongly recommends the following and can support these strategic actions as stand-alone or consolidated offerings starting at \$3,500 with bundled pricing considered.

Funding Portfolio Review

Develop and discuss a plan to respond to immediate and long-term business decisions with your leadership and governance teams, including operational and programmatic expenses and those that funding disruptions might significantly impact.

Prospect Research

Determine what funding sources are readily available and the additional ones needed for solvency and growth through sources outside of government opportunities. Many organizations assessed this information during the pandemic, but we recommend engaging in this activity annually, semi-annually, or quarterly.

Case Statement and Language Revisions and Grant Reviews of Past Proposals

Assess the best ways to frame investments in your organization, from the overall value proposition to the specific descriptive language used, including targeted populations and metrics. This is particularly important in competitive or restrictive funding environments where misaligned priorities or messaging can impact award odds

Funding Collateral Development

Leverage case statement language to develop corporate funder pitch decks, appeal letters, and other written content to support the organization. The content can be used to develop or build on existing fundraising campaigns.

Training

Conduct customized training on implementing language updates in grant proposals, modifying fund-seeking strategies, or federal compliance and maintenance (in conjunction with MyFedTrainer).

Post-Award Maintenance

Protect every dollar of funding through analysis of existing notices of grant awards and development of more robust internal controls through subrecipient monitoring and contractor oversight risk assessment and planning, policy and procedure gap analysis, and written procedure development, reporting, and single audit preparation.

RBW Strategy prioritizes collaboration to ensure adherence to all applicable local, state, and federal laws and regulations as they evolve. We also provide ongoing updates to remain adaptive and flexible, thought leadership, and support to help maximize organizations' grant seeking and grant management success as both government agencies and private entities evaluate funding alignment. Learn more at www.rbwstrategy.com or contact us to discuss how we can assist.