

Press release from Stand Up for Science Ohio State



As Grant Cancellations Exceed \$10M Ohio State University Professors Declare Academic Distress

June 2, 2025

Legal Disclaimer:

Stand Up for Science Ohio State includes Ohio State University faculty as members but it does not speak on behalf of Ohio State University in any official or unofficial capacity. Official responses from Ohio State University should be directed to the [OSU office of communications](#) which has not authorized or vetted this press release in any way. Citations are provided throughout this document where possible so that statements can be fact checked. We include publicly available information about cancelled grants at OSU. We consider the personnel on these grants to be our colleagues but we do not speak for these individuals in any way. In all cases OSU personnel on affected grants speak for themselves. OSU personnel on affected grants should not be automatically assumed to be a part of Stand Up for Science Ohio State.

Press release:

Federal research grants represent a significant fraction of the overall budget at Ohio State University. Last year, faculty-led federal research grants brought in [over \\$770 million dollars to the university](#). These funds support many of the things that Ohioans cherish most about the university, from our world-class astronomy department to life-saving research at the medical center to zoologists in the field and everything in between. OSU faculty compete for these funds with researchers from other states, and thanks to their ingenuity and hard work, they often win. These funds are an important way that federal income taxes come back to Ohio.

For months now, every indication from Washington has signaled not only a future where these funds are dramatically reduced, but a present where existing grants are actively being cancelled. At the time of this writing, over \$10M of OSU's active or recently awarded federal funding has been rescinded and over \$40M worth of projects at OSU have now been interfered with by DOGE. The scope of grant cancellations have expanded beyond what some would call "woke" projects [that were targeted early on](#). As reported recently by [the Dispatch](#), proposed cuts to NASA's budget threaten a space telescope that is among the most important projects in the history of OSU's astronomy department. In the OSU medical center, a [multi-year grant supporting a vaccine research center](#) was terminated. We provide a snapshot of cancelled grants in supplemental information and we anticipate that this list will expand. [The 2026 budget discussions in Congress](#) are considering across the board 55% cuts to the National Science Foundation, across the board 40% cuts to the National Institutes of Health and significant cuts to other science funding agencies including a [66% cut to NASA-funded astrophysics](#). In the courts, universities are fighting against [a fourfold reduction in the overhead](#) that can be charged to federal grants. These overheads help pay for university facilities, utilities, equipment and

maintenance that are vital to performing federally-funded research. The proposed reductions in overhead were so significant that for a period of time starting on May 2 Ohio State University instructed faculty to stop applying for some federal grants ([footnote #1](#)) because it would cost the university more to conduct the research than the federal funding would provide.

The impact of these cuts are already being felt. Our best and brightest students are being discouraged from pursuing scientific careers. OSU undergrads looking nationally for summer research experiences have been affected by [a reduction in the number](#) of federally funded research internships. In spring 2025, fewer students were admitted to OSU's Ph.D. programs in the sciences ([footnote #2](#)) and at some universities offers have even [been rescinded](#). It bears reiterating that these cuts are being felt broadly, even in areas that are important to American leadership in technology and defense, and even in research with great potential to benefit human health.

As faculty members at The Ohio State University, we are responding to this moment of crisis by working together as "Stand Up for Science Ohio State", a local hub of the national ["Stand Up for Science"](#) movement. **We feel we have no other choice but to declare Ohio State University to be in academic distress, and to declare that OSU is on course to be in academic emergency.** We do not use these terms flippantly. We use these terms to communicate, firstly, that OSU faces an existential crisis in terms of how significantly research staff and research facilities will need to be scaled back. Secondly, we use these terms to communicate that this crisis will disproportionately disrupt a generation of young scientists who are poised to make incredible breakthroughs throughout fields of science with advances in artificial intelligence tools and data from world class instruments and experiments. These young scientists face an uncertain future in the United States.

We acknowledge that our federal tax dollars serve many important purposes. Among the important uses of our tax dollars is scientific research and also education research to improve our schools. These activities are vital to the future of our country and vital to our ability to [compete economically](#) on the world stage.

Ultimately, we hope this message reaches our elected officials and resonates with them. In working towards that goal, we welcome opportunities to engage with the public and with the media on these issues. To contact Stand Up for Science Ohio State to request to interview OSU faculty who contributed to this document, email us at standupforscienceohio@gmail.com or reach out on instagram at [@standupforscienceohio](#)

Another way media outlets can shine a light on the impact of cuts to science funding in Ohio would be to republish one of the two editorials written recently by Stand Up for Science Ohio State lead Prof. Chris Orban. Two different editorials were published in the [Columbus Dispatch](#) and the [Ohio Capital Journal](#). Dispatch articles require permission to republish, but the editorial in the Ohio Capital Journal was released on a Creative Commons license.

References

Footnote #1. Because of [OSU's institutional data policy](#), we are choosing not to include a copy of the email in question. We will confirm essential details about this email – that it was sent on May 2, that it was widely circulated to faculty in the College of Arts and Sciences, and that it conveyed without any commentary that a decision had been made that **“no NSF proposals will be submitted until further notice”** where the acronym refers to the National Science Foundation. The email also includes direction to OSU staff to stop setting up new federal awards in OSU's database until directed otherwise. Journalists can potentially obtain the email with an open records request, but because of the large number of OSU faculty members who received the email, a faster way to verify the email would simply be to contact active OSU faculty in the sciences. On May 16, another OSU internal email was sent widely to faculty that ended the prohibition on applying to National Science Foundation grants so long as a disclaimer is included in the submitted budget regarding the assumed overhead rate. But it is unclear if this disclaimer will be acceptable to federal funding agencies, which may reject all funding requests from OSU faculty that do not assume a 15% overhead rate, and cut off OSU from significant sources of funds.

Footnote #2. To our knowledge there are no public sources that verify that graduate admissions at OSU in Spring 2025 have been affected by federal cuts. The information that graduate admissions have been affected comes from OSU faculty members who contributed to this document who are involved in graduate admissions committees on campus. Because of [OSU's institutional data policy](#), we are unable to share the precise numbers for how many fewer students were admitted this year, but interested journalists can reach out through [official OSU channels](#) to ask for this information.

Huffington Post. “Universities are slashing, rescinding Graduate Admissions amid federal funding cuts.” Published March 5, 2025

https://www.huffpost.com/entry/universities-slash-phd-admissions-amid-federal-funding-cuts_n_67c85d82e4b06ea0f7595113

OSU office of communications: <https://omc.osu.edu/media-resources>

“Ohio State grant for LGBTQ health research canceled”. Published Mar 19, 2025. Available at <https://www.dispatch.com/story/news/education/2025/03/19/elon-musk-doge-ohio-state-grant-health-research-lgbtq/82540865007/>

Sheridan Hendrix, “Trump Wants to slash NASA's budget. That could doom an Ohio-State supported telescope”. Published May 23, 2025. Available at <https://www.dispatch.com/story/news/education/2025/05/21/ohio-state-researchers-fighting-for-nasa-nancy-grace-roman-space-telescope/83637369007/>

NIH grant info for “Center for Serological Testing to Improve Outcomes from Pandemic Covid-19” <https://reporter.nih.gov/project-details/10688381>

White House. Fiscal year 2026 budget request. Published May 2, 2025

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Fiscal-Year-2026-Discretionary-Budget-Request.pdf>

NASA. Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Request. Published May 30, 2025

<https://www.nasa.gov/fy-2026-budget-request/>

Forbes. “13 Universities file suit against NSF cap on indirect research costs”. Published May 7, 2025

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/michaeltietzel/2025/05/07/13-universities-file-suit-against-nsf-cap-on-indirect-research-costs/>

Ohio State News. “Ohio State Sets R&D expenditures record” Published March 19, 2025

<https://news.osu.edu/ohio-state-sets-rd-expenditures-record/>

Stand Up for Science national website. <https://www.standupforscience.net>

Science Magazine. “NSF downsizes summer research program for undergraduates” Published February 27, 2025

<https://www.science.org/content/article/nsf-downsizes-summer-research-program-undergraduates>

STAT news. “Cancellation of NIH summer internships disrupts ‘vital’ training program for US scientists”. Published on March 5, 2025

<https://www.statnews.com/2025/03/05/trump-nih-freeze-cancels-summer-internships-vital-pipeline-develops-young-scientists/>

Forbes. “Trump’s NIH and NSF Cuts Estimated to Cost the U.S. Economy \$10 Billion Annually” Published May 19, 2025

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/johndrake/2025/05/19/trumps-nih-and-nsf-cuts-could-cost-the-us-economy-10-billion-annually/>

Columbus Dispatch. Chris Orban “OSU professor: We are watching what’s happening to American science in horror” Published on May 31, 2025

<https://www.dispatch.com/story/opinion/columns/guest/2025/05/31/national-science-foundation-doge-layoff-donald-trump/83773388007/>

Ohio Capital Journal. Chris Orban. “DOGE cuts to science will impact Ohio, students” Published on May 29, 2025

<https://ohiocapitaljournal.com/2025/05/29/doge-cuts-to-science-will-impact-ohio-students/>

Table of cut grants. Sources: <https://grant-watch.us/> and https://taggs.hhs.gov/Content/Data/HHS_Grants_Terminated.pdf

NIH grants

Award Number	Date Terminated	Project Title	NIH Institute/ Center*	OSU School	Total Award Amount	Amount Canceled
DP1 DA054344	4/3/2025	X chromosome inactivation in sex disparities to substance use disorder	NIDA	SCHOOLS OF MEDICINE	\$1502000	\$389138
F31 NR021247	3/18/2025	Client and clinician priorities for same-day PrEP and DoxyPEP awareness, uptake, and persistence in primary care	NINR	SCHOOLS OF NURSING	\$30658	\$8856
R00 CA260718	3/21/2025	Testing the effect of anti-tobacco message framing on polytobacco use in lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender young adults	NCI	SCHOOLS OF PUBLIC HEALTH	\$746934	\$316714
R01 AI130110	4/18/2025	Mechanisms of innate resistance to virus infections	NIAID	SCHOOLS OF MEDICINE	\$3836695	\$2473622
R01 DA058642	3/11/2025	Testing a multistage model of risk factors for cannabis use utilizing a measurement burst design among sexual minority women, sexual minority gender diverse individuals, and heterosexual women	NIDA	SCHOOLS OF NURSING	\$1414383	\$337527
R01 EB034086	4/24/2025	Ionic Liquid-Coated NIR-II Polymer Conjugates as Targeted Brain Theranostics	NIBIB	SCHOOLS OF ARTS AND SCIENCES	\$1556797	\$608105
R01 MD017619	3/28/2025	Impacts of Parental Workplace Social Status on Disparities in Infant and Child Health	NIMHD	SCHOOLS OF ARTS AND SCIENCES	\$1559129	\$680666
R01 MH085739	4/28/2025	Timing, Reward Processing and choice	NIMH	SCHOOLS OF MEDICINE	\$4260634	\$3022433

Award Number	Date Terminated	Project Title	NIH Institute/ Center*	OSU School	Total Award Amount	Amount Canceled
R01 MH138335	3/20/2025	Bisexual adolescents' and young adults' risk for depression and suicidal ideation: Developmental trajectories, risk and protective factors, and underlying mechanisms	NIMH	SCHOOLS OF NURSING	\$815881	NA
R03 DA052651	3/21/2025	Improving Sexual Minority Health: Differences in Substance Use, Substance Use Treatment, and Associated Chronic Diseases among Rural versus Urban Populations	NIDA	SCHOOLS OF NURSING	\$172776	\$31523
R21 MD019764	4/1/2025	COVID-19 Vaccine Coverage and General Vaccine Hesitancy in Rural Areas in the United States	NIMHD	SCHOOLS OF PUBLIC HEALTH	\$196875	\$93304
R21 MH130302	3/21/2025	The Influence of Developmental Assets on Intersectional Stigma and HIV Prevention Behaviors in Black MSM	NIMH	SCHOOLS OF SOCIAL WELFARE/WORK	\$450125	\$148099
R25 GM089571	4/14/2025	Ohio State University Discovery PREP for Biomedical Research	NIGMS	SCHOOLS OF MEDICINE	\$3452059	\$2283325
R37 CA226682	3/21/2025	A Randomized Controlled Trial of an HPV Vaccine Intervention for Young Sexual Minority Men	NCI	SCHOOLS OF MEDICINE	\$2901616	\$1859625
U54 CA260582	3/24/2025	Center for Serological Testing to Improve Outcomes from Pandemic COVID-19 (STOP-COVID)	NCI	SCHOOLS OF MEDICINE	\$10355838	\$2383131
K99GM15 4061-01	3/31/2025	Investigating UPF3 paralog function in Nonsense-Mediated mRNA Decay and Genetic Compensation	NIGMS	SCHOOLS OF ARTS AND SCIENCES	\$172226	\$82500
Total					\$33,424,628	\$11,170,048

*For a complete list of NIH Institutes/Centers and their abbreviations, see [here](#).

NSF grants

Grant Number	Date Terminated	Project Title	NSF directorate	Total Award Amount	Amount Canceled
2135767	5/9/2025	Creating inclusive workspaces that foster and support BAJEDI leaders in the Big Ten Academic Alliance of geoscientists	Geosciences	\$99,806	\$0
2000472	5/2/2025	Facilitating Pathways to Success for High-Achieving Pre-Collegiate African American Males in STEM	STEM Education	\$1,498,259	\$0
1817314	5/2/2025	The Ohio LSAMP Alliance	STEM Education	\$4,500,000	\$0
2331066	4/25/2025	CAREER: Cracking the Diversity Code: Understanding Computing Pathways of those Least Represented	Computer and Information Science and Engineering	\$662,350	\$366,141
2314980	4/25/2025	Doctoral Dissertation Research: Indigenous Resilience and Grassroots Ecotourism Development	Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences	\$31,736	\$0
2201102	4/25/2025	Collaborative Research: The Organizational Climate Challenge: Promoting the Retention of Students from Underrepresented Groups in Doctoral Engineering Programs	STEM Education	\$582,636	\$0
2325683	4/25/2025	GP-IN: Girls* On Rock: Building an inclusive outdoor STEAM research and mentorship experience	Geosciences	\$445,606	\$0
2336572	4/25/2025	Doctoral Dissertation Research: Determinants of social meaning	"Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences"	\$18,760	\$0
2305600	4/18/2025	Collaborative Research: ADVANCE PARTNERSHIP: STEM Intersectional Equity in Departments (SIEDS): A Partnership for Inclusive Work Cultures	STEM Education	\$372,098	\$157,210
2143867	4/18/2025	CAREER: Enabling Transformational	Engineering	\$597,223	\$234,356

Grant Number	Date Terminated	Project Title	NSF directorate	Total Award Amount	Amount Canceled
		Service-Learning in Engineering through Critically Reflexive Practice			
2315024	4/18/2025	Collaborative Research: Overcoming Isolation and Scholarly Devaluation by Bolstering the Collective Agency of Black Discipline-Based Education Researchers	STEM Education	\$378,441	\$0
Total				\$9,186,915	\$757,707