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## Shapiro sues Trump administration over ‘unconstitutional’ \$2B funding freeze

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Governor Josh Shapiro is suing the Trump administration over the hold up of more than \$2 billion in federal funding for Pennsylvania.Commonwealth Media Services

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By

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Gov. Josh Shapiro is [suing](#) the Trump administration over what he is calling an “unconstitutional” hold up of more than \$2 billion in federal funding for Pennsylvania.

Shapiro said despite multiple court orders to free the money, Pennsylvania cannot access \$1.2 billion in federal funds and another \$900 million is requiring a review before being drawn. The funding is to go toward maintaining drinking water safety, helping low-income residents pay utility bills and environmental cleanup.

“The federal government has entered into a contract with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, promising to provide billions of dollars in Congressionally approved funding that we have committed to serious needs – like protecting public health, cutting energy costs, providing safe, clean drinking water, and creating jobs in rural communities,” Shapiro said in a press release.

“With this funding freeze, the Trump Administration is breaking that contract — and it’s my job as governor to protect Pennsylvania’s interests.

Shapiro said he and his team, along with Pennsylvania’s congressional delegation, have tried to restore the funding to no avail, leaving him no choice but to sue.

The Constitution says federal agencies do not have the power to suspend states’ access to money that Congress appropriated or to impose new conditions on money already appropriated and obligated, Shapiro said.

Access to billions of dollars in funding was halted without explanation or any consideration to the harm their action would cause, as the commonwealth agencies are relying on receiving that money, the Democratic governor said.

Among the programs that rely on the money are the reclaiming of abandoned mine land, capping and plugging orphan wells, constructing or maintaining 16 water treatment systems that deal with toxic runoff from abandoned mines and response for about 60 emergency events per year.

Also being held up is money to help some 28,000 Pennsylvania households lower utility bills.

Without being addressed, abandoned mines can form hazardous sinkholes and cause major property damage and even death — as [happened in](#) Westmoreland County in December 2024, Shapiro said

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