



THE FIRST YEAR OF TRUMP'S SECOND TERM: HARMS TO CHILDREN, FAMILIES, AND WORKERS

About the Center for Law and Social Policy

CLASP is a national, non-partisan, nonprofit organization focused on eliminating poverty and advancing racial equity. CLASP works with directly impacted individuals, service providers, administrators, and national and state partners to uplift policies which ensure everyone, including children and families, have the support they need to thrive.

CLASP protects and improves anti-poverty programs and policies by centering racial equity and uplifting solutions named by the people most impacted by inequity and poverty. We work across our core policy areas to increase investments, eliminate barriers to access, highlight who is impacted and how, and improve policies, systems, and programs to ensure our country is one that supports all of its people.



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Introduction

CLASP's new timeline, "The First Year of Trump's Second Term: Harms to Children, Families, and Workers," provides a clear illustration of just some of the ways that President Trump and his administration have targeted and harmed families, children, immigrants, communities of color, women, and people with low incomes.

This timeline highlights a number of specific actions and executive orders taken in the areas of immigration, child care, early education, higher education, workers' rights, and public benefits during the first year of Trump's second term. In its totality, this document shows that children, families, students, and workers are worse off after a year of the Trump Administration's consistent attacks on people's rights and access to support. This timeline is not intended to be a comprehensive list.

While this document focuses on the administration's actions, it's important to note that those actions have emboldened hostility by individuals, states, and localities to families, immigrants, Black and brown communities, LGBTQ+ individuals, and other communities. It also offers important reminders of actions Trump attempted to take that, as of now, have not come to pass—including his effort to revoke birthright citizenship.

Finally, the timeline presents an overview of some responsive actions taken by communities, policymakers, and courts to withstand and counter the administration's constant attacks on children, families, and workers; and suggests ways for individuals and communities to fight back against these attacks. In order to define our path forward, we need to understand what we're fighting against. It is our intention that this timeline will demonstrate what the Trump Administration has done so far as we prepare for continued and new threats.

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THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION HAS MANUFACTURED CRISES AND FAMILIES HAVE PAID THE PRICE

The Administration Signed a Bill into Law that will Cause Unprecedented Harm Across the Country, Particularly to Families with Low Incomes

On July 4, 2025, Donald Trump signed H.R.1 into law, establishing the largest cuts to Medicaid and SNAP in U.S. history, in favor of tax breaks for the wealthy and corporations as well as increased funding for the administration's crusade against immigrants, which separates families and traumatizes children. As a result, costs are projected to rise for millions of families, workers, and service providers.

As signed into law by Donald Trump, H.R.1:

- Cuts \$793 billion from Medicaid and \$268 billion in Affordable Care Act (ACA) spending over the next decade. According to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), the cuts will increase the number of uninsured people across the country to 10.9 million.
- Cuts over \$200 billion from SNAP over the next decade, further tightens SNAP work requirements, and eliminates exemptions for vulnerable populations. The CBO estimates that once fully implemented, the changes from H.R.1 will cause four million participants to lose some or all of their SNAP benefits in a typical month.
- Shifts a larger share of administrative and benefit costs to states as a result of these cuts to health coverage and food assistance, straining already limited budgets.
- Cuts eligibility for Medicaid, ACA, and SNAP coverage for immigrants authorized to be in the United States, such as green card holders, refugees, and survivors of domestic violence.
- Eliminates Child Tax Credit (CTC) eligibility for up to 2.6 million U.S. citizen children with a Social Security number (SSN), simply because their only caregiver lacks a SSN. The poverty rate among U.S. citizen children in mixed-status families is 31.5 percent, more than three times that of citizen children in households where all members are citizens.
- Includes a provision that gives the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) \$15 million to evaluate the costs, feasibility, and public interest of replacing the Direct File program, which allows people to file their taxes for free.
- Increases funding for mass detention and deportation, resulting in an immigration enforcement budget of \$170 billion over four years, and tripling ICE's budget from previous years. This will put immigrant families and providers at risk and undermine all of the systems that rely on their work.
- Allows for the indefinite detention of children and families, contrary to the Flores Settlement Agreement, which governs how children in detention must be treated.

The Impact of H.R.1:

- Over 10 million people becoming uninsured.
- Over 5 million people at risk of losing some or all of their food assistance.
- 2.6 million U.S. citizen children will lose access to the Child Tax Credit.
- Over 5 million children with an undocumented parent become at greater risk of separation from their family.

The Administration Signed a Bill into Law that will Cause Unprecedented Harm Across the Country, Particularly to Families with Low Incomes (Continued)

Even provisions meant to help families in H.R.1 don't actually help those most in need.

- Creates Trump Accounts, which are savings accounts that will be seeded with a one-time investment from the federal government of \$1,000 per baby born between 2025 and 2028. Since there are no larger investments targeted to families with lower incomes, and due to the way the accounts are structured, Trump Accounts will likely widen the country's wealth gaps.
- Increases the maximum CTC to \$2,200 per child and adjusts the amount to inflation annually; however, the credit **remains unavailable** to families with little to no earnings.
- Includes provisions that expand pre-existing tax credits related to child care, but the limitations of these tax credits mean that few families—and, overwhelmingly, those with higher earnings—can actually benefit from them.

Some of H.R.1's provisions have already started to claw back supports people rely on. For example, on November 6, 2025, the Department of Education (ED) concluded a rulemaking session on all federal student loan-related changes in the bill. As part of these changes, the list of programs defined as "professional" degrees that are eligible for higher loan limits **will be greatly reduced**, cutting out a number of graduate programs in fields that were previously recognized as "professional" and are predominantly female-occupied, like educators and social workers.

The need for health care, food assistance, and economic support don't go away just because the federal government chooses to ignore them. Instead, states will absorb the costs of these cuts and will have to figure out how to provide their constituencies with supports for their basic needs. As a result, other state-funded programs that families rely on will also be at risk of cuts.

In addition, individuals and families impacted by the harmful policies in H.R.1 are likely feeling the compounding effects of the law, as the health care, food assistance, and economic supports that helped many make ends meet are going away, even as the cost of living is rising.



The Administration Manufactured a Shutdown that Threatened Jobs, Food Assistance, and Head Start and Still Resulted in Increased Health Care Costs

From October 1, 2025 to November 12, 2025, the Trump Administration instigated the longest government shutdown in U.S. history. In so doing, Republican Congressional leaders and the White House made a deliberate policy choice to avoid extending the ACA premium tax credits that millions of Americans rely on to make their health coverage affordable. Under the President's watch, enhanced tax credits for Marketplace insurance expired. Without enhanced tax credits, out-of-pocket prices for Marketplace premiums will increase by an average of 114 percent. Many people will become uninsured as a result. The shutdown was also a means to attack federal workers and weaken programs the administration and Republican leadership deliberately wanted to cut.

During and as a result of the government shutdown:

- Food assistance through SNAP and WIC were defunded beginning in November, threatening the food security of over 40 million people. As a result, states had to rely on limited contingency funds, which pushed some toward new enrollment freezes. The administration refused to use the more than \$5 billion in contingency funds to keep the SNAP program running.
- One hundred and forty Head Start grantees that serve over 65,000 children, or approximately 10 percent of all grantees, did not receive operational funding due to the government shutdown.
- The administration carried out another round of layoffs as retribution for the shutdown, targeting 4,000 government employees. These firings included Administration for Children and Families staff in the Office of Early Childhood Development and nearly 87 percent of remaining ED staff.

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Publications Click below to view resources.

- **The Budget Reconciliation Act of 2025: Harms to Immigrant Children and Families**
- **Impact of Medicaid Cuts in H.R. 1 on Non-Expansion States**
- **Tying Medicaid to Work Further Limits Who Policymakers Deem Worthy of Health Insurance and Undermines the Affordable Care Act**
- **10 Things to Know About the Child Tax Credit Under the New Trump Reconciliation Bill**
- **Senate Doubles Down on House Plan to Take Health Care Away from Millions**
- **The Senate's Budget Reconciliation Bill is Bad for Children and Families**
- **Proposed Reconciliation Changes to SNAP Would Reduce Access for Disabled People**
- **House Ways & Means Reconciliation Proposal Forsakes Everyday People to Benefit the Wealthy**
- **Eligible People Will Lose Medicaid Coverage Through Reconciliation Process**
- **Reconciliation Changes to SNAP Would Disproportionately Harm Black and Brown Communities and Families with Low Incomes**
- **How the Education & Workforce Committee's Reconciliation Bill Would Harm Students with Low Incomes**
- **On the Chopping Block: How Medicaid Cuts Will Impact Mental Health**
- **House Judiciary Committee's Reconciliation Bill Would Harm Immigrant Families and U.S. Citizen Children**
- **Medicaid Cuts Come Into Focus: Millions Stand to Lose Health Care**
- **The Hunger Behind the Numbers: The True Cost of SNAP Cuts**
- **It's a Cut to Medicaid No Matter What You Call It**
- **State Legislators Will Face Impossible Decisions if Congress Cuts \$2 Trillion**
- **Putting a Face to the Cuts: The Human Cost of the Budget Resolution**

Press Releases

- **White House and Congress Manufactured a Crisis that Threatens Jobs, Food Assistance, and Head Start and Will Increase Health Care Costs**
- **Federal Shutdown Reflects Trump's Chaotic Government; Children and Families Pay the Price**
- **CLASP Outraged by Reconciliation Bill's Unprecedented Harm, Ready to Respond**
- **Senate Budget Reconciliation Bill Sacrifices the Well-Being of Working Families to Give Tax Breaks to Billionaires**
- **House Reconciliation Bill Slashes Child and Family Supports to Fund Mass Deportation and Further Enrich the Wealthy**

THE ADMINISTRATION HAS USHERED IN THE LARGEST CUTS TO HEALTH CARE AND FOOD ASSISTANCE IN THE NATION'S HISTORY

Since taking office, the Trump Administration has undermined access to affordable health coverage, directly targeting Medicaid and the ACA Marketplace, as well as made significant policy changes in mental health and substance use treatment. Through its rhetoric and actions, the administration has increased the stigma that exists around mental health and substance use, and demonized treatment that has worked for many. The administration has also attacked the nation's food assistance system, repeatedly threatening SNAP and other programs through funding cuts, increased administrative barriers, and efforts to restrict eligibility. In addition to these federal changes, the increasingly punitive political climate created by federal agencies under this administration has emboldened states to pursue further restrictions on benefit access. Together, these actions represent the largest cuts to health care and food assistance in the nation's history and reflect a broader effort to weaken the social safety net that helps families meet their basic needs.

The Administration has Championed the Largest Cuts to Health Care in Our Nation's History and Fractured Our Mental Health Infrastructure

The Trump Administration:

January 31, 2025	Issued an executive order saying that providing support to disenfranchised populations is a form of discrimination. Following the order's publication, certain federal datasets were removed from the internet.
March 4, 2025	Rescinded guidance that states used to create pilot programs to solve health-related problems, such as providing short-term nutrition or housing support.
March 24, 2025	Withheld \$11.4 billion allocated for state and local health departments for grants focused on addiction and mental health, as well as other programs like fighting infectious diseases, resulting in halted projects and job loss; while, at the same time, renewing the public health declaration for the opioid crisis. In May a preliminary injunction was granted to require the funding to be allocated to state and local health departments.
March 27, 2025	Released a plan to merge several HHS agencies into the proposed Administration for a Healthy America (AHA), which would result in cutting 10,000 jobs from agencies including the Food and Drug Administration, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the National Institutes of Health (NIH). To create AHA, critical programming and staff who support mental health and substance use, minority health, research, and infectious diseases programs, among others, have been cut.
May 12, 2025	Announced that it would not enforce parity rules set by the Biden Administration to push insurers to cover mental and physical health conditions at similar rates.
May 22, 2025	Released the " Make Our Children Healthy Again " assessment from Make America Healthy Again initiative, which supposedly seeks to support child well-being while deprioritizing mental health funding for children.

The Administration has Ushered in the Largest Cuts to Health Care and Food Assistance in Our Nation's History

	June 20, 2025	Issued a rule reversing many policies that have helped people secure health insurance through the Marketplace, including excluding Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients from receiving tax credits, increasing administrative burdens, and shortening future open enrollment periods. This rule also barred Marketplace plans from covering gender-affirming care for transgender persons.
	July 17, 2025	Issued guidance stating no new state waivers, which have primarily been used to provide multi-year coverage for children under age six, will be approved for multi-year continuous eligibility among Medicaid participants. Ended LGBTQ+ specific services on 988, the suicide prevention hotline.
	July 24, 2025	Published an executive order allowing for increased involuntary or forced treatment of people experiencing homelessness, mental health, and/or substance use issues.
	September 10, 2025	The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) released new priorities ending diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA) efforts, deprioritizing harm reduction and Housing First policies, denying gender identity, and rejecting the importance of ensuring equitable provision of behavioral health services and the importance of acknowledging and addressing inequities in health.
	October 10, 2025	Sent reduction in force notices to more than 100 SAMHSA employees during the government shutdown, slashing the number of total employees to half of what SAMHSA had at the beginning of 2025.
	December 18, 2025	Issued a final declaration denouncing gender-affirming care practices and threatening all providers from providing gender-affirming care.
	December 19, 2025	Proposed several rules to restrict gender-affirming care for transgender youth. These rules include language prohibiting federal funding to provide hospital-related care through Medicaid and Medicare, as well as reimbursement prohibitions for youth receiving gender-affirming care through Medicaid and CHIP. Additionally, the proposed rule eliminates gender dysphoria as a disability in the nondiscrimination law, allowing for discrimination of people with gender dysphoria.
	January 13, 2026	SAMHSA sent notices immediately terminating mental health and addiction funding for programs for children, youth, Mental Health First Aid, pregnant and postpartum women, and support for Tribal Nations, among other programs. Due to swift reporting and advocacy from groups, individuals, and state and federal policymakers, the Trump Administration announced a rollback of the cuts on January 14, 2026.

The Administration has Severely Weakened the Nation's Food Systems and Cut Access to Food Assistance, Affecting Millions of Families

The Trump Administration:

January 31, 2025	Issued a directive ordering a federal funding freeze on grants and loans, creating widespread confusion and panic among federally funded programs, including <u>WIC</u> .
March 10, 2025	Terminated funding for two major local food initiatives that supported schools, food banks, and farmers. The Local Food for Schools and Local Food Purchase Assistance programs, which enabled institutions to purchase food directly from local farmers, were eliminated as part of a broader push to reduce federal spending.
March 20, 2025	Released an executive order directing agencies to allow the government access to comprehensive data from state programs that receive federal funding, a move that forced agencies to share highly sensitive personal data without a clear purpose, weakening protections and setting a precedent for access by federal officials outside the programs themselves.
May 6, 2025	Sent a memo to states requiring them to share all records related to SNAP benefits and allotments with the federal government. This threatened privacy protections and could discourage eligible families from accessing benefits due to fears that their information might be shared with immigration enforcement.
May 19, 2025	Approved state-level waivers limiting what SNAP recipients can purchase, a move that could make it more difficult for recipients to use their benefits and reflects an approach that polices people experiencing poverty rather than improving structural issues.
September 20, 2025	Ended the Household Food Security Report, which offered the clearest and most consistent picture of who was going hungry and why .
December 2, 2025	Announced that federal funding for SNAP benefits would not be sent to most Democratic-led states unless those states provided additional information about recipients' citizenship status. Several of these states are now suing over the requirement.
January 9, 2026	Announced that the Department of Agriculture is suspending federal financial awards to Minnesota, effective immediately, based on allegations of fraud that have not been supported by any evidence.

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Publications Click below to view resources.

- [Fading to Invisible: Why Ending the USDA Food Security Report Makes Hunger in America Invisible](#)
- [The Violent Intersection of Police Response and Mental Health Crises](#)
- [Medicaid Financing: Dangers of Block Grants and Per Capita Caps Summary and Full Report](#)
- [A Mother's Voice: Advocating for WIC and Nutrition Equity](#)
- [Families Affected by Substance Use Need Holistic Healing and Recovery Support](#)
- [When Hunger Speaks a Different Language: Food Insecurity, Immigrant Families, and the Invisible Barriers That Keep Kids Hungry](#)
- [The Silent Link: The Food System's Role in Black Maternal Mortality](#)
- [Why SAMHSA's Mental Health Block Grant Must Include Early Intervention and Prevention](#)
- [Attacks on DEI Negatively Affect Prenatal and Postpartum Mental Health](#)
- [Our Nation's Health Depends on Medicaid](#)
- [Proposals to Aid the Wealthy Come at the Expense of Health Care and Food Assistance for Millions](#)
- [Between the Lines: Understanding Our Country's Racialized Response to the Opioid Overdose Epidemic](#)



THE ADMINISTRATION JEOPARDIZED ECONOMIC SUPPORTS FAMILIES RELY ON TO AFFORD THEIR BASIC NEEDS

During the 2024 campaign, Trump promised to make life more affordable for families and reform the tax code to benefit working families. Despite this, the administration has created a culture of chaos at the IRS that included having seven different commissioners in ten months; passed a tax package that withheld the CTC from U.S. citizen children in mixed-immigration status families; shared taxpayer information with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE); and ended the Direct File program, which helped people file their taxes for free. The administration also laid off staff at the Administration for Children and Families who oversaw the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, which provides critical monthly case assistance for families with very low incomes, and has threatened to withhold TANF funding from certain blue states. Taken together, these actions will make it harder for families to access critical tax credits that effectively lift children and families out of poverty, and receive assistance for which they are eligible.

The Trump Administration:

The Trump Administration:		Attacking the IRS and their Ability to Support Taxpayers
February 3, 2025	Elon Musk, a leader of the DOGE initiative, posted that <u>he “deleted” 18F</u> , which is a government agency responsible for Direct File. This created confusion about the availability of the program and its future for taxpayers going into the tax season.	The administration reduced the workforce of the IRS by <u>25 percent</u> ; this reduction will make it harder for taxpayers to receive support and to file their taxes. It will also make it more difficult for the IRS to investigate corporations who may be defrauding the government at the expense of taxpayers.
March 2025	Instructed IRS staff to stop working on developing the <u>Direct File</u> program, which provided tax filers with a free option for filing their taxes directly with the IRS, for the next tax season.	
March 12, 2025	Reversed the TANF Fiscal Responsibility Act pilots that were previously approved to measure outcomes based on <u>family stability and earnings</u> rather than workforce participation.	
April 8, 2025	Finalized <u>a memorandum of understanding</u> with ICE to share taxpayer information with the agency to identify and aid in deportation efforts for undocumented immigrants; as a result, several high-level staff departed in protest.	
July 2, 2025	Rather than maintaining previously approved TANF applications, released <u>a new request</u> for TANF pilot applications that mandated states submit those new proposals in approximately a month under new criteria.	
August 8, 2025	Disclosed <u>thousands of records</u> concerning taxpayer information to ICE, which could create a chilling effect among undocumented people no longer feeling safe filing their taxes.	

The Administration Jeopardized Economic Supports Families Rely on to Afford Their Basic Needs

November 5, 2025	Formally ended the Direct File program, which means tax filers will lose access to easy-to-use, free filing directly with the IRS and may be forced to rely on paid options for tax filing assistance.
November 20, 2025	The U.S. Department of Treasury announced that it will issue forthcoming regulations regarding the treatment of refundable tax credits, including the Earned Income Tax Credit and the Additional CTC, as “federal public benefits” under the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA), which would jeopardize access to these tax credits for certain immigrants who currently can access them.
January 6, 2026	Announced that federal funding would be frozen for five blue states, California, Colorado, Illinois, Minnesota and New York, including \$7.35 billion in TANF funds, nearly \$2.4 billion in Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) funds, and \$869 million in Social Services Block Grant funds, due to unsubstantiated suspicions of fraud.

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- [Threats to the Supplemental Security Income Could Unravel Our Entire Economy](#)
- [Threats to the Social Security Administration Could Unravel Our Entire Economy](#)
- [Proposed IRS Cuts Will Hurt Taxpayers and Our Economy](#)
- [The 2025 Tax Package: A Chance to Make the Tax Code Fair by Expanding Credits and Increasing Revenue](#)
- [The Earned Income Tax Credit Should be Expanded for Workers Without Children](#)

Press Releases

- [Cancellation of TANF Pilots Precludes Metrics-Based Innovation in Five States](#)



THE ADMINISTRATION IGNORED RISING HOUSING COSTS, INSTEAD DIVERTING FEDERAL RESOURCES TO INSTITUTIONALIZE AND CRIMINALIZE HOMELESS PEOPLE

The administration has threatened to withhold funds from housing providers that serve unhoused people and initiated sweeping changes in grant selection processes, with the result that several providers of emergency, transitional, and permanent supportive housing now implement work or treatment requirements in their programs. There is **little evidence** that forced treatment is effective at helping people exit homelessness. Providing safe, stable, and affordable permanent housing, paired with voluntary supportive services, has been shown to help individuals stabilize and avoid hospitalization and incarceration. State and local governments have also been emboldened to invest in policies that criminalize or institutionalize people experiencing homelessness. The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has previewed several changes to federal rental assistance programs in 2026 that will take housing away from millions of people.

The Trump Administration:

January 20, 2025	Ordered a federal funding freeze on grants and loans, including most rental assistance and homelessness prevention programs. The order created confusion among housing providers before a federal district judge temporarily blocked it. The Trump Administration ultimately rescinded the directive, but not before leaving providers uncertain about their future funding.
July 24, 2025	Issued an executive order stating their intention to force people experiencing homelessness into “long-term institutional settings” and redirecting federal funding toward programs that force people to participate in substance use or mental health treatment before they are eligible for housing assistance.
September 3, 2025	Utah officials announced plans to build a camp for people experiencing homelessness, mental health and/or substance use issues, which would include 1,300 beds. The proposed plan, modeled after cities like Reno, San Antonio, and Miami, would draw funds from redirected grants, as outlined in the July 24 executive order.
November 14, 2025	Issued new funding rules targeting the Continuum of Care program, which would dramatically reduce federal funding opportunities for permanent supportive housing programs and leave up to 170,000 people at risk of returning to homelessness. The notice would redirect almost \$3.9 billion used for permanent housing toward time-limited programs with work and treatment requirements, encouraging states to further segregate people experiencing homelessness. This directive was blocked by a court order in December, but the administration has vowed to pursue the policy change when permitted.

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- **Encampments Criminalize the Unhoused**
- **D.C. Takeover Is Latest in Trump’s Attacks on People Experiencing Homelessness and the Marginalized**

THE ADMINISTRATION HAS ATTACKED IMMIGRANT FAMILIES, THREATENING THEIR SAFETY, DIGNITY, AND ABILITY TO THRIVE

Since taking office, the Trump Administration has advanced a sweeping set of policies that attack immigrant families and harm long-standing protections that are critical to the ability of children in immigrant families to thrive. Through executive orders, new rules, and expanded enforcement, the administration has pushed immigration enforcement deeper into daily life. These actions have empowered local police to act as immigration agents; increased detentions and deportations; and exposed children to the trauma of seeing parents and caregivers arrested, often in places that were once considered safe. At the same time, the administration has restricted pathways to achieving legal status; limited access to health care, nutrition assistance, and other basic supports; and used public benefits and personal data to advance enforcement goals. Together, these actions threaten children's health, safety, and development, and represent a coordinated effort to make stable family life increasingly out of reach for immigrant communities.

The Administration's Crusade Against Immigrants and Onslaught of Anti-immigrant Policies Have Separated Families and Undermined Their Ability to Meet Their Basic Needs

The Trump Administration:

January 20, 2025

Amplified racist and xenophobic messages across speeches, press briefings, and federal agency communications, including through [an executive order](#).

Issued an [executive order](#) to increase collaboration between ICE and local police officers through 287(g) agreements.

Issued an [executive order](#) expanding the use of expedited removal (e.g., deporting people without access to a full court hearing), denying funding to sanctuary cities, and applying criminal and civil penalties for immigrants who fail to register as undocumented, among other extreme measures.

Growing Enforcement Agreements to Implement Family Separation

Since January 2025, DHS officials have rapidly signed hundreds of new 287(g) agreements in an effort to significantly boost the number of local officers authorized to carry out immigration enforcement duties.

The number of agreements has ballooned to at least 7.5 times what it was in January 2025.

Many police chiefs and sheriffs [have objected](#) to the program because it strains local budgets, diverts limited resources, and undermines public safety as people become afraid to report crimes or call for help when they fear that doing so could lead to a loved one being deported.

The Administration's Crusade Against Immigrants and Onslaught of Anti-immigrant Policies

Have Separated Families and Undermined Their Ability to Meet Their Basic Needs

January 20,
2025

Rescinded the protected areas policy, which had **limited** ICE and Customs and Border Patrol activities in and near hospitals, schools, child care centers, houses of worship, food pantries, homeless and domestic violence shelters, disaster relief efforts, and other places that provide essential services.

Issued an **executive order** reframing the process used to issue visas as a means to target activists, scholars, educators, and other individuals who are either actively speaking out against the administration or have done so in the past.

Issued an **executive order** seeking to strengthen the border wall, detain as many immigrants as possible based on the *suspicion* of violating the law, and pursue criminal charges against undocumented immigrants and individuals who facilitate their ability to live in the U.S.

Issued an **executive order** expanding the use of U.S. military personnel and increasing surveillance sweeps along the southern border, **creating military zones**.

January 29,
2025

Signed the **Laken Riley Act**, which calls for the unjust detention of undocumented people accused of theft-related crimes and grants state attorneys general the authority to take legal action against the federal government if they claim federal immigration laws are not being adequately enforced, into law. The bill's broad and harsh measures mean that even children can be detained in conditions that are harmful to their well-being.

Issued an **executive order** recommending that educational institutions monitor and report the activities of immigrant students and staff under the guise of combating antisemitism, but with the ultimate purpose of deporting immigrants who disagree with the administration's policies.

March 12,
2025

Made plans to **once again** jail families with children in ICE detention facilities; two family detention centers were open by June, including the re-opening of the largest family detention center in Dilley, Texas, where **advocates have reported alarming conditions**.

March 25,
2025

Issued **a new rule** allowing ICE the ability to access the immigration status of sponsors and family members of unaccompanied children. This will have a chilling effect on sponsors and family members and cause children to remain in government custody longer.

The Rescission of the Protected Areas Policy Leaves Children and Families Vulnerable

Some form of the protected areas policy—an understanding that enforcement actions should be limited in certain areas—has been in place for over three decades.

The removal of these protections has resulted in immigrant families not seeking critical support and services. In addition, **children are at risk of** witnessing the arrests of trusted adults and young people, like their siblings, in their community, **causing trauma in the short and long term**. Service providers and workers, many of whom are immigrants, also have to deal with the stress of potential immigration enforcement actions in their workplace.

The Administration's Crusade Against Immigrants, and Onslaught of Anti-immigrant Policies Have Separated Families and Undermined Their Ability to Meet Their Basic Needs

April 11, 2025	Issued an <u>interim final rule</u> requiring noncitizens to register with the federal government and carry proof of their registration or risk criminal prosecution.
April 28, 2025	Signed an <u>executive order</u> directing the U.S. Attorney General and Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary to publish a list of states and local jurisdictions that "obstruct the enforcement of Federal immigration laws" and to force state and local governments to comply with the administration's unlawful enforcement actions.
July 2, 2025	Replaced the directive related to protections for detained parents to be able to make decisions about their child's care with <u>a directive</u> that makes it more difficult for immigrants to enter the country for termination of parental rights hearings.
July 29, 2025	Introduced new <u>additional cash incentives</u> to recruit ICE enforcement agents, including a <u>student loan forgiveness program</u> .
September 2, 2025	Announced that DHS will offer <u>reimbursement of personnel costs</u> to local police departments that assist ICE with arrests and removals; the funds for this program come from H.R.1.
September 8, 2025	Empowered by <u>a ruling issued</u> by the Supreme Court to continue to racially profile immigrants. The <u>order</u> stated that federal agents could continue to detain people and question them about their immigration status based on <i>presumed</i> race or ethnicity; speaking Spanish or speaking English with an accent; type of employment; and/or being in an area deemed to have a high concentration of migrants and immigrants.

The Militarization Across the Country Threatens Due Process for All, and Results in Violence and Harm

Since taking office, the Trump Administration has deployed federal military forces and National Guard in an attempt to further their family separation agenda and silence political opponents. Federal agents and military have been deployed in cities and states across the country, including Los Angeles, California; Washington, D.C.; Portland, Oregon; Chicago, Illinois; Minneapolis, Minnesota; and North Carolina.

As a result of the militarization and lack of accountability, over 170 U.S. citizens and thousands of children have been detained by immigration enforcement agents. The violent enforcement actions have separated children in mixed-status families from their loved ones and caused all community members to confront the trauma that follows, such as when a pre-K teacher in Chicago was detained in front of her students or a woman was shot and killed while observing immigration enforcement actions in Minneapolis.

The Administration Restricts and Attempts to Scare Immigrants from Accessing Public Benefits and Critical Services They are Eligible For and Authorized to Use

The Trump Administration:

February 19, 2025	Issued an <u>executive order</u> seeking to bar undocumented immigrants from federal public benefits, even though they are already ineligible for most programs.
March 1, 2025	Issued an <u>executive order</u> declaring English the “official language” of the United States, resulting in agency limitations on the translation and interpretation of critical information.
March 11, 2025	Announced a rule to <u>restrict access</u> to health coverage for DACA recipients starting on August 25, 2025.
May 15, 2025	Directed the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to transfer the personal data of millions of Medicaid enrollees to DHS and attempted to press the IRS to share taxpayer data with DHS officials.
July 9, 2025	Rescinded a 1998 interpretation of PRWORA, <u>redefining</u> which programs would be considered “federal public benefits” to restrict eligibility for key programs based on citizenship status.
July 10, 2025	<u>Issued notices</u> across agencies including the Departments of Agriculture, Health and Human Services, Education, and Labor restricting eligibility for certain federal programs to “qualified immigrants,” in response to the executive order issued on February 19.
November 18, 2025	Released a proposal to <u>repeal the Biden-era public charge rule</u> , which is applicable to immigrants applying for a green card, with plans to release more restrictive guidance at a later date. The repeal could open the public charge determination process to widespread confusion, discrimination, fear, and chaos.
November 25, 2025	<u>Announced</u> that HHS and CMS will share certain information with DHS that is “useful for immigration enforcement purposes.”

Public Charge 2.0 Will Cause Harm to Immigrant Families, States, and the Economy

The proposed rule claims so-called cost “savings” from people unenrolling from public benefits. However, there is no mention of how public benefits contribute to public health and overall well-being and of the cost savings from providing preventive health care and access to nutritious food to people who cannot afford them. Moreover, the Trump Administration acknowledges that this rule would cause U.S. citizen children to lose access to critical programs and bring economic harm to our health care providers, grocery retailers, and farmers. Yet the administration is choosing to proceed with this rule anyway, prioritizing its crusade against immigrants over what’s actually best for the country and our economy.

The Administration Threatens Birthright Citizenship and Accelerated the Loss of Lawful Status of Immigrants

The Trump Administration:

January 20, 2025	Issued an <u>executive order</u> attempting to deny birthright citizenship to babies born without at least one parent who is a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident. The order is blocked by courts but signals an unprecedented attack on the Constitution and creates uncertainty for pregnant people and mixed-status families.
February 5, 2025	<u>Revoked</u> an 18-month extension of <u>Temporary Protected Status (TPS)</u> for Venezuelans under the 2023 designation. Following the <u>legal challenges to the revocation</u> , the <u>Supreme Court</u> issued a ruling on October 3, 2025, allowing the <u>termination</u> to take effect immediately.
March 25, 2025	Published a <u>notice</u> announcing that the four humanitarian parole programs that allowed for Cubans, Haitians, Nicaraguans, and Venezuelans to stay in the U.S. would be terminated, ending protections for many program beneficiaries earlier than anticipated, affecting more than half a million people and directly removing the source of most recipients' sole work authorization.
May 13, 2025	<u>Declared that TPS for Afghanistan would expire</u> without redesignation. A <u>lawsuit</u> led by CASA, Inc. challenged the termination but was ultimately denied.
June 4, 2025	<u>Declared the termination</u> of TPS protections for Cameroon without redesignation. Despite a lawsuit led by CASA, Inc., the termination took effect on <u>August 4, 2025</u> .
June 6, 2025	<u>Declared the termination</u> of TPS protections for Nepal, affecting <u>approximately 7,160 Nepalis</u> . On December 31, 2025, a federal judge voided the termination of TPS for Nepal, Honduras, and Nicaragua, <u>reinstating TPS protections for these countries</u> .

Revoking TPS Leaves Families Vulnerable to Separation

The Trump Administration is stripping immigrants of their lawful status in order to create more undocumented immigrants subject to deportation. TPS holders are just one population the administration is targeting, but will have devastating impacts on them and their families, including the nearly quarter of a million children with a parent with TPS.

Those impacted so far include more than:

- 600,000 Venezuelans under the 2021 and 2023 designations
- 330,000 Haitians
- 8,100 Afghans
- 4,900 Cameroonian
- 4,500 Ethiopians
- 3,600 Burmese

Thousands of other TPS recipients remain vulnerable to losing their status along with other immigrant populations. While advocates are fighting the terminations by suing the administration, directly impacted immigrants must navigate confusion and uncertainty while decisions are made in distant courthouses about their livelihoods and futures. The dynamic and inaccessible nature of these legal challenges makes it difficult for everyone to understand the status of TPS designations and provide actionable advice to TPS holders, leaving them feeling isolated and fearful.

The Administration Threatens Birthright Citizenship and Accelerated the Loss of Lawful Status of Immigrants

July 8,
2025

Declared the expiration of TPS for **Nicaragua** and **Honduras** without redesignation, affecting approximately **54,000 individuals**. The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals granted the administration's request for an emergency order to **proceed with the terminations**, resulting in the expiration of TPS benefits for **Nicaragua** and **Honduras** on September 8. On December 31, 2025, a federal judge voided the termination of TPS for Nepal, Honduras, and Nicaragua, **reinstating TPS protections for these countries**.

July 17,
2025

Ended the Deferred Action for Labor Enforcement (DALE) program, which granted work authorization and temporary protection from deportation for immigrant workers in labor disputes. Without the program, **it will be easier** for employers to exploit immigrant workers.

September 8,
2025

Declared the termination of TPS protections under the 2021 Venezuela TPS designation. TPS protections for Venezuelans under the 2021 designation **expired** on November 7, 2025, with a small group maintaining their status until October 2, 2026.

September 22,
2025

Declared the termination of TPS protections for Syria, without redesignation, impacting approximately **3,860 Syrians**. TPS protections were set to expire on November 21, 2025; however, following **legal proceedings**, a federal judge has paused the termination. DHS has **appealed this decision**.

October 30,
2025

Published a **rule** that ended the practice of automatically extending certain work permits known as Employment Authorization Documents, or EADs, for up to 540 days when a renewal EAD application is filed on or after October 30, 2025. This impacted over **1 million workers**, including TPS-eligible immigrants, asylum applicants, and H-1B worker spouses.

November 11,
2025

Declared the termination of TPS protections for South Sudan, without redesignations, impacting approximately **210 South Sudanese recipients**. TPS protections were set to expire on January 5, 2026; however, following **legal proceedings**, a federal judge issued an order pausing the termination on December 30, 2025.

November 25,
2025

Declared the termination of TPS protections for Burma, without redesignation. TPS protections are set to expire on **January 26, 2026**.

November 28,
2025

Declared the termination of TPS protections for Haiti, without redesignations. TPS protections are set to expire on **February 3, 2026**. **Legal proceedings** are ongoing, with a federal judge is expected to rule on lawyers' request to pause termination by February 2, 2026.

December 4,
2025

Updated the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services policy manual to reduce the maximum validity for many EAD categories from up to five years to 18 months for all applications approved after December 5, 2025.

December 12,
2025

Declared the termination of TPS protections for Ethiopia, without redesignation. TPS protections are set to expire on **February 13, 2026**.

More from CLASP

Publications Click below to view resources.

- **Trump's Racist Attacks Against TPS Will Rip Apart Families, Harm Local Economies, and Endanger Thousands**
- **Nearly 200 Child-focused Organizations Oppose Proposed Public Charge Rule**
- **Without DALE, Employers Gain More Power to Exploit Workers**
- **DHS should respect parental rights**
- **The Trump Administration is Using Student Debt to Build a Military State**
- **Preserving Parental Rights in the Face of Deportation: What to Know About the New Detained Parent Directive**
- **SCOTUS Hears Oral Arguments on Trump's Birthright Citizenship EO: What's at Stake for Children?**
- **Comment Letter: DHS Removal of the Automatic Extension of Employment Authorization Documents**
- **Comment Letter: Opposition to DHS Proposed Rule Interpreting "Federal public benefit" Under PRWORA**
- **Comment Letter: Opposition to DHS proposed rule on UC Program**
- **Comment Letter: Opposition to DHS proposed rule on registration requirement**

Press Releases

- **ICE Agent Fatally Shoots Woman in Minneapolis**
- **Public Charge Proposal Threatens the Health and Well-being of Immigrant Families and All Communities**
- **Supreme Court Order Will Embolden Racial Profiling and Targeting of Immigrants**
- **Court Rulings Maintain Access to Critical Programs for Immigrant Families**
- **DACA Recipients Will Lose Health Care Coverage as New Trump Rule Takes Effect**
- **In Latest Attack on Immigrants, Trump Administration Attempts to Limit Access to Essentials Like Education and Health Care**
- **Supreme Court Decision on Birthright Citizenship Case Will Create Chaos and Harm Our Nations' Babies, Families, and Communities**
- **CLASP Condemns Los Angeles ICE Raids and Demands Release of SEIU President David Huerta**
- **Cutting Off DACA Recipients from the ACA Is Latest Move Showcasing the Administration's Cruelty**
- **New Executive Order Targets Immigrant Families' Access to Essential Program**
- **Millions of Children Threatened by Repeal of "Protected Area" Safeguards**
- **Executive Orders on Immigration Will Harm Children, Families, and the Country**

THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION CUT WORKER RIGHTS AND MADE WORKPLACES LESS SAFE

Since taking office, the Trump Administration has destroyed the functionality of government agencies by firing appointed commissioners to agencies that advance workers' rights and protect workers from discrimination, and by firing **thousands** of federal workers without cause and due process. At the same time, the administration has deregulated job quality and repealed workplace regulations, prioritizing corporate profits over worker safety, livable wages, and basic labor standards. Despite President Trump's claims that he is "putting American workers first," his administration proposed cuts of more than 33 percent to the Department of Labor's (DOL) funding, with the deepest cuts affecting the DOL's grant programs and Job Corps; and made cuts and changes to workforce development programs such as registered apprenticeships and technical career training programs. Without these programs, groups such as women and immigrant workers cannot advance to better jobs with higher wages and improved conditions. The aggressively deregulatory nature of these actions will hollow out the government's capacity to serve as a check on corporate power, reshape the labor market to normalize the suppression of worker voice, and normalize poor job quality.

The Administration Targeted the Federal Workforce, Agencies, and Programs, Undermining the Law and Weakening the Federal Government's Ability to Serve Everyone in the Country

The Trump Administration:

January 20,
2025

Published an **executive order** revoking nearly 80 prior policies regarding worker rights, which opened the door to removing policies which protect workers.

Enforced a freeze on **federal hiring** and created the means to replace career civil service workers with political appointees.

Established the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), which ordered the firings of thousands of federal workers and cut vital programs across the country. CLASP **tracked the harms of the DOGE cuts** by showing how many people and households were at risk from the elimination of government programs.

January 24,
2025

Unlawfully fired 17 Inspectors General who independently investigate fraud and abuse within federal departments.

DOGE has resulted in nearly 300,000 federal employees being fired

Programs those fired federal employees administered and supported include:

- Head Start, which served over 770,000 children and pregnant people in fiscal year (FY) 2023.
- CCDF, which served over 1.4 million children in FY22.
- In 2023, 71.6 million people received benefits administered by the Social Security Administration, with 5.8 million people being newly awarded benefits. They are at risk if customer service capacity declines and backlogs increase.
- NIH grants support more than 300,000 medical researchers and 2,500 institutions, including hospitals, medical schools, and universities.

The Administration Targeted the Federal Workforce, Agencies, and Programs, Undermining the Law and Weakening the Federal Government's Ability to Serve Everyone in the Country

January 28, 2025	<p>Illegally fired two general commissioners from the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, which left the commission without the needed membership to be able to vote on new rules, issue guidance, and initiate major lawsuits that involve discrimination against workers and systemic discrimination in workplaces.</p>
February 10, 2025	<p>Illegally fired a Merit Systems Protection Board (MSPB) member, which harmed the federal workforce, as the MSPB is an independent agency that protects the federal merit systems and the rights of employees in those systems.</p>
February 27, 2025	<p>Terminated the Employment and Training Administration's existing grant programs that include any and all DEIA mandates, policies and programs; as a result, programs for women and underrepresented groups to ensure good quality jobs were cut.</p>
March 14, 2025	<p>Rescinded a policy that increased the minimum wage for 390,000 low-wage federal contractors, cutting pay for federal contractors in states that don't have a minimum wage that's higher than the federal minimum wage of \$7.25 per hour.</p> <p>Eliminated the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, which prevents and resolves work stoppages and disputes in the public and private sector.</p>
March 26, 2025	<p>Terminated the International Labor Affairs Bureau's existing grant programs, which funded nonprofit and nongovernmental organizations to combat child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking around the world.</p>
March 27, 2025	<p>Directed agencies to terminate collective bargaining agreements with unions representing federal workers and work to essentially make thousands of positions at-will.</p>
May 6, 2025	<p>Terminated the Women's Bureau's existing grant programs, which funded nonprofit organizations working to recruit and train women in nontraditional, male-dominated occupations and nonprofit organizations working to address gender-based violence and harassment in the workplace.</p>

The Administration Weakened Worker's Rights, Which Protect Them From Harm and Ensure Job Quality, and Actively Made Workplaces Less Safe

The Trump Administration:

January 31, 2025	<p>Nullified Collective Bargaining Agreements finalized with federal agencies during the last month of the Biden Administration. Those contracts are now in limbo.</p>
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The Administration Weakened Worker's Rights, Which Protect Them From Harm and Ensure Job Quality, and Actively Made Workplaces Less Safe

	<p>February 6, 2025</p>	<p>Paused the Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA)'s pending rulesmakings, notably the proposed Heat Injury and Illness Prevention standard and emergency response updates and slowed OSHA's ability to adopt and enforce new protective standards for workers.</p>
	<p>February 14, 2025</p>	<p>Rescinded labor enforcement guidance, which narrowed the ability of the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) to prosecute bad employers, among other harms.</p>
	<p>March 14, 2025</p>	<p>Replaced the Biden-era executive order "Investing in American Workers" with an executive order that could lead to more federal funding going to exploitative employers who will create jobs with lower wages that are less likely to be unionized.</p>
	<p>March 24, 2025</p>	<p>Fired a member of the NLRB and the chair of the Federal Labor Relations Authority, resulting in the NLRB losing the three-member quorum needed to issue decisions.</p>
	<p>March 27, 2025</p>	<p>Issued an executive order excluding 30 federal agencies and offices from the Civil Service Reform Act, thereby removing collective bargaining rights for hundreds of thousands of federal workers at agencies including the Veterans Administration, Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Energy, and others with "national security missions."</p>
	<p>May 1, 2025</p>	<p>Published guidance that would reduce the likelihood of aggressive misclassification enforcement, meaning fewer investigators will automatically treat gig economy and contractor arrangements as employee relationships based solely on the 2024 framework.</p>
	<p>July 1, 2025</p>	<p>Eliminated policies supporting worker safety, including a proposed interpretation of federal guidance that would weaken the safety net for workers by narrowing OSHA's scope of enforcement across numerous industries; a rescission of requirements for employers to provide adequate lighting at construction sites; a proposed deregulation of numerous chemical safety standards; and a push to roll back protections against toxins like asbestos, lead, and formaldehyde.</p> <p>Withdrew efforts that would have added recorded data on workplace injuries; without recorded and standardized injury data, both worker protections and enforcement will be weakened and power will further shift in favor of employers.</p>
	<p>July 2, 2025</p>	<p>Rolled back coordinated labor enforcement efforts with farmworker groups, federal and state agencies, and other necessary parties outside the DOL that are related to the employment, housing, and working conditions of farmworkers, leaving them more vulnerable than ever.</p> <p>Proposed a clawing back of the application of the Fair Labor Standards Act for domestic workers, which would strip 2.9 million home care workers of guaranteed minimum wage and overtime pay and worsen the current care crisis.</p>

The Administration Weakened Worker's Rights, Which Protect Them from Harm and Ensure Job Quality, and Actively Made Workplaces Less Safe

	<p>Proposed rescinding worker protections for migrant farmworkers in the H-2A program; these policies have provided millions of farmworkers protections such as setting a wage floor.</p> <p>Proposed rescinding a Biden-era rule that would end sub-minimum wages for workers with disabilities.</p>
July 24, 2025	Released a rule to limit additional safety provisions in mine-specific ventilation and training plans.

The Administration Cut Workforce Development and Career Technical Training

The Trump Administration:

March 14, 2025	Revoked an earlier executive order focused on expanding registered apprenticeships in federal employment or on federally funded projects, signaling that the federal government will no longer prioritize registered apprenticeships and slowing the expansion of private-sector registered apprenticeships.
July 2, 2025	Proposed a rescission "prohibiting illegal discrimination in registered apprenticeships programs," which would limit the ability of women and workers of color to access better jobs with higher wages and improved conditions.
July 10, 2025	Issued guidance on PRWORA that could bar immigrant workers from accessing workforce development programs.

More from CLASP

Publications Click below to view resources.

- [DOGE Tracker](#)
- [The Trump Administration is Making Your Workplace More Dangerous](#)
- [Cuts to NIOSH and OSHA are an Imminent Threat to All Workers](#)
- [The Nomination of Crystal Carey for NLRB General Counsel is Dangerous for Unions and Workers' Rights](#)
- [For Southern Black Workers, The Fight Against Racist Right-to-Work Legislation is Nothing New](#)
- [Fighting Fires through Coercion: The Criminalization and Exploitation of Black Laborers](#)
- [Comment Letter in Opposition to DOL Proposed Rule on OSHA standards](#)
- [Comment Letter in Opposition to DOL Proposed Rule on Coordinated Enforcement Regulations](#)
- [Comment Letter in Opposition to DOL Proposed Rule to Rescind Worker Protections in the H-2A Program](#)
- [Comment Letter in Opposition to DOL Proposed Rule on Application of the Fair Labor Standards Act to Domestic Service](#)

Press Releases

- [The Department of Labor's Deregulatory Agenda Attacks All Workers](#)
- [How Federal Layoffs Will Harm Generations of People with Low Incomes](#)
- [EEOC, NLRB Firings Plus Federal Buyouts Will Harm Workers and Our Economy](#)



THE ADMINISTRATION MADE HIGHER EDUCATION LESS AFFORDABLE AND ACCESSIBLE

The administration declared open war on the Department of Education (ED) and diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). Through the use of illegal impoundments, mass firings, and weaponized resources, the administration has attacked educational institutions that it feels are attempting to protect marginalized students from the administration.

The Administration has Waged a Ruthless and Illegal Campaign to Attack the Department of Education

The Trump Administration:

March 11, 2025	<p>Laid off half of ED workforce as a deliberate move to facilitate closing the department without required Congressional approval.</p>	<p>Illegally Closing ED will Harm Students, Children, Families, and Entire Communities</p> <p>One of the administration's first declarations after taking office was a "<u>final mission</u>" to dismember ED. The goal of these actions have nothing to do with finding better methods of enforcing federal civil rights law, adding capacity to manage federal financial aid awards, or protecting vulnerable student populations like those with disabilities. Rather, it has everything to do with stripping communities of valuable resources for the sake of the wealthy.</p>
March 20, 2025	<p>Issued an executive order calling for the full and illegal dismantling of ED, which has been carried out through actions that violate federal law and place the nation's public education system at risk, including moving ED offices to other federal agencies without Congressional approval, firing and laying off thousands of ED staff, and refusing to allocate funding appropriated by Congress.</p>	
May 21, 2025	<p>Signed an interagency agreement to illegally transfer control of the Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education to the DOL's Employment and Training Administration without Congressional consultation or approval.</p>	
August 22, 2025	<p>Declined to defend against a legal challenge from the state of Tennessee and Students for Fair Admissions claiming that dedicating federal grants to Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs) and other minority-serving institutions is unconstitutional. This decision places at risk federal resources targeted for under-resourced institutions that serve large numbers of Latino and first-generation students, as well as students with low incomes.</p>	
October 30, 2025	<p>Released its final rule on limiting Public Student Loan Forgiveness eligibility for public and nonprofit employers who are deemed to be engaging in "unlawful activities" such as "supporting terrorism and aiding and abetting illegal immigration." ED officials stated that employers working with immigrants and transgender individuals will be under specific scrutiny.</p>	

The Administration has Waged a Ruthless and Illegal Campaign to Attack the Department of Education

November 18, 2025	Announced plans to illegally <u>transfer</u> several departments outside of ED, including the Office for Civil Rights, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, and Office of Postsecondary Education.
December 8, 2025	ED <u>brought back</u> dozens of Office of Civil Rights staffers, who had been placed on administrative leave with the end goal of being laid off, to assist with a growing caseload of over 25,000 discrimination complaints from students and families.
December 9, 2025	Announced a proposed <u>settlement</u> between ED and the seven states that had sued the department over the Saving on a Valuable Education (SAVE) student loan repayment plan, seeking to end SAVE and move seven million borrowers into more unaffordable plans.
December 22, 2025	Announced that ED will send initial notices of <u>wage garnishment</u> of up to 15 percent of after-tax wages over defaulted student loans to a group of around 1,000 borrowers starting in January 2026, with more notices being sent out as the year progresses.

Cuts to Federal Education Harm Marginalized Students

Cutting and diverting federal education funding would increase the share of education costs that students are directly responsible for and compromise the ability of the postsecondary system to provide equitable access to educational opportunities.

Public institutions and Minority-Serving Institutions, regardless of public or private status, provide most of the educational opportunities for all postsecondary students and especially those marginalized by race, gender, or immigration status.

For fall 2025, over 6.9 million non-white, 8.8 million female, and 168,000 international undergraduate students were enrolled in higher education and stand to be impacted by the administration's policies.

The Administration Deliberately Targeted Students and High-Profile Institutions and Weaponized the Department of Education

The Trump Administration:

January 30, 2025	Signed an <u>executive order</u> painting pro-Palestine college protestors as violent radicals and declaring that any foreign students participating in protests will lose their student visas.
February 6, 2025	Announced <u>investigations</u> into San Jose State University and the University of Pennsylvania for Title X violations due to allowing transgender women to compete in athletics events corresponding to their gender identity.
February 14, 2025	Published a <u>letter</u> stating that institutions can no longer use "racial preferences" in any education program or activity and threatening to withhold federal funding from any school deemed as non-compliant.

The Administration Deliberately Targeted Students and High-Profile Institutions and Weaponized the Department of Education

March 6, 2025	Opened a civil rights investigation into the University of California system over allegations of antisemitic work environments caused by student protestors supporting Palestine.
March 7, 2025	Announced the cancellation of \$400 million in federal grants across four federal agencies to Columbia University due to alleged inaction around the harassment of Jewish students.
March 14, 2025	Announced Title VI investigations into 45 universities for partnering with a nonprofit that helps Black and Latino students obtain business degrees.
July 1, 2025	Announced an agreement with the University of Pennsylvania related to February's Title IX investigation; the university publicly stated that it complied with the administration's interpretation of Title IX and the administration restored \$75 million in suspended federal grants and contracts.
September 10, 2025	Eliminated \$350 million in federal grants to HSIs and stated that federal grants for other minority-serving institutions would also be cut due to being deemed unconstitutional and discriminatory.
October 1, 2025	Asked universities and colleges to join a compact that would grant access to federal funding in exchange for agreeing to certain ideological demands, including banning consideration of race or sex in hiring and admissions processes and interpreting "male," "female," "woman," and "man" according to reproductive function and biological processes.
November 17, 2025	Published an internal memo proposing to suspend dozens of universities from a program pairing university researchers with state department policy offices if the schools set DEI objectives for candidate pools or used DEI hiring practices.
November 28, 2025	Made a deal with Northwestern University to restore \$790 million in frozen federal research funding in exchange for the university paying the federal government millions of dollars, ending the provision of gender-affirming care, and agreeing to other provisions.
December 2, 2025	The Department of Justice's Office of Legal Counsel published a memo declaring a large swath of ED programs and grants, including those related to minority-serving institutions, as unconstitutional based on prior Supreme Court decisions. The memo also announced restrictions on the United Negro College Fund and Hispanic Scholarship Fund from having access to Free Application for Federal Student Aid data.

More from CLASP

Publications Click below to view resources.

- **Threats to the Department of Education: Private Equity Replacing Public Funding**
- **Standing Up for Academic Integrity Through Athletic Conferences**

Press Releases

- **Executive Order on Education Will Harm Children, Families, and the Economy**
- **Cuts to Department of Education Will Affect Millions of Students & Families**

THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION UNDERMINED CHILD CARE AND EARLY EDUCATION PROGRAMS

The Trump Administration has disrupted the child care and early education sector, intentionally undermining programs that serve families of color and families with low incomes. Their actions include sudden funding freezes, restrictions on Head Start grantees' ability to operate and serve the children they are intended to reach, baseless attacks on immigrant families and providers, and more, all of which have sown chaos and confusion in the sector.

The Administration has Weakened Programs that Serve Children and Families, and Withheld and Threatened Funding for Early Childhood Programs

The Trump Administration:

January 27, 2025	<p>Froze federal funding, which locked Head Start providers and CCDF administrators out of the websites used to access grants and contributed to dozens of Head Start programs temporarily closing before funds were restored.</p>
February 14, 2025	<p>Laid off probationary staff at the Office of Head Start (OHS) and the Office of Child Care (OCC), resulting in a reduction of approximately 20 percent of staff.</p>
March 14, 2025	<p>Signed a Continuing Budget Resolution through the end of fiscal FY2025 that provided level funding for Head Start and the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG), the country's primary funding stream for child care assistance that gets determined each year through the Congressional appropriations process. Due to inflation and expired COVID relief funds, level funding is an effective cut.</p> <p>CLASP estimated that approximately 24,000 fewer children will have had access to child care through CCDBG in FY25 as a result, and that number could rise to 50,000 if funding remains level through fiscal year 2026.</p>
March 18, 2025	<p>Issued a directive to Head Start grantees establishing that no funds would be approved for program expenditures that promote or take part in DEI initiatives.</p>
April 1, 2025	<p>Conducted another round of mass layoffs resulting in an overall reduction of 50-60 percent of staff in OHS and OCC and the closure of five regional offices, which provided training, technical assistance, administrative support in ensuring grants reached facilities, and communication between program administrators and the federal government.</p>
April 22, 2025	<p>Announced its "Defend the Spend" strategy, which required all grant recipients to include a 1,000-character justification for their program's funding. The memorandum acknowledged that the new guidance would lead to delays and require additional advance preparation.</p>

The Administration has Weakened Programs that Serve Children and Families, and Withheld and Threatened Funding for Early Childhood Programs

	August 22, 2025	<p>Announced that it would allow states to apply for additional waivers in the implementation of the 2024 CCDF final rule as it works to release a new rule that will likely undermine positive changes from the 2024 regulations, including capping copayments for families to keep care affordable and paying providers prospectively to ensure they are able to run their businesses and best support children and families.</p>
	January 2, 2026	<p>Released a notice for CCDF that proposed rolling back 2024 regulations that supported timely provider reimbursements, paying providers by enrollment, using grants and contracts to expand access to care, and capping the co-payment for families.</p>
	January 5, 2026	<p>Reinstated the “Defend the Spend” policy for all states administering CCDF in response to a YouTube influencer’s accusations of child care provider fraud in Minnesota; the reinstatement will require states to submit additional justification to draw down already allocated federal resources.</p>
	January 6, 2026	<p>HHS announced it had frozen access to child care and family assistance funds in California, Colorado, Illinois, Minnesota and New York, blocking \$2.4 billion in CCDF funds, \$7.35 billion in TANF funds, and \$869 million in SSBG funds from serving children and families in these states.</p>

The Administration Harmed Immigrant Families and the Immigrant Child Care Workforce

	The Trump Administration:	
	January 20, 2025	<p>Rescinded the protected areas policy, which had limited immigration enforcement actions in places that provide essential services, including early education spaces. This instilled significant fear in families and providers, reduced enrollment in child care programs, and resulted in direct enforcement actions happening in front of children and families in and near child care settings.</p>
	July 9, 2025	<p>Rescinded a 1998 interpretation of PRWORA, redefining which programs would be considered “federal public benefits” in order to restrict eligibility for key programs based on citizenship status. This redefinition sought to include Head Start, which would have prohibited immigrant children from accessing the program. Head Start’s inclusion in the reinterpretation was ultimately blocked by a temporary injunction.</p>
	November 19, 2025	<p>Proposed rescinding current regulations on “public charge,” which pertain to lawfully present immigrants applying for green cards. While current policy considers whether green card applicants have used cash assistance or have gotten nursing home care through Medicaid, this proposal would deny access to green card holders based on an applicant’s use of any health or social services program.</p>

More from CLASP

Publications Click below to view resources.

- **How the Trump Administration has Undermined Child Care and Early Education Programs in 2025**
- **The Impact of Anti-immigrant Policies on Children, Families & the Child Care and Early Education Workforce**
- **Federal Cuts to Child Care and Head Start are an Attack on Families with Low Incomes**
- **Cuts to SSBG, TANF Would Eliminate Child Care for 40K Children, Disrupt Care for Millions More**
- **A Guide to Creating “Safe Space” Policies for Early Childhood Programs**
- **House Proposed Level Funding for CCDBG Would Mean Nearly 50,000 Children Lose Access Since Last Increase**
- **CLASP Responds to RFI: Ensuring Lawful Regulation and Unleashing Innovation To Make America Healthy Again**
- **FY25 Continuing Resolution Means Fewer Children Have Access to Child Care Through CCDBG**
- **The Real World Costs of Eliminating Head Start**
- **Honoring Black Women’s Labor in the Child Care Sector**

Press Releases

- **Freezing \$10 Billion in Federal Funding Will Harm Children and Families**
- **Child Care Providers Across Many States Attacked by “Influencers”; HHS Response Threatens Access for Children and Families**



GUTTED DEIA AND ATTACKED THE LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY

The administration launched a **series of attacks** against diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA) initiatives, with the rationale that doing so will return America to a society driven by meritocracy and equality. However, dismantling, ignoring, and otherwise rejecting the validity of DEIA programs, policies, and language risks increasing the prevalence of adverse physical and mental health outcomes experienced by communities that already suffer from societal inequities.

The Administration has Attacked DEIA Initiatives, Policies, and Programming

The Trump Administration:

January 20, 2025	<p>Issued an executive order directing all federal agencies to remove anything that "inculcates gender ideology" and prohibiting the use of federal funds from doing so as well.</p> <p>Issued executive orders targeting DEIA initiatives, enabling government offices to deprioritize or defund programs that were designed to serve marginalized people.</p> <p>Issued an executive order terminating all federal DEIA offices, positions, and performance requirements for employees, contractors, and grantees; also removed equity plans, actions, initiatives, programs, and equity-related contractors and grantees.</p>
January 21, 2025	<p>Issued an executive order requiring executive departments and agencies to get rid of all mandates, policies, programs, activities, and guidance believed to disrupt a merit-based system, and also required recipients of federal funding to certify that they do not operate any DEI programs.</p>
January 22, 2025	<p>Removed the White House's online Spanish-language version, a disclaimer that the White House webpage would be accessible to people with disabilities, and a whitehouse.gov statement on accessibility. The Department of Labor removed several webpages providing resources to LGBTQ+ workers.</p>
January 27, 2025	<p>Removed all DEI offices and programming within the Armed Forces and implemented "race-blind" and "sex-neutral" hiring processes. Workplace biases persist against women, non-white people, and LGBTQ+ individuals, and the removal of DEIA measures undermines practices proven to counter them.</p>
January 28, 2025	<p>Issued an executive order ending the use of federal government funds for gender-affirming care for anyone under the age of 19.</p>
	<p>Stopped providing American Sign Language interpretation at all press briefings conducted by President Trump or press secretary Karoline Leavitt. On November 4, 2025, the administration was ordered by a federal judge to resume providing interpretation.</p>

<p>January 29, 2025</p>	<p>Signed an executive order claiming that universities have not done enough to adequately protect their Jewish students and threatening to withhold millions of dollars in health research funding unless institutions comply with federal demands.</p> <p>Issued an executive order labeling gender ideology and critical race theory anti-American, directing law enforcement to criminally prosecute instructors who accept and facilitate the inclusion of transgender minors in school settings. The executive order also promoted the 1776 Commission, which whitewashes American history within school curriculums.</p>
<p>January 30, 2025</p>	<p>Issued an executive order claiming that the gender spectrum is not based on science and prohibiting federal agencies from using federal grant funds on issues relating to gender ideology.</p> <p>Issued a memorandum for the Secretary of Transportation and the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to review all hires and changes to safety protocols under the previous Biden Administration after DEIA programming was implemented within executive departments and agencies.</p>
<p>February 5, 2025</p>	<p>Issued an executive order threatening the federal funding of any elementary, secondary, or postsecondary institution that allows transgender girls to play on girls' sports teams.</p>
<p>March 27, 2025</p>	<p>Issued an executive order creating a task force in Washington, D.C., composed of employees from the Departments of Interior, Transportation, and Homeland Security, as well as other federal and local law enforcement agencies, which results in people being held in pretrial detention for longer periods and more federal and local law enforcement being deployed to address minor crimes.</p>
<p>March 31, 2025</p>	<p>Issued an executive order mandating that educational and research institutions in the Washington, D.C., area remove information acknowledging the historical harms done to Black and brown communities and empowering the Secretary of the Interior to both determine if any statues, monuments, and memorials disparage past historic figures, and reinstate such displays that had been removed.</p>
<p>April 23, 2025</p>	<p>Issued an executive order rescinding previous ED and Department of Justice guidance acknowledging racial disparities in disciplinary actions meted out to students.</p>
<p>April 28, 2025</p>	<p>Issued an executive order restricting police departments from implementing DEI policies, directing more funds and resources to state and local law enforcement and expanding the scale of prisons, among other changes.</p>
<p>April 29, 2025</p>	<p>Gave federal agency heads more discretion over finalizing someone's appointment to a federal service based on whether it would advance "public interest," expanding their power to lay off thousands of federal workers.</p>

PUSHING BACK ON THE ADMINISTRATION'S AGENDA

Throughout the Trump Administration's constant attacks on children, families, and workers, communities have stood up to protect themselves and their neighbors. Below are just a few examples of how communities, policymakers, and courts have put a stop to some of the administration's attempts to strip away people's rights.



Utilizing litigation to stop the administration's agenda. Chicago Women in Trades filed [a lawsuit](#) challenging the administration's January 20, 2025 anti-DEI executive order, leading to a court order that prohibited DOL from requiring grantees and contractors to certify that they do not operate DEI programs as a condition of receiving grant funding.

In another example, a federal judge granted a nationwide [preliminary injunction](#) blocking the administration's attempt to exclude immigrant children in Head Start across the country. This injunction was a result of ongoing litigation related to Head Start on behalf of a coalition of parents and Head Start providers filed with the ACLU challenging the Trump Administration's efforts to dismantle the program.

In December 2025, a federal judge [responded to](#) a lawsuit from 20 states and 11 local governments and nonprofits, by issuing a preliminary injunction, stopping HUD from barring Continuum of Care funding to programs like Housing First and redirecting those funds toward states focused on mandatory treatment and building "rehabilitation camps," like what was proposed in Utah.



Passing state and local laws to protect and support families and their needs. In response to the rescission of the protected areas policy, some states have passed laws to condition immigration enforcement in certain areas, protecting access to places essential for all families to thrive and be a part of their community, like schools, health care facilities, and libraries.



Sharing resources and creating safe spaces for workers and families. Local community leaders have stepped up to understand their rights and share that knowledge with their neighbors. As a result, communities have been able to establish safe spaces in places like [child care facilities and early education settings](#) and equip themselves with knowledge about their rights as a deterrent to immigration enforcement activities that separate families.



Using technical policy expertise to limit harms to families, and educating providers and agencies to not pre-comply. Understanding the technicalities of the policies the administration is trying to push have been critical in putting a stop to their harmful agenda. For instance, clarification around HUD-DHS policies, helped a local policymaker persuade a housing board to reverse lease cancellations for 20 mixed status families, by providing evidence that DHS policies still allow prorated rental assistance to mixed status families.

Providers' and agencies' understanding that just because the Trump Administration says something does not mean it needs to be complied with, has been critical in pushing back on the restrictive policies the administration has threatened. There are laws, rules, and processes that must often be followed in order to implement changes at the federal level. Lawful non-compliance in those requests could mean that families' data stays secure from government overreach.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACTION

As we have already seen, 2026 will bring additional threats to children, families, immigrants, and communities across the country. The administration will continue to look for ways to gut funding and support for key programs and to strip away rights and protections, particularly from marginalized populations. However, understanding the past year's attacks helps provide critical knowledge, which can fuel action.

Consider the following ways to fight back:

- Share with your state and federal decisionmakers your community's story about the impact and harm of the Trump Administration's actions on your community and state, and what your community needs in response.
- Document the harms and challenges and share them with other partners, advocates, and members of Congress.
- Advocate for investments in programs at the federal and state levels that support children, families, and workers.
- Advocate to local, state, and federal policymakers about the need to oppose harmful proposals and support pro-immigrant policies.
- Understand your constitutional rights and work to create safe space policies in places like child care and early education settings, schools, and health care facilities to protect from immigration enforcement actions.
- Share resources with directly impacted people.
- Collectively organize to pool resources for legal actions, provide protections for those unable to organize, and directly pressure policymakers and other leaders to resist federal attacks.