LEWIS–BURKE ASSOCIATES LLC

POLICY UPDATE: AGENCY RESPONSES TO RECENT EXECUTIVE ORDERS

Lewis-Burke Associates LLC – February 7, 2025

This tool tracks agency guidance and known changes to programs of note issued in response to President Donald Trump's Executive Orders (EOs) during his first weeks in office that are of relevance to the higher education and academic research communities, including those focused on cessation of funding activities related to diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA); environmental justice; foreign assistance; antisemitism at institutions of higher education, and the pausing of disbursement of funds from the *Inflation Reduction Act* (IRA) and *Bipartisan Infrastructure Law* (BIL), among other topics. On January 31, Judge Jack McConnell of the District Court for the District of Rhode Island issued a Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) against the freeze of federal funding related to the January 27 OMB memo that had subsequently been rescinded on January 29, stating "the alleged recission of the OMB Directive was in name only and may have been issued simply to defeat the jurisdiction of the courts" and "federal agencies cannot pause, freeze, impede, block, cancel, or terminate any awards or obligations on the basis of the OMB Memo, or on the basis of the President's recently issued Executive Orders." This TRO specifically named the following agencies in its filing: the National Science Foundation, the Department of Justice, the Department of Homeland Security, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Energy, the Department of Transportation, the Department of Labor, the U,S. Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Department of Education, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Department of the Treasury. At the time of writing, it remains to be seen how the TRO will impact on-going agency efforts related to the implementation of the Trump Administration EOs and whether or not the TRO will be enforced only as it relates to the agencies outlined in the filing or more broadly across government. Under the TRO, agencies may not freeze or cancel funding, but reviews related to the EOs are ongoing. Based on the rescinded memo, we believe the federal agencies are prioritizing review of grants related to the following seven EOs:

- *Protecting the American People Against Invasion*
- *Reevaluating and Realigning United States Foreign Aid*
- *Putting America First in International Environmental Agreements*
- *Unleashing American Energy*
- *Ending Radical and Wasteful Government DEI Programs and Preferencing*
- *Defending Women from Gender Ideology Extremism and Restoring Biological Truth to the Federal Government*
- *Enforcing the Hyde Amendment*

Based on Lewis-Burke's understanding of the federal focus on research and aid programs implicated by the EOs, we have compiled the following information on announced agency actions to date. This document will continue to be updated as necessary. Lewis-Burke's broader tracker of Administration executive orders is available here. We will continue to update this document and the EO tracker as new information becomes available.

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Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

Following the first tranche of Executive Orders, HHS agencies proceeded to remove mentions of diversity, equity, and inclusion from their respective websites. While no guidance directly from HHS Acting Secretary Dorothy Fink has been released, some agencies have started to implement the guidance. Below we've provided a list of the websites we know have been removed from agency websites as of the issuance of this document.

Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)

At HRSA the website for the Office of Civil Rights, Diversity, and Inclusion and the Office of Health Equity are no longer accessible.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

The CDC issued a memorandum to grantees indicating that no additional costs should be used to support any DEI programs, personnel, or activities. The memo goes on to state that any piece of DEI programs funded by the US Government should be permanently terminated.

National Institutes of Health (NIH)

NIH has removed mentions of DEI from its website. The following program websites that have been impacted by this change:

- Notice indicating NIH's Interest in Diversity.

- NIH Chief Officer of Scientific Workforce Diversity Website
    - Note: Dr. Marie Bernard filled this role until she announced her retirement in December 2024. The position is likely not to be filled.
- NIH UNITE Program Website
    - This program focused on ending structural racism in biomedical research. Although the mention of UNITE has been removed it appears the funding opportunities that resulted from UNITE are still available for funding.
- Sexual and Gender Minority Office (SGMRO) and Sexual and Gender Minority Health Scientific Research Group.
    - SGMRO was in the process of developing a NIH-Wide Strategic Plan for sexual and gender research for FY 2026-2030.
- Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)
    - EDI's portfolio includes diversity and inclusion programs, and training aimed at cultivating a more diverse and equitable work culture.
- Training, Diversity and Health Equity Office (TiDHE) of NIH's National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI).
- NIH Maximizing Opportunities for Scientific and Academic Independent Careers Program (MOSAIC) and the funding opportunity.

Funding opportunities connected to workforce diversity and health equity are likely to be targeted for changes or expiration. Below are funding opportunities that have been impacted by the EOs:

- The Diversity Administrative Supplement Award was updated to expire on January 24, 2025, from an original expiration date that fell in May 2026.

Federal Drug Administration (FDA)

At the time of this writing, while no public agency-wide guidance from the Federal Drug Administration (FDA) has been released, webpages related to DEIA have been removed. According to STAT News, "it is believed that the FDA can still approve drugs, but cannot make its own announcement about any approvals for now." These include:

- The webpage for Project Equity, a 2021 initiative launched by the FDA's Oncology Center for Excellence that mandated that oncology medical products and cancer drugs adequately reflected the demographic representation of its patients.
- In June 2024, under the former Biden Administration, FDA shared draft guidance, called "Diversity Action Plans to Improve Enrollment of Participants from Underrepresented Populations in Clinical Studies" with the goal to support medical product sponsors in submitting diversity plans for specific clinical studies. It is likely that a final guidance will not be prioritized.
- Several Center for Devices and Radiological Health (CDRH)'s annual reports, including its 2024 report released on January 17, 2025. Other impacted CDRH programs include:
    - CDRH's Health of Women Programs.
    - CDRH's Office of Equity and Innovative Development

Several guidance documents were removed, but a few are still active on the website, including the "Diversity Action Plans to Improve Enrollment of Participants from Underrepresented Populations in Clinical Studies" and "Study of Sex Differences in the Clinical Evaluation of Medical Products."

Department of Commerce (DOC)

Pursuant to the DEIA EOs, the Department of Commerce (DOC) released guidance to all employees to close all agency DEIA offices and end all DEIA-related contracts in accordance with the EO and that there will be additional guidance on the consideration of DEIA in performance plans. Very little additional direction has been made public beyond notices that are similar to those received by several other agencies.

DOC and various offices therein have also quietly taken down DEIA-specific websites and made subtle tweaks to some programming pages. For instance, the Economic Development Administration (EDA) has taken steps to update their Investment Priorities that guide all spending decisions. "Equity," which was the number one priority throughout the Biden Administration, has been stripped from the updated list. It should be noted that several major efforts at DOC in recent years have elements of DEIA principles, but were authorized though major bipartisan legislation, including Regional Tech Hubs and the Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program. Any changes to these programs would be closely scrutinized.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

NOAA is likely to be most impacted by the EO titled Unleashing American Energy, which revokes all Biden-era climate EOs and pauses all *Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)* and *Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)* related disbursements. As of the time of writing, NOAA's IRA website outlining all funding opportunities and awardees is up and can be found here. Nearly all the $3.3 billion that the agency received via the law has been awarded and disbursed via infrastructure projects, grants to communities and independent accelerators, but any remaining funds will be on hold.

While there have been discussions and speculation about NOAA's future and the future of climate research under this Administration resulting from the pause on IRA and BIL funds, as well as public criticism of Environmental Justice, there has been no explicit EO directing stoppage of climate-related work comparable to the DEI-related EOs.

At this time of writing, while there was no official guidance on DEIA released by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric administration (NOAA), certain DEIA webpages and DEI Strategic Plans on NOAA offices have been removed. This includes information about the:

- NOAA National Severe Storms Laboratory
- NOAA Physical Sciences Laboratory
- NOAA Technology Partnerships Office
- NOAA Climate Program Office DEIA Working Group

There are a few webpages that are still active, including the Office of Inclusion and Civil Rights (OICR), although OICR's Policy Statement on Diversity and Inclusion has been removed, along with NAO 202-112: "NOAA Policy for The Establishment and Support of Employee Resource Groups." Additionally, documents on NOAA response to the Science Advisory Board (SAB)'s report on DEIA "Promising Developments and Critical Needs" remains active.

UPDATED: Department of Energy (DOE)

On January 20, 2025, the Department of Energy (DOE) Acting Secretary, Ingrid Kolb, released a departmental memo requiring additional reviews of DOE activities. The memo pauses all actions until expressly approved for:

- **Funding:** Grants, cost sharing agreements, funding opportunities, contracts, and loans will not be approved, announced, or modified unless reviewed and approved by the Acting Secretary or Program Head.
- **Procurements:** Procurements, including requests for proposals, requests for quotations, and contract negotiations, above $100,000, are on hold unless expressly approved.
- **Reports, Studies, Congressional Correspondence and Public Announcements:** This includes requests for information, or public meetings related to reports or studies.
- **Federal Register Notices:** No publication to the federal register without written approval and all items not yet published are immediately withdrawn.
- **Actions under the National Environmental Policy Act:** NEPA work may continue.
- **Personnel actions**: any appointments, promotions or transfers are paused unless approved.

While additional reviews may delay or pause planned actions, the Acting Secretary and incoming leadership have the authority to weigh in on the release of funding calls and grant awards. The Office of Science also issued a notice stating the Office would immediately end requirements for "Promoting Inclusive and Equitable Research (PIER) Plans in proposals submitted to the Office of Science." Solicitations, including those for Isotope Programming and Facilities Research, have already been amended to remove PIER Plan requirements and criteria, and reviewers have been asked not to review submissions including PIER plans or factor them into consideration for selection decisions.

NEW: DOE has indicated that Advisory Committees and Project Peer Reviews are on pause and will not be rescheduled until the department-wide reviews referenced above are conducted and future program directions are clarified. Most recently, the Bioenergy Technologies Office (BETO) postponed peer reviews planned for April 2025 and updated their website to reflect the change.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

On January 22, 2025, NASA's Acting Administrator, Janet Petro, released an agency-wide update stating that the agency would begin closing all DEIA offices and related contracts. The update's language was identical to a memo that was circulated by OPM to multiple agencies and departments. It also cautioned against efforts to "disguise these programs by using coded or imprecise language." The Agency has begun the process of decommissioning the Office of Diversity and Equal Opportunity (ODEO) and related offices at NASA field centers.

According to a Research Opportunities in Space and Earth Science (ROSES) notification, the Science Mission Directorate "is in the process of amending open Program Elements in ROSES-2024 to end the Inclusion Plan Pilot Study, remove requirements for Inclusion Plans and the evaluation factors associated with them, and adjust the content of some other Program Elements to remove references to NASA's DEIA programs. Program elements that have already received proposals will not be amended, but if they required Inclusion Plans, those plans will not be reviewed and will not impact the selection of proposals."

On January 23, 2025, an additional memo for NASA contractors and grantees was released by the Assistant Administrator for Procurement, Karla Smith Jackson, that require immediate, "cease and desist all DEIA activities required of their contracts and grants."

In response to a memo from OPM titled "Initial Guidance Regarding President Trump's Executive Order Defending Women" NASA released guidance to contracting officers and grant officers stating "the procurement, grant, cooperative agreement, and advertisement of gender ideological activities is prohibited."

Despite an initial pause to NASA's Minority University Research and Education Project (MUREP) Aeronautics Community & Environmental Impact Research (ACEIR) opportunity, the program seems to be moving forward with a call for reviewers being sent out on February 5. MUREP does aim to specifically support minorities; however, it is statutory in law and frequently supported on both sides of the aisle.

UPDATED: National Science Foundation (NSF)

NSF has published a website dedicated to informing the public on the implementation of President Trump's recent executive orders, which directs all grantees to cease activity that is non-compliant, including "conferences, trainings, workshops, considerations for staffing and participant selection, and any other grant activity that uses or promotes the use of diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility (DEIA) principles and frameworks or violates federal anti-discrimination laws." NSF has not yet clarified what activities are non-allowable and is expected to issue further guidance. Additionally, public reporting indicates that NSF Director Sethuraman Panchanathan has internally announced the closure of the Office of the Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer and is working to end all contracts related to DEI. Lewis-Burke's understanding is that NSF is currently figuring out how to comply with the Executive Order without violating the *CHIPS and Science Act of 2022*, which included several statutory requirements related to diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts at NSF.

The agency is reviewing individual awards for potential non-allowable activity.
While NSF has not issued official guidance on how it is reviewing awards, public reporting indicates that around 10,000 research grants have been flagged for review for potential violations of the Executive Orders, with potential action for grants under review including "cancelling, archiving, or modifying them." Some phrases that have allegedly caused grants to be pulled for review include "cultural relevance," "diversity," "hate speech," "exclusion," and "implicit bias," among others.

Other actions taken to date include:

- ***NEW:*** NSF has updated its guidance related to its implementation of recent Executive Orders to state that due dates for open solicitations "subject to change" and indicated that revised funding opportunities will be published as necessary as NSF implements the EOs.
    - In addition, the guidance clarifies, "NSF cannot take action to delay or stop payment for active awards based solely on actual or potential non-compliance with the Executive Orders."
- ***NEW:*** The National Science Board will meet on February 11, but only in closed session. The Board's agenda does not officially include any items related to Agency response to Executive Orders, but an update on the ongoing Commission on Merit Review may lead to relevant discussion on how NSF's merit criteria may be adapted to comply with White House Executive Orders.
- As of February 2, 2025, access to NSF's Award Cash Management Service (ACM$) was restored after briefly going down during the week of January 27. NSF has posted FAQs about the restoration of the ACM$ system here.

- The archiving of funding opportunities for programs related to DEI in a couple of Directorates such as the Directorate for Biology and the Directorate for Geosciences has been occurring. As of this writing, this includes the Building Research Capacity of New Faculty in Biology program; the Leading Culture Change Through Professional Societies of Biology program; the Postdoctoral Research Fellowships in Biology program, and the Focus on Recruiting Emerging Climate and adaptation Scientists and Transformers (FORECAST). It is not clear at this time how NSF is going to realign these programs moving forward or if further archiving of programs will occur.
    - It should be noted that other NSF programs focused on broadening participation in STEM, including INCLUDES, the Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation, Alliances for Graduate Education, the Alliances for Graduate Education and the Professoriate, Hispanic Serving Institutions: Equitable Transformation in STEM Education, and NSF Scholarships in Science, Technology Engineering, and Mathematics program (S-STEM) have not been archived and still have proposal deadline dates in 2025 as of this writing.
    - Outside of BIO and GEO directorate-specific programs such as Broadening Participation in Engineering and Launching Early-Career Academic Pathways in the Mathematical and Physical Sciences were still live as of this writing.
- While still active, the GRANTED program has clarified its focus is economic development and no longer focused on equity and diversity.
- Removal of webpages that reference the NSF Chief Diversity Officer and Directorate-specific DEI efforts.
- The webpages for the Committee on Equal Opportunity in Science and Engineering (CEOSE) and NSF's larger broadening participation efforts remain active as of this writing, though it should be noted that the upcoming CEOSE meeting, scheduled for February 13, has recently been cancelled.

Department of Defense (DOD)

At the time of this writing, no public agency-wide guidance from the Department of Defense (DOD) has been released. However, recently confirmed Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth, has been open about his stance on DEI and his support in eliminating DEI programs from DOD. In a post via social media platform X, Secretary Hegseth stated that the "Pentagon will comply, immediately" with the President's EO. Subsequently, the Department's Office for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (ODEI) has halted activities, and there is currently no website for the Office. It is Lewis-Burke's understanding that DOD is reviewing existing projects and may suspend programmatic activities related to DEI in response to the EO.

Of relevance to the academic research community, information on programs and solicitations that support minority serving institutions both defense-wide and across the services is still publicly available online. For instance, there are webpages for opportunities under the DOD Historically Black Colleges and Universities/Minority-Serving Institutions (HBCU/MI), including a separate webpage for its annual summer research internship program.

Additionally, the environmental resilience arm of the Department has seen minimal changes. The Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program and the Environmental Security Technology Certification Program (SERDP/ESTCP) have sustained the goal to "enhance capabilities and sustain operations at Department of Defense (DoD) installations" through environmental

resilience and restoration. While the webpage for SERDP/ESTCP was temporarily down, it is now available here. The FY 2026 solicitation for ESTCP is currently open, focusing on innovative environmental energy technologies for installations; more information is available here.

UPDATED: Department of Education (ED)

On January 23 2025, the Department of Education (ED) released a press release that stated that the agency "has taken action to eliminate harmful Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) initiatives, including references to them in public-facing communication channels and its associated workforce." The release notes actions taken by the agency including "Cancellation of ongoing DEI training and service contracts which total over $2.6 million." On January 28 2025, the Federal Student Aid released a memo noting that the pause does not impact "Title IV, HEA funds, which are provided to individual students."

In response to the *Additional Measures to Combat Antisemitism* EO, ED announced investigations into five institutions of higher education "where widespread antisemitic harassment has been reported." Separately, ED has withdrawn two Notices Inviting Applications for the State Entity Charter School Grant Program and the Charter Management Organization Grant Program, citing their "misalignment" with the Trump Administration's recent EO *Expanding Educational Freedom and Opportunity for Families.*

NEW: In response to the *Keeping Men Out of Women's Sports EO*, ED announced investigations into two institutions of higher education and one middle and high school athletics conference and stated that the Office of Civil Rights is "actively reviewing athletic participation policies at a number of schools."

Department of Labor (DOL)

On January 22 2025, the Department of Labor (DOL) released guidance entitled "Immediate Implementation of Executive Orders "Ending Radical and Wasteful Government DEI Programs and Preferencing" and "Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity." The guidance was sent to Employment and Training Administration (ETA) recipients about changes ETA is making to federal financial assistance awards. The guidance states "All awardees must immediately cease all award activities related to DEI or DEIA. All other award activities should continue."

On January 24, 2025, DOL Acting Secretary of Labor, Vincent Micone, issued a Secretary Order that directed internal staff to "immediately cease and desist" enforcing government contractors' adherence to anti-discrimination laws and affirmative action initiatives.

A recently released DOL funding opportunity notes, "The U.S. Department of Labor is reviewing all Funding Opportunity Announcements for consistency with the Executive Orders titled, "Ending Radical and Wasteful Government DEI Programs and Preferencing," issued on January 20, 2025, and "Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity," issued on January 21, 2025. The Department will take necessary action with the Funding Opportunity Announcement and issue additional guidance including adjusting the close date if appropriate."

Department of State (DOS) and U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)

The U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Agency for International Development have a 90-day pause in all foreign development assistance in response to the January 20 Executive Order, "Reevaluating and Realigning United States Foreign Aid" to enable a review of all foreign assistance programming. The Executive Order states that review will require agency personnel to assess programmatic efficiencies and consistency with U.S. foreign policy, and final determinations on if foreign assistance programs will "continue, modify, or cease" will be made by Department and Agency leadership in consultation with OMB. There has not been any public communication about the criteria utilized to make these assessments. The Executive Order provides that there may be exemptions made to enable programs to continue.

Communications at the time of the initial executive order outlined limited exemptions for food aid, along with military assistance to Israel and Egypt. In a memo issued by Secretary Marco Rubio on January 28, a waiver to the foreign assistance pause was provided for activities that provide "life-saving humanitarian assistance." which applies to "core life-saving medicine, medical services, food, shelter, and subsistence assistance, as well as supplies and reasonable administrative costs necessary to deliver such assistance." The memo reiterated that no new contracts are permitted, and also stipulated that activities that address gender, DEI activities, transgender surgeries, or other non-life saving assistance were not either. Many State Department and USAID bureaus are actively seeking further exemptions and waivers. Since the publication of this Executive Order, the Department of State and USAID grants officers have sent e-mails to program and project implementers containing stop work orders for the duration of the review. A portion of proposals have also been terminated, with an indication that the awards "no longer effectuate agency priorities." Some program solicitations, which had been open for concept note/proposal submissions, have been removed from the websites of State and USAID implementers and from Department/USAID webpages.

In addition to implementing the EO directing the immediate suspension of foreign aid, the U.S. Department of State and USAID are also implementing guidance from the two DEIA-focused Executive Orders (Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity and Ending Radical and Wasteful Government DEI Programs and Preferencing) to cease support for programs focused on diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility. As all foreign aid is suspended, these activities are also being evaluated and some of the terminations may be linked to these activities. In addition, USAID and the Department of State have placed many career officials on administrative leave, including some involved in DEIA initiatives. On January 27, 2025, then-Acting USAID Administrator Jason Gray put ~50 USAID career and foreign service officials on administrative leave, including senior attorneys and senior leadership in bureaus across the agency. According to Jason Gray, the rationale is that officials took action that "appear to be designed to circumvent the President's Executive Orders and the mandate from the American people." An investigation is ongoing. Hundreds of State Department and USAID contractors, supported by foreign assistance programs, have also been furloughed, including massive temporary dismissals of staff from the USAID Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance and the Bureau of Global Health Security.

On February 3, the Department of State announced that Secretary of State Marco Rubio had been appointed as Acting Administrator of USAID by President Trump, "as an interim step towards

gaining control and better understanding over the agency's activity." In the same press announcement, the Department of State indicated Secretary Rubio had notified Congress that a review of USAID's activities is underway "with an eye toward a potential reorganization." Public reporting indicates the letter to Congress proposes possible absorption of some of USAID's functions into the State Department, while others may be abolished.

UPDATED: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

EPA has not publicly released formal guidance on actions for its grants and research programs. At present, there are not active research solicitations under competition. EPA will be impacted by the Executive Order titled Unleashing American Energy which revokes all Biden-era climate Executive Orders and pauses all *Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)* and *Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)* related disbursements. EPA received several billion dollars in total funding from these laws and worked very quickly to disperse funds before the Trump Administration took over. Because of this, EPA's environmental justice funds have been a key target and example for members of Congress and the Administration to demonstrate the need for the funding pause. As of the time of writing, EPA program managers have communicated the agency has paused on these activates, including the recently awarded Community Change Grants and the Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers Program. EPA will continue to work with OMB as they review processes, policies, and programs, as required by the Executive Order.

EPA's Thriving Communities Grantmakers are currently still live on the agency's website which includes links to the independent Grantmakers where applicants can still find funding solicitations, by region. The independent websites for the 10 regional Grantmakers are available below:

- Region 1 – New England (ME, NV, VT, MA, RI, CT, all Tribes within each state)
  - Environmental Justice for New England
- Region 2 – New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands
  - Fordham University's Flourishing in Community
- Region 3 - DE, DC, MD, PA, VA, WV, all Tribes within each state
  - Green and Healthy Homes Initiative
- Region 4 - AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, SC, TN, all Tribes within each state
  - Research Triangle Institute
- Region 5 – Great Lakes IL, IN, MI, MN, OH, and WI, all Tribes within each state
  - Minneapolis Foundation
- Region 6 - AR, LA, NM, OK, TX, all Tribes within each state
  - Bullard Center for Environmental and Climate Justice
- Region 7 - IA, KS, MO, NE, all Tribes within each state
  - Cultivating Healthy Environments
- Region 8 - CO, MT, ND, SD, UT, WY, all Tribes within each state
  - Mountain and Plains EJ Grant Hub
- Region 9 - AZ, CA, HI, and NV, the Pacific Islands, all Tribes within each state
  - Social and Environmental Entrepreneurs
- Region 10 - AK, ID, OR, WA, all Tribes within each state
  - Philanthropy Northwest

NEW: On February 5, staff were notified that the EPA Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights would be closing, with employees to be placed on administrative leave. Along with this, the EPA took down their Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJEST) and EJScreen. This was forecasted in the December White House Environmental Justice Advisory Committee, where the community was urged to download all environmental justice resources from the White House and EPA websites.

Similarly, Attorney general Pam Bondi, who was sworn in the same day, rescinded former attorney general directives on environmental justice and directed the U.S. Attorney's Offices to revoke "memoranda, guidance, or similar directive that implement the prior administration's 'environmental justice' agenda."

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)

USDA has not yet released formal guidance regarding research grants from the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) nor from the Agricultural Research Service (ARS). The only posted information thus far is from NIFA stating "All NIFA Requests for Applications are currently under review. Check back for updates or subscribe to NIFA Funding Opportunities for email updates as they happen." This is understood to be a result of the widespread funding review for compliance with all Executive Orders.

On the USDA website, mentions of DEIA have been removed. This includes:

- The Office of the Chief Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (CDIO) along with its "Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility Strategic Plan."
- The USDA Equity Commission, a 15-member independence commission charged with evaluating USDA programs and services and recommending how to reduce barriers for accessing them.
- The Discrimination Financial Assistance Program, which was established by the Inflation Reduction Act to allocate $2 billion for farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners who experience discrimination in USDA farm lending programs.

USDA will also be impacted by the Executive order titled Unleashing American Energy which revokes all Biden-era climate Executive orders and pauses all *Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)* and *Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)* related disbursements. The majority of funds received via these laws went to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for conservation programs. In accordance with the EO, it is expected that these funds will be paused until further notice. The Farmers.gov page where IRA information regarding participation in the loan and conservation programs has been archived.

While there have been discussions and speculation about USDA's future and the future of climate research under this Administration resulting from the pause on IRA and BIL funds as well as criticism of Environmental Justice, there has been no explicit executive order directing stoppage of climate-related work comparable to the DEI related EOs.

USDA employees have reportedly been directed to remove mentions of climate change from agency websites. These changes are still being made, but as of now the ARS Climate Hubs are still live, but the Climate Smart Commodity program has been partially removed. While there is not a

clear Executive Order that this directive stems from, the administration's stance on climate issues indicates that this is likely to spread across the federal agencies.

Department of Homeland Security (DHS)

While the Department of Homeland Security has not publicly issued any written guidance directly related to science and technology funding or academic grants, there have been statements and directives that otherwise may impact the academic community and its stakeholders. Specifically, on January 20, 2025, then Acting Secretary Benjamine Huffman issued a directive stating that two of the Department's agencies tasked with enforcing U.S. immigration laws, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), would no longer be bound by the "protected" areas memorandum issued by the previous Administration. The referenced October 2021 memorandum directed ICE and CBP officers to refrain, to the fullest extent possible, from taking enforcement actions near designated sensitive areas such as schools, shelters, treatment facilities, parades, and places of worship. By rescinding this memorandum, the Acting Secretary emphasized the need to give law enforcement the tools they need to remove violent offenders wherever they may be, while also underscoring the need for officers and agents to exercise discretion when determining the threat to public safety.

On January 23, 2025, then Acting Secretary Huffman also issued a statement granting authority to agents and officers from the U.S. Marshals Service (USMS), Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), and the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) to enforce certain immigration laws. It is currently unknown whether the Department of Justice (DOJ), under which these agencies fall, has issued consistent guidance to its officers and agents with regard to enforcing immigration laws traditionally within the jurisdiction of DHS.

U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ)

During the week of January 27, the Office of Justice programs removed all currently open National Institute of Justice federal funding opportunities and cancelled all webinars related to the funding programs. Additionally, DOJ announced the creation of a Task Force to Combat Antisemitism in response to the *Additional Measures to Combat Antisemitism* EO. The Task Force will include representatives from the Department of Education and the Department of Health and Human Services. It has indicated its first priority will be to "root out anti-Semitic harassment in schools and on college campuses."