



# Funders Together

## TO END HOMELESSNESS



### Policy Alert

#### What's Happening: President's FY2026 Budget Request | Medicaid and SNAP at Risk

This week marked the first 100 days of the Trump Administration and here are the most recent developments related to threats to housing programs and homelessness services:

- This morning, President Trump [released his FY2026 budget request](#) with the anticipated deep cuts to (or elimination of) safety net programs, including rental assistance and Community Development Block Grants (CDBG). Funders Together is working with our partners to provide a fuller analysis and messaging guidance soon.
- Yesterday, On May 1, the [U.S Forest Service started its raid on the encampment](#) on federal land in the Deschutes National Forest – displacing around 150 people, more than half of which have disabilities.
- The U.S House of Representatives are moving forward with their budget reconciliation legislation with plans for deep and concerning cuts to Medicaid and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) in order to cut taxes for the ultra-wealthy.
  - The legislation is going to the committees that oversee Medicaid and SNAPs next week with an expected Ways and Means Committee vote happening the week of May 12. The goal is to send a complete budget reconciliation package to the Senate before Memorial Day.
- US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) [Secretary Scott Turner signaled](#) the possibility of withholding federal funding from cities based on progress around addressing homelessness.
- [Reports have surfaced](#) that the US Department of Justice has directed the Office of Justice Programs to explore ways to redirect resources towards efforts other than Housing First including encampment raids and involuntary hospitalizations.

As a reminder, Funders Together compiled a [Federal Administration Action page](#) to help funders understand the landscape of what is happening and share resources to inform your work. In addition, **join Funders Together and Fund for Housing and Opportunity for our [next monthly policy funder call](#) on May 7 at 2:00pm ET / 11:00am PT.** During this call, participants can share what they're hearing from the field, assess the immediate and long-term impacts of these political shifts, and explore potential strategies for funding and advocacy.

## What Philanthropy Can Do Now

Philanthropy can act now to meet the moment while also supporting efforts for the future:

### Policy & Advocacy:

- Educate and encourage your foundation leadership, boards, and trustees in using their personal influence to **push back on the federal Administration and Congress's attempts to gut Medicaid, SNAP, and housing assistance programs**. Talk about the connection between Medicaid and its role in addressing homelessness, then [provide examples of the harmful impacts](#) these cuts will have on your communities and neighbors experiencing homelessness.
- Consistently speak up via local media, op-eds, and education opportunities with policymakers about **how detrimental cuts to critical programs like Medicaid are and how philanthropy is not and cannot be a substitute for federal funding**. The expectation to fill gaps through private philanthropic funding is unrealistic and will leave many people without critical services. You can use this [tracker from the Urban Institute](#) to review how many people are served through HUD and the total amount of HUD funding received in your state.

### State & Local Mobilization:

- Make the case to your foundation leadership to [increase your grantmaking](#) for the foreseeable future and make funds available through multi-year, unrestricted grants with minimal application and reporting processes. [Funders Together can provide assistance](#) in navigating these conversations with your leadership.
- Convene community partners and conduct a needs assessment. Then, **explore opportunities for pooled emergency funds to address the greatest needs**. While philanthropy cannot fill the gaps of government disinvestment in programs and services, philanthropy must do what it can to stave off harm to the millions of Americans who depend on government-funded support.
- When convening community partners and impacted people to understand current needs, be sure to also **resource space to vision and imagine what structures and systems we need to create** for a more just and liberated world as we engage in rebuilding.

### Communications:

- [Add your foundation to the public solidarity sign-on campaign](#) to show support for our communities by ensuring philanthropy is able to continue fair and equitable grantmaking practices towards meeting the needs of our neighbors.
- **Consider what information is publicly available** on your website about your grantee partners, especially those focused on equity and justice, and what steps you can take to limit potential risks for your grantees.
- [Publicly recommit to housing and racial justice](#) and articulate the actions your foundation will take to reinforce this commitment, like steady and increase funding towards justice efforts.

## Litigation & Legal Strategy:

- **Resource** [current lawsuits under way](#) and talk with your grantee partners about other opportunities for legal action and what they need to execute it.
  - **Invest in creating legal defense funds** for your community partners and connect them with legal counsel if needed.
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## The Bigger Picture for Philanthropy: Leaning into True Community as a Form of Resistance

Community rooted in collective liberation is an essential piece of not just surviving crises, but also resistance to oppositions of justice. True community provides joy, love, safety, solidarity, and security. However, [white supremacy culture](#) has us moving counter to this and engaging with each other in ways that are inauthentic and transactional, which many of us have had (and are continuing) to unlearn. And in times of crisis, there is a tendency to amplify white supremacy culture characteristics and revert to operating this way because of the urgency and scarcity mindset capitalism conditioned us into.

If we are to treat the current moment like the crisis it is, then philanthropy should be exploring ways to infuse resources to support community and relationship-building, particularly on the ground in communities that have been historically marginalized and also among grantee partners at all levels. In addition, funders should engage in conversations with community partners to understand what they need to build and sustain authentic, multiracial relationships across locations, identities, and issues they care about.

Because of the racism at this country's foundation and the violence that stemmed from it, people at the sharpest intersections of oppression, particularly Black and Indigenous folks, understand the importance of community and how it plays a crucial role in both survival and resistance. Philanthropy has an obligation to support the necessary work that has always been happening in these communities, while also intentionally learning lessons from ancestors before us about what true community is and how we invest in relationships with love and disruption.

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## Policy Resources:

- **Funders Together to End Homelessness:**
  - [Federal Administration Action Resources for Philanthropy](#)
  - [A Call to Bold Action](#)
- **Center for American Progress:**
  - [DOGE Cuts by City, State, and Congressional District](#)
- **Center on Budget and Policy Priorities:**
  - [Our Response to the Housing Crisis Must Include Rental Assistance, Not Just More Supply](#)
- **National Alliance to End Homelessness:**

- [How the Equal Access Rule Can Protect Trans People and Sex Workers](#)
- [More Than 9 Million People Could Be at Risk of Homelessness If Federal Rental Assistance Was Eliminated](#)
- **National Health Care for the Homeless Council:**
  - [Homelessness and Medicaid: What's the Connection?](#)
- **Prision Policy Initiative:**
  - [Tracking how the Trump administration is making the criminal legal system worse](#)
- **Urban Institute:**
  - [HUD Supports Affordable Housing Nationwide. Layoffs and Budget Cuts Will Undermine That Mission](#)
- **In the News:**
  - [Sweep of Homeless Camp in Oregon Said to Be 'Largest in Recent History'](#) (New York Times)
  - [DOGE Days: Inside The Dismantling Of The Federal Homelessness Agency](#) (Forbes)

We are here to answer your questions or provide insights into public policy developments and opportunities. Please reach out at any time.

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