



## Federal Funds Update Call

Avery Prine, Sam Rockwell & Kerry York-Myles | Federal Funds Implementation Team

# September 11, 2025 Agenda

## **Presentation (15 minutes)**

1. Introduction: Team & Purpose
2. Updates: Federal Developments, Resources, Funding Opportunities
3. Topic Area Spotlight: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency: Navigating the Federal Landscape

## **Questions and Group Discussion (15 minutes)**

# Team Intro & Overview

**Mission:** Partner with Minnesota entities to access and deploy federal funds to accelerate state goals.



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## Our Focus Areas

1. Monitor the federal landscape
2. Advance the resourcing of strategically significant projects
3. Monitor and evaluate federal funds deployment
4. Curate, develop & share federal funding technical assistance

# Purpose of this call

**While we can't provide clarity right now, we can:**

- Share information to facilitate risk analyses
  - Tracking reimbursement blockages
  - Tracking cancellations
  - Tracking NOFOs
  - Tracking guidance and EOs
- Provide a space for others to share information and strategies
- Build a support network of people working through similar problems

# Current and Upcoming Resources

## Current and Upcoming

- **September 12, 2025: MnCIFA and MN Dept of Commerce – [Request for Information](#)**
  - Request for Information (RFI) from developers, contractors, project owners, equipment suppliers, manufacturers and other interested parties to understand the impact of the new requirements in federal law (H.R.1) for certain clean energy projects and facilities to secure federal investment tax credits.
- **September 26, 2025: MDH [Rural Health Transformation Plan – Public Comments](#)**
  - Identified focus areas include emergency services, primary care, care for people with complex and chronic conditions, mental and behavioral health care, maternal health care, and other at-risk services or unmet needs.
  - Questions can be directed to [rural.transformation.mdh@state.mn.us](mailto:rural.transformation.mdh@state.mn.us)
- **October 1, 2025: Robert Wood Johnson (RWJ) [Rapid Response: Reinvesting in Racial and Indigenous Health Equity Research](#)**
  - RWJ Rapid Response Research funding is exclusively available to applicants who have already received federal funding (e.g., from the NIH, CDC, NSF) for their health equity research but have since had their funding partially or fully rescinded due to federal administrative actions.
  - [Weekly office hours](#) are available until the application deadline.

# Ongoing Resources

## Ongoing

- **[NEW] Federal Budget Information:** [Reconciliation](#)
  - [Minnesota Programs Impacted by 2025 Reconciliation](#)
  - [Federal Tax Impacts on Minnesota Taxpayers](#)
- Disruption Trackers: [Temporary Disruptions, Permanent Cancellations, and Court Ordered Reversals](#)
- Lawyers for Good Government: [Fund Protection Clinic](#)
- MN TA Collaborative: [Technical Assistance Provider Directory](#)
- Environmental Protection Network: [Federal Funding Management Webinars and Office Hours](#)
- Impala Ecosystem: [Minnesota Philanthropic Hub](#) (for MN-based nonprofits, foundations and members of the Minnesota Council of Foundations)
- MCN Legal Services Initiative: [Nonprofit Legal Help Desk, Legal Resource Library, Compliance Support and Webinars](#)
- Federal Funds Information for States (FFIS): [Deciphering Federal Budgetspeak](#)

# Sign Up for the Federal Funds Information Email List



[public.govdelivery.com/accounts/MNMMB/signup/47799](https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/MNMMB/signup/47799)

# Federal Developments

- The appropriations process continues, with a September 30 deadline.
- The U.S. Supreme Court [stayed](#) a lower court decision that prevented a “pocket recission” of ~\$5B in foreign aid funding. Aid groups have until tomorrow (Friday) to file a response.
- A [federal appellate court](#) sided with the EPA and withdrew a district court injunction against the EPA’s termination of Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund dollars.
- The five-person working group that authored a July 2025 [DOE report](#) that minimized the potential for climate-change-induced harm was [dissolved](#), but the report has not been withdrawn ([litigants contend](#) the working group was illegally formed).
- Proposed repeal of the GHG endangerment finding was posted to the [Federal Register](#). The comment period is open through September 15.
- U.S. Department of Education announced it will end several [Minority Serving Institution \(MSI\) discretionary grant programs totaling \\$350 Million](#). These federal awards were directed to colleges and universities that served substantial numbers of students from underrepresented racial and ethnic backgrounds.
- US Department of the Interior issues new policy outlining strict criteria for [implementing Gold Standard Science](#) within the context of EO 14303



# MPCA Spotlight: Frank Kohlasch, Assistant Commissioner



Thank you!!

**Please share recommendations for future call topics!**

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# Supplemental Info

# AI screening for words and themes

- Analysis has shown that words associated with themes in issued executive orders and federal agency guidance are being removed or replaced on federal websites.
- Federal agencies may be conducting AI screening for these or similar words in federal grant applications and reporting.
- Applications and reports that omit these words or themes may not trigger additional review.

The New York Times			
accessible	discriminated	inclusive	privilege
activism	discrimination	inclusive leadership	privileges
activists	discriminatory	inclusiveness	promote diversity
advocacy	disparity	inclusivity	promoting diversity
advocate	diverse	increase diversity	pronoun
advocates	diverse backgrounds	increase the diversity	pronouns
affirming care	diverse communities	indigenous community	prostitute
all-inclusive	diverse community	inequalities	race
allyship	diverse group	inequality	race and ethnicity
anti-racism	diverse groups	inequitable	racial
antiracist	diversified	inequities	racial diversity
assigned at birth	diversify	inequity	racial identity
assigned female at birth	diversifying	injustice	racial inequality
assigned male at birth	diversity	institutional	racial justice
at risk	enhance the diversity	intersectional	racially
barrier	enhancing diversity	intersectionality	racism
barriers	environmental quality	key groups	segregation
belong	equal opportunity	key people	sense of belonging
bias	equality	key populations	sex
biased	equitable	Latinx	sexual preferences
biased toward	equitableness	LGBT	sexuality
biases	equity	LGBTQ	social justice

# Reminders/Best Practices

- Grants with signed agreements appear to be somewhat stable for the time being
- Some grants may be terminated for convenience—check terms and conditions
  - **The standard terms and conditions are being amended by EPA to make grants easier to cancel for convenience**
  - Stay consistent with terms and conditions
- Get any directives in writing
- Know that calls may be recorded
  - **Folks from the federal government – and potentially DOGE in particular – are joining meetings.**
- Reporting and funding applications: anticipate use of AI screening for key words.
- Court cases continue: **Covid and FEMA fund cancellations were blocked; reductions in force blocked, then unblocked.**