

DEFENDING DEMOCRACY FORUM
APRIL 27, 2025
MARLBOROUGH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Connecticut could lose as much as \$1B in federal funds annually, and almost one-quarter of state revenue comes from federal funds¹. Already, more than \$300M in federal grants to CT have either been canceled, had new conditions placed upon them, or could be recalled.²

Below is a list of some of the actual or proposed cuts and policies.

- The schools in our towns (Andover, Bolton, Columbia, Hebron, and Marlborough)³ could lose almost \$2M in federal funds.⁴
- Over 1,200 residents in our towns participate in SNAP.⁵ Connecticut Foodshare is out 1.4 million pounds of federally provided food for food banks, which would cost \$1.7 million to replace.⁶ House Republicans are seeking to cut \$230 billion of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's budget over the next decade to pay for tax cuts. The Senate version of the bill calls for at least \$1 billion in USDA cuts. Most, or all, of those savings would come from cuts to SNAP.⁷
- The US Department of Agriculture cut \$5.6M to our state's Local Foods for Schools Program that provides funds to schools and childcare centers to buy food for meals.⁸
- Major cuts to Medicaid are being proposed, a program in which 4,159 residents in our towns participate.⁵ Across CT, 38% of all births, 67% of nursing home residents, and 20% of all residents aged 19 to 64 are covered by Medicaid.⁹ These cuts also affect Medicare enrollees; 20% of Medicare enrollees in the country relies on Medicaid to help pay Medicare premiums and cost sharing.¹⁰
- Recent proposals from the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) include cutting or eliminating critical programs for older adults and for people with disabilities, including eliminating several programs that protect older adults from fraud and abuse, the State Health Insurance Assistance Program (CHOICES in CT), and Adult Protective Services support.¹⁰
- The Veteran's Administration may fire 80,000 or more of their employees¹¹; one-quarter of all VA employees are veterans.¹² VA employees provide healthcare and other assistance for veterans, so cuts will likely affect at least some of the more than 1,600 veterans who live in our towns.¹³
- Five of the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) regional offices, including our regional office in Boston, have been closed.¹⁴ ACF is our federal partner in the administration of numerous programs, including: Child Support, Child Welfare, Head Start, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, Social Services Block Grant, and Community Services Block Grant.
- Federal staff responsible for administering the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) have been eliminated nationwide.¹⁵ The closure could impact the ability of residents who rely on these programs, especially heat in the winter, to receive services.¹⁶
- The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), the only federal agency that awards grants and funding to museums and libraries across the United States, has been closed. In 2024, the Connecticut State Library received over \$2.16 million from the IMLS. The funds helped offset the cost to deliver-IT CT, which is the statewide delivery system that makes interlibrary loan possible, and covered the cost of the statewide ebook and eaudiobook platform The Palace Project.¹⁷

- More than 10,000 residents of eastern Connecticut worked for the federal government prior to the inauguration of President Trump.¹⁸ Many will be, or already have been, fired by the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE).
- The Yale Budget Lab estimates that the impact of the tariffs, as they stood on April 15, is a 3% increase on prices in the short run, or \$4,900 per household. In the long run, after importers make substitutions in where they purchase goods, the impact is \$2,600 per household. Shoes will cost 87% more and clothes will cost 65% more in the short run. Food prices remain 2.8% higher in the long run, and in the long run, cars will cost \$7,400 more.¹⁹
- Federal cuts are impacting work in Connecticut in environmental health investigations, mosquito-and-vector-borne disease prevention and foodborne illnesses. The cuts have also impaired efforts to keep swimming areas safe at local lakes and beaches, boost maternal child health, reduce overdose-related fatalities, and bolster infectious disease monitoring.²⁰
- President Trump signed an executive action to overhaul elections in the U.S., including requiring documentary, in-person proof of citizenship to register to vote in federal elections. 40 million American citizens do not possess a passport and as many as 69 million women who have taken their spouse's name do not have a birth certificate matching their legal name. Citizens would also need to appear in person, with original documentation, to update their voter registration information for a change of address or change in party affiliation.²¹

¹ How much federal money goes toward Connecticut state and local government? | USAFacts (<http://bit.ly/42KzbFA>)

² Ned Lamont on Trump federal aid cuts: 'We're going to be prepared', CT MIRROR April 10, 2025 (<https://bit.ly/4jKcAj5>)

³ Henceforth, when we refer to our towns, we are including Andover, Bolton, Columbia, Hebron, and Marlborough

⁴ <https://cea.org/federal-school-funding-cuts-will-hurt-students/>

⁵ Department of Social Services - People Served by Town and Program, 2015-2024 | Connecticut Data (https://data.ct.gov/Health-and-Human-Services/Department-of-Social-Services-People-Served-by-Town/vvuu-dkxn/about_data)

⁶ Local food pantries impacted by federal funding cuts – NBC Connecticut (<https://bit.ly/3GnXW2M>) Published March 25, 2025 • Updated on March 25, 2025

⁷ <https://www.cnbc.com/2025/04/16/proposed-snap-cuts-pressure-low-income-shoppers-retailers.html>

⁸ <https://www.americanprogress.org/article/doge-cuts-by-city-state-and-congressional-district/>

⁹ <https://www.kff.org/interactive/medicaid-state-fact-sheets/>

¹⁰ Correspondence with the Center for Medicare Advocacy. For more information, go to their website: <https://medicareadvocacy.org/articles/weekly-update-archive/>

¹¹ <https://www.newsweek.com/doge-cuts-update-today-veterans-affairs-2054778>

¹² Data about veterans in the federal workforce by agency, occupation, demographics and more | Pew Research Center (<https://bit.ly/3S1PYii>)

¹³ 2023: ACS 5-Year Estimates Detailed Tables, Table **B21001** Sex by Age by Veteran Status for the Civilian Population 18 Years and Over (<https://bit.ly/42Vpfdv>)

¹⁴ <https://www.childrensleague.org/health-and-human-services/>

¹⁵ <https://ctmirror.org/2025/04/02/ct-liheap-energy-assistance-trump-cuts/>

¹⁶ <https://www.kcur.org/news/2025-04-14/liheap-federal-layoffs-utility-assistance-funding>

¹⁷ Email from Richmond Library April 7, 2025

¹⁸ <https://courtney.house.gov/fedworkers>

¹⁹ <https://budgetlab.yale.edu/research/state-us-tariffs-april-15-2025>

²⁰ <https://www.ctpublic.org/news/2025-04-22/ct-health-departments-reel-under-federal-funding-whiplash-state-scrambling-for-solutions>

²¹ <https://www.americanprogress.org/article/the-save-act-would-disenfranchise-millions-of-citizens/>