

CENTER ON NONPROFITS AND PHILANTHROPY

How Government Funding Disruptions Affected Nonprofits in Early 2025

Nationally Representative Findings from the Nonprofit Trends and Impacts Study

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RESEARCH REPORT

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Contents

Acknowledgments	iv
Executive Summary	v
How Prevalent Were Government Funding Disruptions for Nonprofits in the First Four To Six Months of 2025?	vi
What Are the Likely Impacts of Government Funding Disruptions on Nonprofits?	vi
Funding	vi
Staffing	vii
Programming	vii
How Government Funding Disruptions Affected Nonprofits in Early 2025	1
How Many Nonprofits Reported Receiving Government Funding in 2024?	2
How Many Nonprofits Experienced Disruptions to Government Funding in the First Four to Six Months of 2025?	4
What Are the Likely Impacts of Government Funding Disruptions on Nonprofit Staffing and Programming?	8
Nonprofit Staffing	8
Nonprofit Programming	11
How Do Nonprofit Leaders Anticipate Demand for Their Services to Change?	12
Conclusion	14
Glossary	15
Appendix. How Survey Questions Are Used in This Report	17
Notes	25
References	27
About the Authors	28
Statement of Independence	29

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Executive Summary

In late January 2025, nonprofits nationwide began receiving notices of federal government funding cancellations and freezes. Organizations delivering job training, mental health services, independent living assistance, disaster relief, and emergency shelter, among other services, were forced to suspend programs and lay off staff.¹ Legal challenges, some successful and others not, sought to release already awarded funds for their intended recipients.² At the same time, federal agencies initiated reductions in force and offered buyouts to career staff, including program officers overseeing nonprofit grants and other awards.³ This report offers an initial assessment of the scope and implications of these disruptions for nonprofits that deliver services or conduct programs.

Using data from the 2025 [National Survey of Nonprofit Trends and Impacts](#), a nationally representative survey of 501(c)(3) public charities that operate across a wide range of service areas, the report finds that a third of nonprofits reported experiencing federal, state, or local government funding disruptions, and these nonprofits were more likely to report reductions to staff, programming, and future hiring. Even nonprofits that do not receive government funding reported that these disruptions have altered the philanthropic funding landscape, presenting fundraising challenges. Taken together, these findings point to the cascading effects across the US of federal, state, and local funding disruptions and a widening gap between increasing demand for nonprofit services and organizations' ability to meet it.

The report examines the prevalence of three types of government funding disruptions: (1) loss of at least some government funding (i.e., funding agreements canceled or committed funds pulled back); (2) delays, pauses, or freezes of government funding; and (3) stop work orders. Survey questions did not specify disruptions to federal, state, or local government funds, because changes at the federal level could have impacts on the availability of funding at the state and local levels and the survey sought to capture the effects of the totality of government funding disruptions in early 2025.

Overall, nonprofits that reported experiencing government funding disruptions had a less positive staffing outlook in the first four to six months of 2025 compared with 2024 and were more likely to report decreasing their total number of programs, program locations, and people served. Moreover, our analyses demonstrate that government funding disruptions likely had greater impacts on nonprofits that faced at least three types of disruption. And two in three nonprofits anticipated that

demand for their programs would increase in the next 12 months. These government funding disruptions are already having profound effects on nonprofits—extending to those that did not even report experiencing them—and the coming months and years will reveal the long-term impacts on nonprofits, their employees, and their communities.

How Prevalent Were Government Funding Disruptions for Nonprofits in the First Four To Six Months of 2025?

A third of nonprofits reported experiencing at least one type of government funding disruption (loss of at least some government funding; a delay, pause, or freeze in government funding; and/or a stop work order). More specifically,

- 21 percent reported losing at least some government funding,
- 27 percent reported experiencing a delay, pause, or freeze in government funding, and
- 6 percent reported receiving a stop work order.

This report details the shares of nonprofits that experienced these types of disruptions by subsector and size (measured by annual expenses).

The reported impacts of these disruptions extend beyond federal funding. For some nonprofits, changes in the federal funding landscape appear to have affected the availability of state and local funding. And even nonprofits that did not directly experience government funding disruptions reported that changes in the entire fundraising and funding landscape for nonprofits affected their funding prospects.

What Are the Likely Impacts of Government Funding Disruptions on Nonprofits?

Funding

On average, nonprofits receive 50 percent of their revenue from private funding from individual donors and philanthropic institutions, 28 percent from government funding, 18 percent from earned income, and 4 percent from other revenue sources. Although nonprofits reported receiving less than a

third of their overall revenue from government, disrupted nonprofits reported that government funding made up 42 percent of their revenue.

Staffing

Almost twice as many nonprofits that experienced government funding disruptions reported decreasing their total number of employees (29 percent) compared with all nonprofits (15 percent).

At the end of 2024, 52 percent of nonprofits planned to hire new staff in the coming year. But in the first four to six months of 2025, that share had fallen to just 38 percent. And whereas at the end of 2024, only 6 percent of nonprofits planned to slow down hiring in the coming year, in the first four to six months of 2025, that share had more than doubled to 13 percent.

Layoff plans also shifted sharply, with the percentage of nonprofits planning to lay off staff more than doubling from 3 to 7 percent. The increase was even more pronounced for disrupted nonprofits (15 percent).

Programming

About a quarter (23 percent) of nonprofits that reported experiencing any government funding disruption reported decreasing their programs, compared with 12 percent of all nonprofits.

Twenty-one percent of disrupted nonprofits reported decreasing their total number of people served, compared with 12 percent of all nonprofits. In addition, 13 percent reported decreasing their total number of programs, compared with 7 percent of all nonprofits.

Lastly, in the first four to six months of 2025, the share of nonprofits that reported decreasing their total number of programs, people served, and program locations was already similar to the share that reported doing so in all of 2024.

How Government Funding Disruptions Affected Nonprofits in Early 2025

Government funding cuts, freezes, and stop work orders in 2025 have affected nonprofits across the country, but the scale and impacts of these disruptions have been unknown. This first-of-its-kind report examines the prevalence and likely impacts of government funding disruptions on nonprofits. It uses data collected between April 16 and June 27, 2025, from the 2025 [National Survey of Nonprofit Trends and Impacts](#), a nationally representative survey of 501(c)(3) public charities with annual expenses and revenues of \$50,000 or more that operate across a wide range of service areas. The survey includes nonprofits that engage in activities ranging from direct service provision to community building and advocacy, and primarily receive rather than provide funds. It excludes foundations, as well as hospitals, higher education institutions, schools (day cares, preschools, and K–12 schools), churches and other houses of worship, and other nonprofits with unique business models and contexts, but it is otherwise representative of established service-providing nonprofits across the country. The data have been weighted to account for the sample design and nonresponse to ensure national representativeness, meaning the findings can be generalized to the categories of public charities included in the study (henceforth referred to as nonprofits).⁴ As a result, our findings can be generalized to the categories of public charities included in the study (henceforth referred to as nonprofits).

This report presents findings about nonprofits' experiences as reported by their leaders. The data were not obtained from government agencies that distribute funding, nor does the report draw on government grants data reported in IRS Form 990 filings. In contrast to the 990, the survey offers timely insights, government funding data disaggregated by type of funding and levels of government, data on impacts of government funding disruptions, and responses to open-ended questions that elucidate the survey's quantitative findings. Quotations throughout the report come from one open-ended item that followed the questions about disruptions to government funding: "Is there anything else you would like to share about changes to your government funding or finances in 2025?" See the appendix for details about the quantitative analysis, including the survey question text and explanations about how the data were cleaned and recoded.

This report begins with an examination of the prevalence of federal, state, and local government funding for nonprofits by size and subsector. It then shows the shares of nonprofits that reported experiencing government funding disruptions and the percentage of their revenue coming from government sources. Lastly, it identifies the likely initial impacts of government funding disruptions on nonprofits' staffing, programming, and demand for their services. A glossary is available at the end of the report.

How Many Nonprofits Reported Receiving Government Funding in 2024?

Over a third of nonprofits (37 percent) reported receiving federal government funding in 2024, 60 percent reported receiving state government funding, and 60 percent reported receiving local government funding (table 1).⁵ It is critical to note that many state and local government grants and contracts are at least partially funded by federal sources. As others have shown, more than a third of state government revenue and nearly a tenth of local government revenue comes directly from federal government sources.⁶ About another quarter of local government revenue comes from state sources, and some of this flows from federal sources as well.⁷ As a result, changes in federal funding can ripple down to nonprofits that rely on local and state government revenue.

Table 1 and figure 1 show the shares of nonprofits that reported receiving federal, state, and local government funding in 2024. Table 1 shows the prevalence of government funding for all nonprofits and for nonprofits by subsector, and figure 1 shows the prevalence by size (based on annual expenses). These data show that more than a third of nonprofits reported receiving federal funds, nearly two-thirds reported receiving state funds, and nearly two-thirds reported receiving local funds. Organizations receiving federal funds directly are most likely to be large organizations with annual expenses of over \$1 million and to focus on health (for instance, community clinics, substance abuse prevention organizations, and crisis intervention hotlines—not hospitals, which are excluded from the study). Those receiving funding from state and local governments are also likely to focus on health, as well as on arts, culture, and humanities (e.g., media and communications organizations, visual arts organizations, and museums) and on human services (e.g., YMCAs, group homes, and senior centers). Education nonprofits (e.g., libraries, educational services, and remedial reading—not schools and higher education institutions, which are excluded from the study) and nonprofits in the “other” category (which includes organizations focusing on the environment and animals; on international and foreign

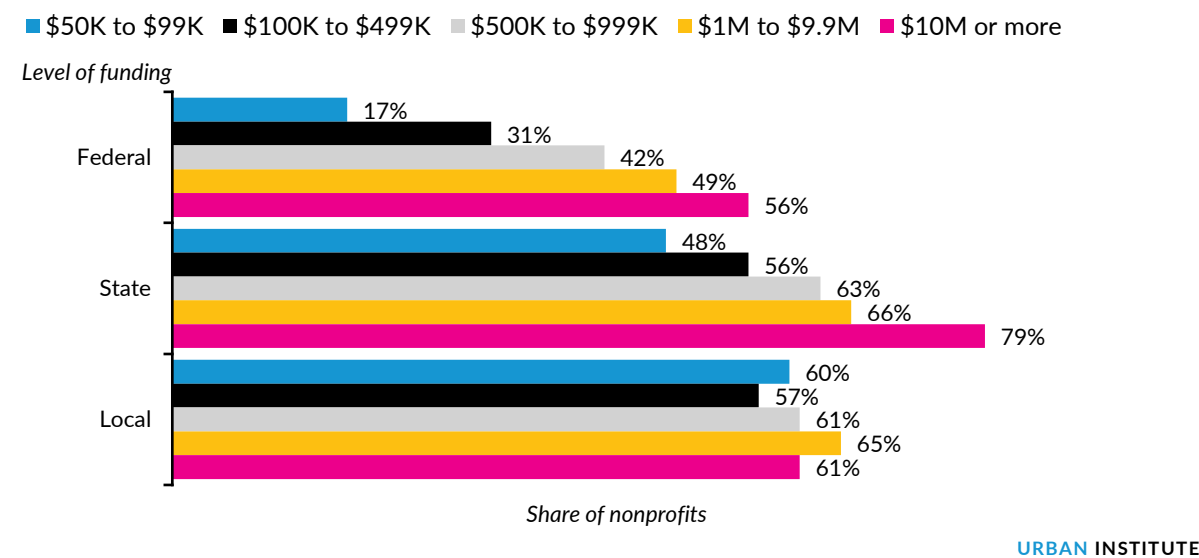
affairs; on public societal benefit; and on religion) are also likely to report receiving government funding.

TABLE 1
Share of Nonprofits That Reported Receiving Government Funding in 2024, Nationally and by Subsector

Level of government funding	All subsectors	Arts, culture, and humanities	Education	Health	Human services	Other
Federal	37%	24%	31%	44%	40%	41%
State	60%	69%	49%	66%	61%	49%
Local	60%	69%	43%	57%	62%	52%

Source: 2025 [National Survey of Nonprofit Trends and Impacts](#).
Notes: All analyses use weighted responses that account for the sample design and nonresponse, ensuring that the estimates are nationally representative. Subsectors are defined using organizations' National Taxonomy of Exempt Entities (NTEE) codes, as listed on the June 2024 IRS Exempt Organizations Business Master File. The education subsector does not include higher education institutions and schools, and the health subsector does not include hospitals, because they are excluded from the survey sample. Subsectors in the "Other" category include Environment and Animals; International, Foreign Affairs; Public Societal Benefit; and Religion. Government funding includes grants, contracts, or fee-for-service payments other than Medicare/Medicaid, and loans; see the appendix for the exact survey question text.

FIGURE 1
Share of Nonprofits That Reported Receiving Government Funding in 2024, by Size (Annual Expenses)



Source: 2025 [National Survey of Nonprofit Trends and Impacts](#).
Notes: All analyses use weighted responses that account for the sample design and nonresponse, ensuring that the estimates are nationally representative. Sizes are based on nonprofits' total annual expenses as reported on the most recently available IRS Form 990 (from 2020 to 2022). Government funding includes grants, contracts, or fee-for-service payments other than Medicare/Medicaid, and loans; see the appendix for the exact survey question text.

How Many Nonprofits Experienced Disruptions to Government Funding in the First Four to Six Months of 2025?

A third of nonprofits experienced some form of disruption directly tied to a change in government funding in the first four to six months of 2025. Referred to as “disrupted nonprofits” in the tables and figures below, these include nonprofits that experienced one or more of three types of disruptions: (1) loss of at least some government funding (i.e., funding agreements canceled or committed funds pulled back); (2) delays, pauses, or freezes of government funding; and (3) stop work orders. Examining how many nonprofits experienced each of these three types of disruptions reveals that, among disrupted nonprofits, some experienced more than one. Most commonly, 27 percent of nonprofits reported experiencing a delay, pause, or freeze in funding, 21 percent reported losing at least some government funding, and 6 percent received a stop work order. Many nonprofit leaders noted that the loss and delay of funds created substantial uncertainty regarding their financial health and future financial stability. For example, one respondent said that “state and local government have stopped providing multiyear contracts as they assess what changes at the federal level will take place. This impacts our ability to forecast and plan budgets.” Another said, “There is concern that remaining federal grant funds will not be honored, even though we are in contract to provide the services. Also, if federal funding our state agency receives is cut we will no longer receive operating support.”

TABLE 2
Share of Nonprofits That Reported Experiencing Government Funding Disruptions in the First Four to Six Months of 2025, Nationally and by Subsector

	All subsectors	Arts, culture, and humanities	Education	Health	Human services	Other
Disrupted nonprofits	33%	32%	37%	36%	34%	29%
Type of disruption						
Loss of at least some government funding	21%	20%	25%	27%	22%	18%
Delay, pause, or freeze in government funding	27%	26%	31%	28%	28%	24%
Stop work order	6%	3%	7%	9%	5%	8%
Number of types of disruptions						
One	16%	18%	16%	15%	17%	13%
Two	13%	12%	17%	13%	14%	12%
Three	4%	2%	4%	8%	3%	4%

Source: 2025 [National Survey of Nonprofit Trends and Impacts](#).

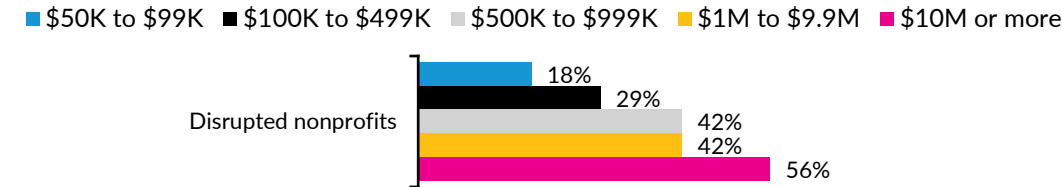
Notes: All analyses use weighted responses that account for the sample design and nonresponse, ensuring that the estimates are nationally representative. Subsectors are defined using organizations' National Taxonomy of Exempt Entities (NTEE) codes,

as listed on the June 2024 IRS Exempt Organizations Business Master File. Subsectors in the “Other” category include Environment and Animals; International, Foreign Affairs; Public Societal Benefit; and Religion. “Disrupted nonprofits” refers to the share that reported losing at least some government funding (i.e., funding agreements canceled or committed funds pulled back); experiencing a delay, pause, or freeze in government funding; and/or receiving a stop work order in the first four to six months of 2025; see the appendix for the exact survey question text and figure A.1 for the overlap in nonprofits that reported experiencing these disruptions.

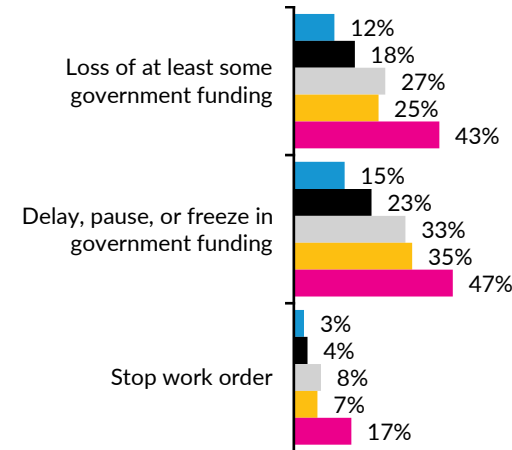
While funding disruptions affected all categories of organizations, larger organizations were more affected than smaller ones (figure 2).

FIGURE 2
Share of Nonprofits That Reported Experiencing Government Funding Disruptions in the First Four to Six Months of 2025, by Size (Annual Expenses)

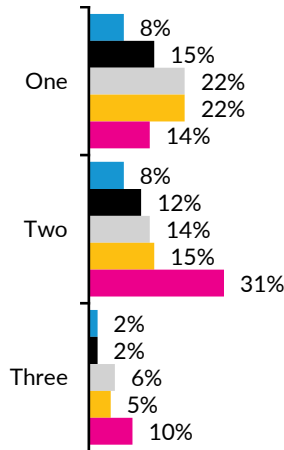
Nonprofit population



Type of disruption



Number of types of disruptions



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Source: 2025 [National Survey of Nonprofit Trends and Impacts](#).
Notes: All analyses use weighted responses that account for the sample design and nonresponse, ensuring that the estimates are nationally representative. Sizes are based on nonprofits’ total annual expenses as reported on the most recently available IRS Form 990 (from 2020 to 2022). “Disrupted nonprofits” refers to the share that reported losing at least some government funding (i.e., funding agreements canceled or committed funds pulled back); experiencing a delay, pause, or freeze in government funding; and/or receiving a stop work order in the first four to six months of 2025; see the appendix for the exact survey question text and figure A.1 for the overlap in nonprofits that reported experiencing these disruptions.

While 18 percent of nonprofits with annual expenses between \$50,000 and \$99,999 experienced any form of government funding disruption, over half (56 percent) of those with \$10 million or more in expenses experienced some form of disruption. Further, 1 in 10 of the largest nonprofits (those with \$10 million or more in expenses) experienced all three types of disruptions. There were fewer differences in severity by subsector, but the education, health, and human services subsectors generally had the largest shares of nonprofits report government funding disruptions (see table 2).

To estimate the potential impact of the disruptions shown in table 2 and figure 2, it is important to understand the breakdown of these nonprofits' revenue and the role government funding plays in it.⁸ Notably, most nonprofits receive revenue from a mix of sources including private funding from individual donors and philanthropic institutions, government funding, earned revenue, and other revenue (see the appendix for the definition of each revenue source). While on average, nonprofits reported receiving less than a third of their revenue from government, disrupted nonprofits reported that government funding made up 42 percent of their revenue (table 3). Moreover, the disruptions affected organizations beyond those that receive federal funding (table 4). For example, one respondent said that “although most of our [government] funding is NOT federal, we are worried on a ripple effect impacting our state and city funding as those lawmakers might have to reprioritize if they lose federal funding” (emphasis theirs). Another said, “We also lost state funding as a domino effect from federal funding being cut and state grants being more competitive.”

TABLE 3
Revenue Breakdown for the Average Nonprofit in 2024, Nationally and by Number of Types of Government Funding Disruptions Reported

	Private funding	Government funding	Earned revenue	Other
All nonprofits	50%	28%	18%	4%
Disrupted nonprofits	39%	42%	16%	4%
Number of types of disruptions				
One	38%	41%	17%	4%
Two	41%	39%	15%	4%
Three	32%	57%	11%	1%

Source: 2025 [National Survey of Nonprofit Trends and Impacts](#).

Notes: All analyses use weighted responses that account for the sample design and nonresponse, ensuring that the estimates are nationally representative. Percentages are shown as averages and rounded, leading some rows to total a percentage point higher or lower than 100. “Disrupted nonprofits” refers to nonprofits that reported losing government funding (i.e., funding agreements canceled or committed funds pulled back); experiencing a delay, pause, or freeze in government funding; and/or receiving a stop work order in the first four to six months of 2025; see the appendix for the exact survey question text and figure A.1 for the overlap in nonprofits that reported experiencing these disruptions. Also see the appendix for the definitions of each revenue source.

TABLE 4

Percentage of Revenue the Average Nonprofit Received from Government Funding in 2024, Nationally and by Number of Types of Government Funding Disruptions Reported

	Federal government funding	State government funding	Local government funding	Other government funding
All nonprofits	9%	11%	6%	<1%
Disrupted nonprofits	18%	14%	9%	<1%
Number of types of disruptions				
One	15%	15%	9%	<1%
Two	16%	12%	9%	1%
Three	32%	18%	5%	<1%

Source: 2025 [National Survey of Nonprofit Trends and Impacts](#).

Notes: All analyses use weighted responses that account for the sample design and nonresponse, ensuring that the estimates are nationally representative. Percentages are shown as averages and rounded, leading some rows to total a percentage point higher or lower than 100. “Disrupted nonprofits” refers to nonprofits that reported losing government funding (i.e., funding agreements canceled or committed funds pulled back); experiencing a delay, pause, or freeze in government funding; and/or receiving a stop work order in the first four to six months of 2025; see the appendix for the exact survey question text, for the question on funding from different levels of government, and for the definitions of each revenue source. See figure A.1 for the overlap in nonprofits that reported experiencing these disruptions. The average percentage of nonprofit revenue from federal, state, and local government funding does not sum to the average percentage of nonprofit revenue from all government funding from table 3 because these numbers come from two different survey questions, and the authors kept responses to the question about the breakdown of government funding if the absolute value of the difference between total government revenue and the sum of the dollar amounts divided by total government revenue was less than or equal to 10 percent.

It is also important to note that many organizations that did not directly experience a funding cut or freeze reported that the entire fundraising and funding landscape for nonprofits changed. The following quotes from nonprofit leaders provide examples of these experiences:

“[Our organization] does not receive any direct government funding...While we have not been directly impacted by reductions in government contracts or grants, the broader pullback in federal funding is having a significant indirect effect. As federal dollars diminish, both foundations and individual donors are shifting more of their resources to larger organizations that they perceive as better positioned to meet growing needs...This dynamic is creating a growing level of financial uncertainty for [our organization] and for small nonprofits more broadly. Even without direct government support, the ripple effect of federal funding cuts is placing enormous pressure on organizations like ours that serve vulnerable populations with limited resources.”

“The challenge for us and other small nonprofits who did not rely on federal grants is now we are in competition with larger nonprofits that did rely on them and lost funding for DAFs [donor-advised funds], private foundations, etc.”

“Some of our major partners had the direct federal relationships and funds, while we didn't have those direct relationships/funds, the impact to them directly impacts us. It

impacts us in terms of strategy, strain on our resources, strain on ecosystem resources, the ecosystem strategy, the funding landscape and funder strategy, etc. Even though we have less federal funding on balance—we are deeply impacted by the reverberations.”

“Unfortunately, it's not just government funding that's been impacted, it's the broader environment this administration has created for organizations serving communities it deems inappropriate or controversial. As a result, many foundations and corporations are retreating from initiatives even loosely associated with DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion). In addition, the current tariff policies and overall market volatility have introduced significant uncertainty and liquidity challenges, prompting many funders to scale back their financial commitments.”

What Are the Likely Impacts of Government Funding Disruptions on Nonprofit Staffing and Programming?

Fifteen percent of all nonprofits (including those that reported experiencing government funding disruptions and those that did not) reduced their staffs in the first four to six months of 2025, and similar shares reported reducing their programming. Because the survey did not ask respondents why these changes were made, they cannot be definitively attributed to government funding disruptions. Comparing nonprofits that reported experiencing disruptions with all nonprofits, however, can show whether the former were more likely to report staff or program cuts—evidence of an association that could reflect the funding disruptions, the nonprofits' underlying characteristics, or both. Figures 3, 4, and 5 below present these comparisons. To contextualize nonprofits' reductions of services, figures 4 and 5 also compare responses from all nonprofits in 2024 (a year without major government funding disruptions) with those in the first four to six months of 2025 (a period marked by significant government funding disruptions).

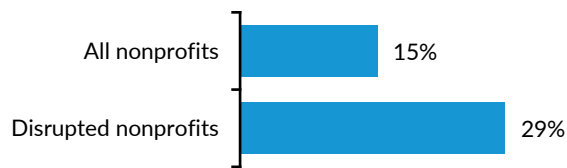
Nonprofit Staffing

In the first four to six months of 2025, almost twice as many nonprofits that experienced government funding disruptions reported decreasing their total number of employees compared with all nonprofits (figure 3). This difference suggests an association between experiencing a disruption in government funding and staff reductions.

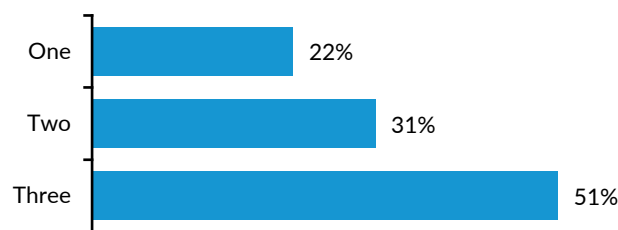
FIGURE 3

Share of Nonprofits That Reported Decreasing Their Total Number of Employees in the First Four to Six Months of 2025

Nonprofit population



Number of disruptions



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Source: 2025 [National Survey of Nonprofit Trends and Impacts](#).

Notes: All analyses use weighted responses that account for the sample design and nonresponse, ensuring that the estimates are nationally representative. “Disrupted nonprofits” refers to nonprofits that reported losing government funding (i.e., funding agreements canceled or committed funds pulled back); experiencing a delay, pause, or freeze in government funding; and/or receiving a stop work order in the first four to six months of 2025; see the appendix for the exact survey question text and for the question on changes in staffing, and see figure A.1 for the overlap in nonprofits that reported experiencing these disruptions.

While 15 percent of all nonprofits reported reducing their staffing, more than half (51 percent) of organizations that reported experiencing all three types of disruptions reported doing so.

Organizations provided context about these experiences, noting that funding delays and freezes have affected their ability to retain staff. Examples of nonprofit leaders’ responses include the following:

“Many contracts have stayed in limbo requiring us to lay off people while the federal funds are released or the executive orders are fought in court.”

“Cash flow a serious issue due to funding delays. Have had hiring freeze in place most of FY 2025 Qtr 2.”

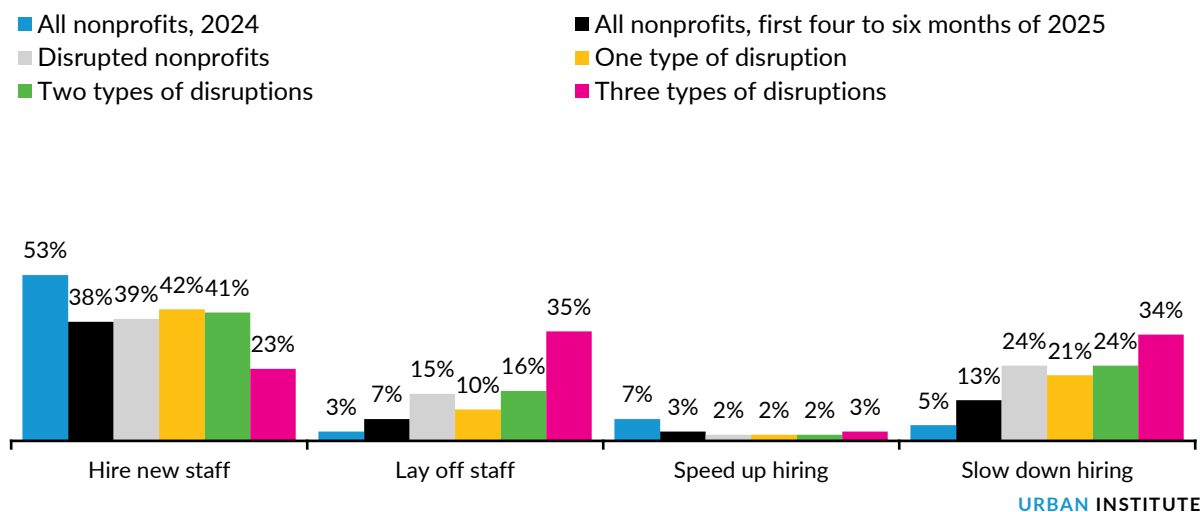
“Funding uncertainties make it extremely difficult to plan short term and certainly for the long term. We are trying to hold off on laying off/cutting hours, but not sure how much longer we can wait without some certainty going forward.”

“The federal funding pause changed our entire budget for this year. We anticipated hiring 6 new staff members with this funding, and have had to pause that and pivot our entire year plans to ensure stability.”

While we cannot compare the share of nonprofits that decreased their total number of employees in 2025 with the share that did so in 2024 because the same survey question was not asked in both surveys, figure 4 shows that only 3 percent of nonprofits surveyed at the end of 2024 anticipated laying off staff in the coming year. Overall, nonprofits' staffing outlook was less positive in the first four to six months of 2025 than at the end of 2024, particularly among those that reported experiencing government funding disruptions. At the end of 2024, more than half of nonprofits planned to hire new staff in the coming year. But in the first four to six months of 2025, that share had fallen to just 38 percent overall and to fewer than one in four among organizations reporting all three types of disruption. In addition, the percentage planning to lay off staff more than doubled from 3 to 7 percent. The increase was even more pronounced for disrupted nonprofits (15 percent) and those that reported experiencing all three types of disruptions (35 percent). Similarly, responses to the "speed up hiring" and "slow down hiring" items show less positivity; nonprofits were less likely to report plans to speed up hiring in the first four to six months of 2025 and more likely to report plans to slow it down.

FIGURE 4

Share of Nonprofits Planning to Change Their Staffing in the Next 12 Months



Source: 2025 [National Survey of Nonprofit Trends and Impacts](#).

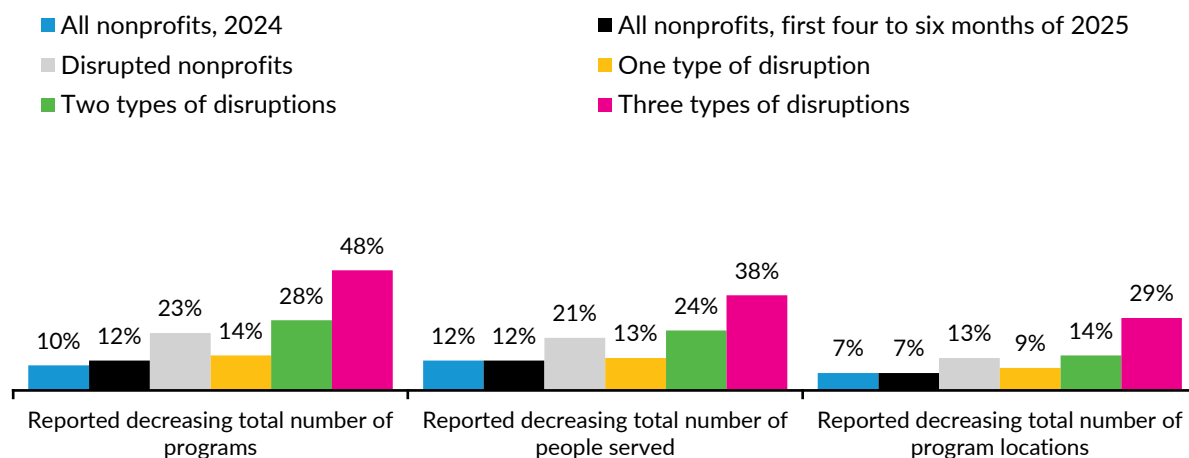
Notes: All analyses use weighted responses that account for the sample design and nonresponse, ensuring that the estimates are nationally representative. "Disrupted nonprofits" refers to nonprofits that reported losing government funding (i.e., funding agreements canceled or committed funds pulled back); experiencing a delay, pause, or freeze in government funding; and/or receiving a stop work order in the first four to six months of 2025; see the appendix for the exact survey question text and for the questions on planned changes in staffing, and see figure A.1 for the overlap in nonprofits that reported experiencing these disruptions.

Nonprofit Programming

In the first four to six months of 2025, the share of nonprofits that reported they decreased their number of programs was already similar to the share that reported doing so in all of 2024. That the shares are similar in a full year, 2024, and a partial year, early 2025, suggests a sizable shock to the sector could be occurring. An analysis of nonprofit leaders' top concerns going into 2025 demonstrated the link between financial uncertainty and nonprofits' ability to continue providing services, further suggesting that financial uncertainty, regardless of whether nonprofits receive government funding, could have implications for their programs (Fallon et al. 2025). Findings from the first four to six months of 2025 show that the share reporting staff and programming decreases is comparatively high among nonprofits that reported experiencing government funding disruptions (figure 5). This indicates that government funding disruptions may have contributed to cuts in programs as well as staffs.

FIGURE 5

Share of Nonprofits That Reported Decreasing Their Total Number of Programs, People Served, and Program Locations in the First Four to Six Months of 2025



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Source: 2025 [National Survey of Nonprofit Trends and Impacts](#).

Notes: All analyses use weighted responses that account for the sample design and nonresponse, ensuring that the estimates are nationally representative. "Disrupted nonprofits" refers to nonprofits that reported losing government funding (i.e., funding agreements canceled or committed funds pulled back); experiencing a delay, pause, or freeze in government funding; and/or receiving a stop work order in the first four to six months of 2025; see the appendix for the exact survey question text and for the questions on changes in programming, and see figure A.1 for the overlap in nonprofits that reported experiencing these disruptions.

Similar to the pattern noted with nonprofits' staffing, while 1 in 10 of all nonprofits reported decreasing their number of programs in the first four to six months of 2025, the prevalence increases with the number of types of disruptions experienced. About a quarter (23 percent) that reported experiencing any government funding disruption reported reducing their programming, and almost half (48 percent) of those that reported experiencing all three types of disruptions reported doing so. These reductions highlight the challenges that government funding losses, delays, and stop work orders may have on nonprofits' ability to serve their communities. As cuts and stoppages continue or become more pronounced, affected organizations will likely also see additional decreases in staffing and programming they can offer. Nonprofit leaders provided context about this:

"We are preparing to decrease our spending on food items to prevent us from having to make cuts in staffing. We are almost at our maximum number of meal recipients and have a capped number at 75 with our one cook. We know these cuts are going to affect more folks in our community than the ones we primarily serve, and are looking at other areas to cut back on to provide more finances to other areas."

"It is uncertain whether we will receive the Rural Cooperative Development Grant from the USDA for FY26, which allows us to support new and existing small businesses and farmers in rural, underserved communities."

"Food banks are not federally funded we lost 40% of TEFAP (The Emergency Food Assistance Program) which is food product that [our food bank] distributed to food programs across the state."

"Expect major impacts on the state budget from federal cuts which will directly affect state-funded programs we provide. We cannot make up for projected changes with fundraising."

How Do Nonprofit Leaders Anticipate Demand for Their Services to Change?

Amid the funding and staffing challenges noted in the previous section, nonprofit leaders anticipate that demand for their services to increase. Two-thirds of surveyed nonprofit leaders anticipated demand for their programs to increase in the next 12 months (figure 6). One nonprofit leader said, "As we face significant demand to grow, we are stalled in doing so and instead seeking to maintain current levels as the current climate is not conducive to new/increased funding."

FIGURE 6

Share of Nonprofits That Anticipated Demand to Increase in the Next 12 Months

Nonprofit population



Number of types of disruptions



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Source: 2025 [National Survey of Nonprofit Trends and Impacts](#).

Notes: All analyses use weighted responses that account for the sample design and nonresponse, ensuring that the estimates are nationally representative. “Disrupted nonprofits” refers to nonprofits that reported losing government funding (i.e., funding agreements canceled or committed funds pulled back); experiencing a delay, pause, or freeze in government funding; and/or receiving a stop work order in the first four to six months of 2025; see the appendix for the exact survey question text and for the question on anticipated changes in demand, and see figure A.1 for the overlap in nonprofits that reported experiencing these disruptions.

The mismatch between this anticipated increase in demand and the decreases in programming (see figure 5) may suggest upcoming challenges for nonprofit organizations. Nonprofit leaders noted ways in which federal policy changes affect their organizations and the communities they serve:

“Every action the government takes has a direct impact in the community. With all the funding cuts how can we help families to cover their basic needs?”

“Many of our constituents and members are recipients of federal money and we are experiencing pain as a result of their pain, so we are downstream victims of the new environment.”

“The individuals we serve are dependent on Medicaid waiver services. If they are cut, we will likely have to close our doors.”

Conclusion

The nationally representative data presented in this report from the 2025 National Survey of Nonprofit Trends and Impacts provide early insights into the prevalence of government funding disruptions among nonprofits that deliver services or conduct programs, the characteristics of nonprofits that reported experiencing these disruptions, recent and planned staff and programming changes, and anticipated changes in demand. Government funding disruptions also appear to affect even organizations that do not receive government funding, as they change how organizations seek funding and how individual donors and other funders support nonprofits.

Most organizations receive some type of government funding from federal, state, or local sources, and a third of all nonprofits reported experiencing government funding disruptions in the first four to six months of 2025. Large nonprofits and those focused on the core sectors of education, health, and human services were the most likely to experience these disruptions. Coupled with reports of disrupted government funding for universities and hospitals (two types of nonprofits not included in this nationally representative survey), the disruptions are likely to have a profound effect on the delivery of education, health, and human services in communities across the country and the world.⁹ The organizations that have experienced the most substantial disruptions are the most likely to report plans to reduce staffing and programming. As these organizations also anticipate increased demand for their services, they may face challenges meeting that demand with decreased or uncertain funding and staffing. In the coming months and years, it will become clearer how these funding disruptions have affected—and will continue to affect—nonprofits, those they employ, and the people and communities they serve.

Glossary

501(c)(3) public charities: Charitable organizations described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code with tax exempt status.

All nonprofits: Includes all nonprofits whose leaders provided usable responses on the National Survey of Nonprofit Trends and Impacts, regardless of whether they reported experiencing a government disruption, about their experiences in the first four to six months of 2025.

All nonprofits, 2024: Includes all nonprofits whose leaders provided usable responses on the National Survey of Nonprofit Trends and Impacts, regardless of whether they reported experiencing a government disruption, about their experiences in 2024.

Disrupted nonprofits: Nonprofits that reported experiencing one or more of three types of government funding disruptions in the first four to six months of 2025: losing at least some government funding (i.e., funding agreements canceled or committed funds pulled back); experiencing a delay, pause, or freeze in government funding; and receiving a stop work order. See appendix figure A.1 for the overlap in nonprofits that reported experiencing these disruptions.

Federal, state, and local government funding: Includes grants, loans, and contracts and fee-for-service payments (other than Medicare/Medicaid) from federal, state, and/or local governments.

IRS Form 990 filings: The Internal Revenue Service requires public charities to file Form 990 if they have annual gross receipts of \$200,000 or more or total assets of \$500,000 or more, unless they are a church or certain church-related organizations.

National Survey of Nonprofit Trends and Impacts: An annual survey fielded since 2021 to a nationally representative group of nonprofit organizations (defined under “nonprofits” below). Nonprofit leaders are invited to complete the online survey, which takes about 30 minutes, about their programming, workforce, revenue sources, fiscal health, and engagement with government.

Nationally representative findings: Findings from our nationally representative survey that are weighted to account for the sample design and nonresponse, to ensure they can be generalized to the categories of public charities included in our study.

Nonprofit subsectors: Subsectors defined using organizations’ National Taxonomy of Exempt Entities (NTEE) codes, as listed on the June 2024 Internal Revenue Service Exempt Organizations Business Master File. These include (1) Arts, culture, and humanities nonprofits; (2) education nonprofits; (3)

health nonprofits: (4) human services nonprofits; and (5) other nonprofits. “Other” nonprofits include environment and animals; international, foreign affairs; public societal benefit; and religion. Importantly, the “education” category excludes higher education institutions and schools, and the “health” category excludes hospitals.

Nonprofits: Refers to the 501(c)(3) public charities included in this report, which are those with annual expenses and revenues of \$50,000 or more. These nonprofits operate across many service areas, engaging in activities ranging from direct service provision to community building and advocacy, and primarily receive rather than provide funds. We exclude foundations, as well as hospitals, higher education institutions, schools (day cares, preschools, and K–12 schools), churches and other houses of worship, and other nonprofits with unique business models and contexts. For more information, please see our methodology, available at https://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/2025-10/Methodology_of_the_National_Surveys_of_Nonprofit_Trends_and_Impacts_2024_and_2025.pdf.

Number of types of disruptions: How many types of government funding disruptions a nonprofit reported experiencing. If it responded “yes” to only one of the three disruption questions, it was coded as having experienced “one” type of disruption. If it responded “yes” to only two of the three disruption questions, it was coded as “two,” and it was coded as “three” if it responded “yes” to all three questions.

Size (expenses): Sizes are based on nonprofits’ total annual expenses as reported on the most recently available IRS Form 990 (between 2020 and 2022).

Types of government funding disruptions: The 2025 National Survey of Nonprofit Trends and Impacts asked nonprofit leaders whether they experienced (1) loss of at least some government funding (i.e., funding agreements canceled or committed funds pulled back); (2) a delay, pause, or freeze of government funding; and/or (3) a stop work order in the first four to six months of 2025.

Appendix. How Survey Questions Are Used in This Report

This appendix is organized by table and figure numbers.

Table 1 and Figure 1: Share of Nonprofits That Reported Receiving Government Funding in 2024

1. In the last year (between January 2024–December 2024, or your last full fiscal year), did your organization receive revenue from any of the following government sources? (Select all that apply)
 - a. Local government grants
 - b. State government grants
 - c. Federal government grants
 - d. Local government loans
 - e. State government loans
 - f. Federal government loans
 - g. Local government contracts or fee-for-service payments (other than Medicare/Medicaid)
 - h. State government contracts or fee-for-service payments (other than Medicare/Medicaid)
 - i. Federal government contracts or fee-for-service payments (other than Medicare/Medicaid)
 - j. Fee-for-service payments from Medicare/Medicaid
 - k. Fee-for-service payments from other government programs
 - l. Funding from tribal governments
 - m. Other

The authors consider a nonprofit to receive federal government funding if it selected c, f, and/or i. The authors consider a nonprofit to receive state government funding if it selected b, e, and/or h. The authors consider a nonprofit to receive local government funding if it selected a, d, and/or g.

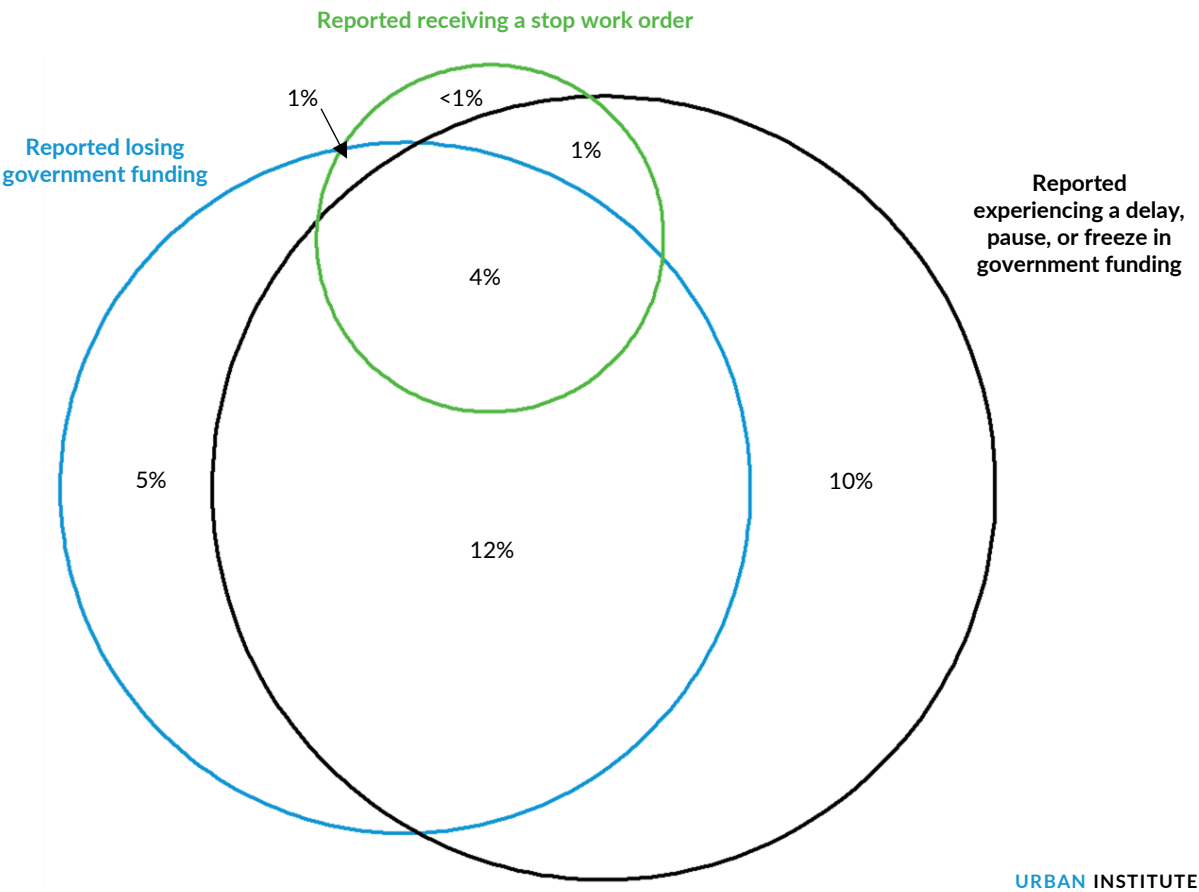
Tables 2, 3, and 4 and Figures 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6: Share of Nonprofits That Reported Experiencing Government Funding Disruptions in the First Four to Six Months of 2025

1. Has your organization lost government grants, contracts, loans, or other government financial assistance since January 1, 2025 (i.e., funding agreements canceled or committed funds pulled back)?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. Unsure
 - d. N/A
2. Has your organization experienced a delay, pause, or freeze in government grants, contracts, loans, or other government financial assistance since January 1, 2025?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. Unsure
 - d. N/A
3. Since January 1, 2025, has your organization received a notification from a government agency to stop work until further notice?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. Unsure
 - d. N/A

When calculating the share of nonprofits that experienced these disruptions, the authors include responses of “yes” in the numerator and responses of “yes,” “no,” “unsure,” and “N/A” in the denominator.

Figure A.1 shows the overlap in “yes” responses to these three questions.

FIGURE A.1
Overlap in Nonprofits That Reported Experiencing Each Type of Government Funding Disruption in the First Four to Six Months of 2025



Source: 2025 [National Survey of Nonprofit Trends and Impacts](#).
Note: All analyses use weighted responses that account for the sample design and nonresponse, ensuring that the estimates are nationally representative.

Table 3: Revenue Breakdown for the Average Nonprofit in 2024

1. In the last year (between January 2024–December 2024, or your last full fiscal year), what was the approximate breakdown of your organization’s total revenue? The total row should add to your organization’s approximate total revenue. (Estimates are fine. If a category does not apply, please enter "0.")

- a. Government funding (including grants, contracts, fee-for-service payments, Medicare/Medicaid, and other government sources, including at the federal, state, local levels and from tribal governments): _____
- b. Private funding (including direct and indirect individual donations; grants from private foundations; grants from corporate foundations or giving programs; grants from donor-advised funds; and grants from public charities, such as community foundations, United Ways, the Combined Federal Campaign, and other federated giving programs): _____
- c. Earned revenue (fees-for-services from self-paying participants, not from government): _____
- d. Government loans: _____
- e. Private loans (not from government): _____
- f. Other: _____

When respondents provided a dollar amount for at least one line but left other lines blank, their responses for the blank lines were changed to zero. In addition, when the dollar amount of all types of funding did not sum to the organization's total revenue, the authors took one of the following four steps. (1) If the sum of the dollar amounts was 100, the authors assumed the respondent entered percentages rather than numbers and used these percentages and the total revenue to convert each line to a dollar amount. (2) If the sum of the dollar amounts except government and private loans was equal to total revenue, the authors added government and private loans to total revenue. (3) If the absolute value of the difference between total revenue and the dollar amounts divided by total revenue was less than or equal to 10 percent, the authors kept the dollar values. (4) If the absolute value of the difference between total revenue and the dollar amounts divided by total revenue was less than or equal to 10 percent, the authors converted the dollar amounts and total revenue to N/A.

Table 4: Percentage of Revenue the Average Nonprofit Received from Government Funding in 2024

1. In the last year (between January 2024–December 2024, or your last full fiscal year), what was the approximate breakdown of your organization's government funding? The total row should add to your organization's approximate government funding. (Estimates are fine. If a category does not apply, please enter "0.")
 - a. Local government funding (grants, contracts, fee-for-service payments, loans, Medicare/Medicaid, and other): _____

- b. State government funding (grants, contracts, fee-for-service payments, loans, Medicare/Medicaid, and other): _____
- c. Federal government funding (grants, contracts, fee-for-service payments, loans, Medicare/Medicaid, and other): _____
- d. Other: _____

When respondents provided a dollar amount for at least one line but left other lines blank, their responses for the blank lines were changed to zero. In addition, if on the previous survey question respondents indicated that they had no revenue from government funding or government loans and they left this question blank, their responses for the lines in this question were changed to zero. Lastly, when the dollar amount of all types of government funding did not sum to the organization's government funding and government loans (henceforth "total government revenue"), the authors took one of the following four steps. (1) If the sum of the dollar amounts was 100, the authors assumed the respondent entered percentages rather than numbers and used these percentages and total government revenue to convert each line to a dollar amount. (2) If the sum of the dollar amounts was equal to government funding (but not total government funding, because the respondent did not seem to consider government loans to be government revenue), the authors converted the dollar amounts to NA. (3) If the absolute value of the difference between total government revenue and the dollar amounts divided by total government revenue was less than or equal to 10 percent, the authors kept the dollar values. (4) If the absolute value of the difference between total government revenue and the dollar amounts divided by total government revenue was less than or equal to 10 percent, the authors converted the dollar amounts to N/A.

Figure 3: Share of Nonprofits That Say They Decreased Their Total Number of Employees in the First Four to Six Months of 2025

1. Since January 1, 2025, has your organization made any of the following changes?

	Decreased	More or less the same	Increased	Unsure	N/A
Total number of employees	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

When calculating the share of nonprofits that decreased this item, the authors included responses of “decreased” in the numerator and responses of “decreased,” “more or less the same,” “increased”, “unsure,” and “N/A” in the denominator.

Figure 4: Share of Nonprofits Planning to Change Their Staffing in the Next 12 Months

1. Does your organization have plans to change its staffing in the next 12 months? (Select all that apply)
 - a. Hire new staff with different skills than existing staff
 - b. Hire new staff with the same skills as existing staff
 - c. Lay-off staff
 - d. Furlough staff
 - e. Slow our hiring
 - f. Speed up our hiring
 - g. Reduce number of hours for existing staff
 - h. Increase number of hours for existing staff
 - i. Lose staff from voluntary turnover (other than retirement)
 - j. Lose staff from retirement
 - k. Retrain existing staff to learn new skills
 - l. Move existing staff to new positions
 - m. Hire new consultants or contractors
 - n. End contracts with existing consultants or contractors
 - o. Use volunteers to fill staffing gaps
 - p. Other (please specify)

The authors considered a nonprofit to have plans to hire new staff if it selected a and/or b.

Figure 5: Share of Nonprofits That Reported Decreasing Their Total Number of Programs, People Served, and Program Locations in the First Four to Six Months of 2025

1. In the last year (between January 2024–December 2024, or your last full fiscal year), did your organization make any of the following changes to your programs, as compared to 2023?

	Significantly decrease (more than 10%)	Moderately decrease (less than 10%)	More or less the same	Moderately increase (less than 10%)	Significantly increase (more than 10%)	Unsure	N/A
Total number of programs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Total number of people served	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Total number of program locations	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

The authors used this question for the “All nonprofits, 2024” bar in figure 5. When calculating the share of nonprofits that decreased these items, the authors included responses of “significantly decrease” and “moderately decrease” in the numerator and responses of “significantly decrease,” “moderately decrease,” “more or less the same,” “moderately increase,” “significantly increase,” “unsure,” and “N/A” in the denominator.

2. Since January 1, 2025, has your organization made any of the following changes?

	Decreased	More or less the same	Increased	Unsure	N/A
Total number of programs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Total number of people served	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Total number of program locations	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

The authors used this question for all bars in figure 5 except “All nonprofits, 2024.” When calculating the share of nonprofits that decreased these items, the authors included responses of “decreased” in the numerator and responses of “decreased,” “more or less the same,” “increased,” “unsure,” and “N/A” in the denominator.

Figure 6: Share of Nonprofits That Anticipated Demand to Increase in the Next 12 Months

1. In the next year, do you anticipate the demand for your programs to decrease, stay the same, or increase?
 - a. Decrease
 - b. Stay the same
 - c. Increase

When calculating the share of nonprofits that anticipated demand to increase, the authors included responses of “increase” in the numerator and responses of “decrease,” “stay the same,” and “increase” in the denominator.

Notes

- ¹ Leah Willingham, “Federal Funding Freeze Disrupts Rural Organizations Supporting Foster Youth, Job Growth,” *Associated Press*, February 14, 2025, <https://apnews.com/article/trump-rural-nonprofits-funding-26573627aa5648b38bdb4584563aa1b8>; Stephanie Beasley, “A Warning for Progressive Groups? Trump Yanks \$50 Million from a Climate Justice Nonprofit,” *Chronicle of Philanthropy*, February 19, 2025, <https://www.philanthropy.com/article/a-warning-for-progressive-groups-trump-yanks-50-million-from-a-climate-justice-nonprofit>; and David A. Fahrenthold, Sharon LaFraniere, Nicholas Nehamas, and Coral Davenport, “Many Groups Promised Federal Aid Still Have No Funds and No Answers,” *New York Times*, February 12, 2025, <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/02/12/us/politics/trump-federal-aid-freeze.html?searchResultPosition=1>.
- ² Thalia Beaty, “Nonprofit’s lawsuit over the federal funding freeze is part of an ‘avalanche’ of litigation,” AP, February 5, 2025, <https://apnews.com/article/nonprofit-lawsuit-executive-order-federal-funding-grants-b61b41392b10c95ce35da511ead92124>; “Judge Issues National Injunction to Block Trump Administration’s Devastating Attempt to Halt Funding For Essential Services,” National Council of Nonprofits, February 25, 2025, <https://www.councilofnonprofits.org/pressreleases/judge-issues-national-injunction-block-trump-administrations-devastating-attempt-halt>; “MAJOR WIN: Frozen grants to be restored in lawsuit challenging federal funding freeze,” Southern Environmental Law Center, May 19, 2025, <https://www.selc.org/press-release/major-win-frozen-grants-to-be-restored-in-lawsuit-challenging-federal-funding-freeze/>; Michael Phillis and Matthew Daly, “Appeals court backs EPA action terminating billions in ‘green bank’ grants,” AP, September 2, 2025, <https://apnews.com/article/green-bank-funding-climate-epa-trump-9d96de45d0d3787d580ce29473cfc8f>.
- ³ Alayna Treene and Piper Hudspeth Blackburn, “Trump administration offers buyouts to federal workers,” CNN, January 29, 2025, <https://us.cnn.com/2025/01/28/politics/federal-worker-buyouts-trump-administration/>; Rob Stein, Yuki Noguchi, Sydney Lupkin, Chiara Eisner, Selena Simmons-Duffin, and Carmel Wroth, “‘Your RIF notice is not cancelled.’ Inside a chaotic week of massive layoffs at HHS,” NPR, April 5, 2025, <https://www.npr.org/sections/shots-health-news/2025/04/05/g-s1-58312/hhs-layoffs-rif-cdc-fda-nih>.
- ⁴ For more information on our data weighting and the survey’s national representativeness, see our survey methodology, available at https://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/2025-10/Methodology_of_the_National_Surveys_of_Nonprofit_Trends_and_Impacts_2024_and_2025.pdf.
- ⁵ Because the IRS Form 990 only collects total government funding, not the amounts of government funding received at the federal, state, and local levels, these disaggregated survey results on funding cannot be compared with Form 990 information. In addition, comparisons cannot be drawn between the shares of nonprofits that reported receiving federal, state, and local government funding in the 2024 and 2025 National Surveys of Nonprofit Trends and Impacts. The 2024 survey only asked about government grants and contracts, whereas the 2025 survey also asked about loans.
- ⁶ Rebecca Thiess, Samuel Pittman, and Justin Theal, “Federal Share of State Budgets Remains High, But Uncertainties Lie Ahead,” Pew, June 26, 2025, <https://www.pew.org/en/research-and-analysis/articles/2025/06/16/federal-share-of-state-budgets-remains-high-but-uncertainties-lie-ahead>; Ben Leubsdorf and Adam G. Levin, “Impacts of Federal Grants and Other Funds on State and Local Budgets,” Library of Congress, February 10, 2025, <https://www.congress.gov/crs-product/IN12506>.
- ⁷ Leubsdorf and Levin, “Impacts of Federal Grants and Other Funds on State and Local Budgets.”
- ⁸ Comparisons cannot be drawn between the revenue breakdowns for the average nonprofits in the 2024 and 2025 National Surveys of Nonprofit Trends and Impacts because we changed how we asked the question.

- ⁹ Emily Badger, Aatish Bhatia, Irineo Cabrereros, Eli Murray, Francesca Paris, Margot Sanger-Katz, and Ethan Singer, “How Trump’s Medical Research Cuts Would Hit Colleges and Hospitals in Every State,” *New York Times*, February 13, 2025, <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2025/02/13/upshot/nih-trump-funding-cuts.html>; Elissa Nadworny, “What Losing Billions in Federal Grants Means for Universities, and the Nation,” NPR, May 16, 2025, <https://www.npr.org/2025/04/25/nx-s1-5375033/trump-federal-grants-cuts-universities-could-mean>; Greta Bekekovich and Will Ragland, “Mapping Federal Funding Cuts to U.S. Colleges and Universities,” Center for American Progress, July 23, 2025, <https://www.americanprogress.org/article/mapping-federal-funding-cuts-to-us-colleges-and-universities/>.

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