

# Office of Resilience & Sustainability (ORS)

## Federal Grant Freeze Impacts

*Last updated: Monday, February 17, 2025*

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) issued a memo on January 27, titled "[Temporary Pause of Agency Grant, Loan, and Other Financial Assistance Programs](#)," which directed all federal agencies to temporarily pause the disbursement of funds under federal awards impacted by recent executive orders. Although the administration rescinded that memo on January 29, the administration's [Unleashing American Energy Executive Order](#) remained in effect, imposing a 90-day freeze on Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act (IIJA) and Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) appropriated funds that support climate and clean energy initiatives.

On January 31, in the case of **New York et al vs Trump**, a federal judge issued a nationwide [Temporary Restraining Order](#) (TRO) blocking all Trump Administration attempts – including the Executive Orders and OMB Memo – to halt federal funding. Per the ruling, all Federal agencies were directed to notify grant recipients of the TRO by February 3.

On **February 10**, the same judge issued a [motion to enforce the TRO](#), requiring federal agencies to **resume the disbursement of funds** and allowing ORS to continue implementing its federally funded programs **for now**. However, these grants **remain direct targets of the Trump administration, which has made clear its intent to undermine and dismantle climate funding**. On February 11, a [federal appeals court rejected](#) the Trump administration's bid to pause the TRO that temporarily halts this federal funding freeze.

ORS has reached out to our federal grant project officers for guidance on next steps. While some agencies have begun re-engaging, multiple scheduled meetings with federal project officers across different agencies **were cancelled after the initial TRO and continue to face delays**, leaving significant uncertainty around the long-term security of these funds.

### **TOTAL FEDERAL FUNDING AT RISK: \$139,535,927.27**

Federal grants fund programs and projects in the following climate areas:

- Energy efficiency education & outreach
- Coastal restoration
- Traffic safety planning & multi-modal transportation infrastructure funding
- Expansion of bicycling infrastructure and options (Blue Bikes & E-bike rebates)
- Universal recycling for all residents
- Tree plantings in areas with the worst urban heat island
- Building decarbonization to improve building performance & health
- Solar subsidies to LMI residents
- EV charging expansion throughout the City
- Energy resilience

- Green workforce development

Details on each grant program and funding source are attached as a table.

In 2025, ORS has a general fund budget of \$1,785,857. Of the grants listed below, \$53,882,137 are/would be adopted into ORS’s budget, **representing almost 97% of the office’s budget.**

**COMMUNITY PARTNERS AT RISK:**

The Trump administration’s funding freeze threatens to put community organizations at risk of dissolving, as many rely heavily on federal funding for their operations. This disruption not only undermines local resilience and sustainability efforts but also endangers the essential services these organizations provide to New Orleans residents.

Many of ORS’ grants heavily involve community partners in the planning, design, and implementation of the following program initiatives:

Sub-Grantee Organization	Funding Amount	Funding Source	Scope of Work
Audubon Delta Chapter	\$573,750	UCF	Plant 300 trees in Desire Area and New Aurora neighborhood.
Blue Krewe (Blue Bikes)	\$11,551,337	CPRG	Expansion of City’s existing bike share system.
	\$1,475,000	C-SITE	
Center for Sustainable Engagement and Development (CSED)	\$99,755	NOAA/ NFWF	Develop a restoration prioritization plan for BBWT that allows for scaled, phased, and adaptive restoration activities in the area.
Dillard University	\$1,524,000*	CFI	EV charging station installation on campus
Greater New Orleans Foundation	\$450,000	CPRG	Climate Action Equity Project Working Group
	\$1,500,000	CPRG	Expand existing partnership with Parks & Parkways to provide tree planting grant funds to partners.
Groundwork New Orleans	\$500,000	UCF	Plant 1,690 trees in Broadmoor and Behrman using workforce development participants.
	\$500,000	CPRG	Workforce development expansion for solar installations & urban forestry
Louisiana Green Corps	\$500,000	UCF	Expand urban forestry workforce development
	\$500,000	CPRG	Workforce development expansion for solar installations & urban forestry
	\$150,000	C-SITE	Expand workforce development in e-bike maintenance and operations
National Wildlife Federation	\$54,058	NOAA/ NFWF	Develop a restoration prioritization plan for BBWT that allows for scaled, phased, and adaptive restoration activities in the area.



NOLA Tree Project	\$270,000	UCF	Plant 350 trees in Village de L’Est & give away 1,000 trees.
Sprout NOLA	\$378,500	CFWR	Coordinate and oversee expansion of food composting drop-off sites.
Sustaining Our Urban Landscape (SOUL)	\$2,500,000	UCF	Plant 4,000 trees over 5 years in Little Woods, Hollygrove, and St. Bernard
Thrive New Orleans	\$80,000	EECBG	Administer Community Energy Advisors Program
	\$500,000	UCF	Expand workforce development in urban forestry
	\$500,000	CPRG	Workforce development expansion for solar installations & urban forestry
Water Institute of the Gulf	\$200,793	NOAA/NFWF	Develop a restoration prioritization plan for BBWT that allows for scaled, phased, and adaptive restoration activities in the area.
Water Wise Gulf South	\$573,750	UCF	Plant 400 trees over 3 years in Tremé, Seventh Ward, Lower 9, St. Claude, Hollygrove-Dixon, and West Lake Forest.
Xavier University of Louisiana	\$2,566,200*	CFI	EV charging station installation on campus
Youth Empowerment Project	\$250,000	CPRG	Expand bicycle/e-bikes workforce training.

*\*Note that Dillard University and Xavier University are not subrecipients of the CFI grant but are beneficiaries.*

**CITY STAFF POSITIONS AT RISK: 10 TOTAL**

- **CURRENT STAFF (1 TOTAL):**
  - Directives could impact **the DOE Community Energy Fellows program**, which currently provides funding for one ORS staffer for 18 months (started September 2024) to launch the Community Energy Advisors Program, which aims to assist residents of New Orleans in accessing various tax incentives and rebates available for energy upgrades.
- **FUTURE GRANT-FUNDED STAFF (9 TOTAL):**
  - 1 Charging & Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) Staff
    - Project Manager (ORS) to implement the EV Charging Station installations at 58 locations.
  - 1 Communities Sparking Investments in Transformative Energy (C-SITE) Staff
    - Community Energy Fellow (ORS) to help Blue Krewe set up and run the e-bike mechanic training program which will be funded by the CPRG award.
  - 6 Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Staff
    - Energy Benchmarking Program Manager (ORS)
    - Community Energy Program Manager - Solar for All & Community Energy Advisors (ORS)
    - Municipal Building Decarbonization Project Manager (ORS)



- Reforestation Plan Project Manager (PKW)
- Protected Bikeways Project Manager (DPW)
- E-Bike Rebate Program Manager (ORS)
- 1 Reconnecting Communities Staff
  - DPW using personnel funding from this grant to cover a portion of the salary for an existing staff member.

Project	Fed. Agency & Funding Program	Federal Award Amount	Project Description	Community Benefits
<b>Green Energy Campaign/Community Energy Advisors</b>	<i>DOE Energy Efficiency &amp; Conservation Block Grant (EECGB)</i>	<b>\$381,470.00</b>	An education and outreach campaign to build greater awareness around the federal and local incentives and rebates for residential energy efficiency, electrification, weatherization, and solar and battery upgrades.	10 paid Community Energy Advisors to help residents navigate solar and energy efficiency incentives. Funds to develop robust and engaging marketing campaign for green energy.
<b>Bayou Bienvenue Marsh Restoration Preliminary Design &amp; Planning (TWO separate funding sources)</b>	<i>NFWF, National Coastal Resilience Fund (NCRF); NOAA, Coastal Habitat Restoration &amp; Resilience</i>	<b>\$888,793.27</b> <b>\$489,813.00</b>	Funds to develop preliminary designs to restore Bayou Bienvenue Wetlands Triangle, priority project identified from State's Coastal Master Plan	Immediate outcomes include 1) a restoration prioritization plan, which will allow for scalable restoration in the area; 2) A preliminary design package (i.e. 30% design) for the restoration of a prioritized area of the Orleans Parish portion.
<b>Lower 9th Ward (Sanchez) Microgrid Design</b>	<i>FEMA, Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC)</i>	<b>\$221,375.00</b>	Designing solar and battery powered microgrid/back-up power system at the Sanchez Multi-Service Center	Bid documents to procure a renewable energy storage & backup system for use at Sanchez Center during emergencies or disasters.
<b>New Orleans Safe Streets for All</b>	<i>DOT, Safe Streets for All (SS4A)</i>	<b>\$751,631.00</b>	Development of a Comprehensive Safety Action Plan to address traffic fatalities and severe injuries on roadways.	Understanding of high frequency fatal crash locations. Identification of engineering projects, programs, and policies to improve traffic safety. Creation of the plan allows the City to apply for project implementation dollars.
<b>New Orleans Recycling Expansion and Planning (NOREAP)</b>	<i>EPA, Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling (SWIFR)</i>	<b>\$3,982,000.00</b>	Expand city's residential curbside recycling program, increase outreach and education, & develop a 10-year solid waste master plan.	New recycling access to 73,000 households; replacing 10,000 legacy black recycling carts; education & outreach campaign; 10-year Solid Waste Master Plan.

Project	Fed. Agency & Funding Program	Federal Award Amount	Project Description	Community Benefits
<b><i>New Orleans Canopy Training, Urban Reforestation, and Neighborhood Leadership (NOCTURNL)</i></b>	<i>USDA Forest Services, Urban &amp; Community Forestry (UCF)</i>	<b><i>\$8,000,000.00</i></b>	Funding for the City and 7 community partners to restore the city's urban canopy and to reach the city's Climate Action Plan goal of planting 40,000 trees by 2030.	Plant approximately 8,940 trees in unserved areas across the city; Train the green infrastructure workforce needed to grow and maintain the canopy; and connect local DBE businesses with opportunities within this project.
<b><i>New Orleans Municipal &amp; Community Partnership for Reducing Food Waste</i></b>	<i>USDA, Compost and Food Waste Reduction (CFWR)</i>	<b><i>\$398,500.00</i></b>	This project will reduce food waste, increase participation in composting by businesses and residents, and lay the groundwork for municipal composting in New Orleans.	Expanding micro-composting hubs from 11 to 30 locations; 400 composting supply kits to low-income residents; increased participation in composting by businesses and festivals.
<b><i>Connecting New Orleans East for Pedestrian and Bicyclist Safety and Mobility</i></b>	<i>DOT, Reconnecting Communities &amp; Neighborhoods (RCN)</i>	<b><i>\$61,544,718.00</i></b>	Funding to improve safety and mobility along the I-10 Service Roads in New Orleans East	Construction of shared-use trails along N & S I-10 Service Roads; trail connections at existing interchanges; new non-motorized bridge crossings and lighting along service roads.
<b><i>New Orleans Climate Action and Resilience Benefiting Our Neighborhoods (NO CARBON)</i></b>	<i>EPA, Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG)</i>	<b><i>\$49,975,589.00</i></b>	Significant funding will support the implementation of seven critical greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction measures that align with the City's Climate Action Plan and over the next five years.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Protected Bikeways:</b> Constructing 7 miles of protected bikeways adjacent to downtown area.</li> <li>• <b>Bike Share Expansion:</b> Increasing Blue Bikes system to 2,000 &amp; extending service areas.</li> <li>• <b>E-Bike Rebates Program:</b> 3,000 point-of-sale e-bike rebates with additional subsidies for low-to-moderate-income (LMI) residents.</li> <li>• <b>Commercial Energy Benchmarking Program:</b> Staff &amp; software to manage an energy benchmarking for commercial buildings.</li> <li>• <b>Municipal Building Decarbonization:</b> Energy efficiency retrofits in 41 City buildings &amp; solar panel installations at 14 city properties.</li> <li>• <b>Solar for All (SFA) Local Subsidies:</b> 1,400 solar roof subsidies for LMI households.</li> </ul>

Project	Fed. Agency & Funding Program	Federal Award Amount	Project Description	Community Benefits
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Reforestation Plan:</b> Planting 7,500 trees in underserved neighborhoods.</li> </ul>
<b>NOLA Bike Corps</b>	<i>DOE, Communities Sparking Investments in Transformative Energy (C-SITE)</i>	<b>\$1,700,000.00</b>	Expansion the city's Blue Bikes fleet and establish a comprehensive workforce development program.	825 additional bikes and 12 additional stations; workforce development through paid internship program.
<b>Lincoln Beach Shoreline Protection and Beach Nourishment Project</b>	<i>EPA, Pontchartrain Restoration Program</i>	<b>\$1,500,000.00</b>	Funding to protect and restore the natural habitats and ecosystems that have developed at the site while providing community access to the lakefront	Beach nourishment and shoreline protection for Lincoln Beach.
<b>New Orleans Roadway Lighting Safety Supplemental Plan</b>	<i>DOT, Safe Streets &amp; Roads for All (SS4A)</i>	<b>\$360,000.00</b>	Development of a Lighting Supplemental Plan to identify policies and projects to increase lighting in areas of need.	Suite of policies priority projects for the City to improve safety and reduce fatalities or severe injuries related to roadway lighting and serving as a Appendix to the Comprehensive Safety Action Plan.
<b>New Orleans Community Electric Vehicle Charging Program</b>	<i>FHWA, Charging &amp; Fueling Infrastructure (CFI)</i>	<b>\$9,342,038.00</b>	Partner with private developers to build Level 2 and DC Fast electric vehicle charging stations at 58 sites.	Approximately 58 publicly available electric vehicle (EV) charging stations across the city, for a total of 118 chargers and 236 charging ports. 66% of these installations will be in disadvantaged communities.
		<b>\$139,535,927.27</b>		