

Tell Your Legislators: Federal funding is vital for our communities' health and well-being

Toolkit for General Public
January-February 2025
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Federal Grants and Loans are Critical for our Appalachian Communities

From water infrastructure to disaster relief, and from black lung clinics to abandoned mine land clean up, federal funding and grant opportunities are vital for the health and safety of Appalachian communities. Local governments, states, and nonprofits rely on stable federal funding to provide essential services to their constituencies. These federal programs were created by Congress in law to be executed by the Executive Branch.

What's Happening with Federal Grants and Loans?

On January 20, the Trump-Vance Administration instituted policies that pause federal funding from being dispersed through numerous grant and loan programs. As of February 10th, multiple courts have blocked the executive order pausing grant and loan funds from being implemented, but unfortunately, many grants remained paused, in defiance of these court orders.

What programs are impacted?

While ensuring federal taxpayer dollars are not wasted is important, many grant and loan programs are providing overdue opportunities for Appalachian communities. One example of a frozen program is the Rural Energy for America Program, which provides grants and loans to rural businesses and farmers. The grants are reimbursable, meaning that the farm or business purchases equipment with their own money, then requests reimbursement from the USDA. This program is now frozen, so small businesses and farmers who purchased equipment can't get reimbursed, meaning thousands or tens of thousands of dollars in costs they were not planning for and may not be able to withstand.

Countless other programs that Appalachians rely on to get by and strengthen our communities have been affected and are now less certain, including:

- Funding for abandoned mine lands that restores our landscape, fixes historical pollution issues, and puts our land back into productive use with new economic opportunities.
- Black lung clinics that provide essential health services and administrative support for ailing coal miners.
- Additional programs from the U.S. Department of Agriculture that support rural farmers and small businesses with loans, grants, and technical assistance to help their businesses thrive.
- Programs at the Department of Energy that are creating good jobs in clean energy development and preserving our clean air and water.
- Drinking water programs that help states and towns make improvements to their water systems and make sure our water is safe to drink.

While some federal agencies are continuing to offer and implement grants [See a full list of targeted](#)

[programs online here.](#)

Members of Congress need to hear from their constituents that the Trump-Vance Administration must release grant funding to our communities that have been promised this support. Congress has the ability to take action and advocate for administration policy changes.

Take Action!

[Call YOUR Representatives](#)
[Amplify on Social Media](#)

[Write to YOUR Representatives](#)

Office	Office Phone Number	Office Legislative Director	Email
Rep. Morgan Griffith (VA-9)	202-225-3861	Davis Michols	davis.michols@mail.house.gov
Rep. Ben Cline (VA-6)	202-225-5431	Paula Nicole Manley	nicole.manley@mail.house.gov
Rep. Hal Rogers (KY-5)	202-225-4601	Austin Gage	austin.gage@mail.house.gov
Sen. Rand Paul (KY)	202-224-4343	John Maniscalco	john_maniscalco@paul.senate.gov
Sen. Mitch McConnell (KY)	202-224-2541	Tiffany Ge	tiffany_ge@mcconnell.senate.gov
Rep. Chuck Edwards (NC-11)	202-225-6401	Ryan Dierker	ryan.dierker@mail.house.gov
Rep. Virginia Foxx (NC-5)	202-225-2071	Bryan McVae	bryan.mcvae@mail.house.gov
Rep. Pat Harrigan (NC-10)	202-225-2576	Collin Sabine	collin.sabine@mail.house.gov
Rep. Tim Moore (NC-14)	202-225-5634	Thomas Bell (Legislative Assistant)	thomas.bell@mail.house.gov
Sen. Thom Tillis (NC)	202-224-6342	Corey Weber	corey_weber@tillis.senate.gov
Sen. Ted Budd (NC)	202-224-3154	Ryan Alban	ryan_alban@budd.senate.gov
Rep. Diana Harshbarger (TN-1)	202-225-6356	Susan Falconer	susan.falconer@mail.house.gov

Rep. Tim Burchett (TN-2)	202-225-5435	John Stout	john.stout@mail.house.gov
Rep. Chuck Fleischmann (TN-3)	202-225-3271	Ian Merritt	ian.merritt@mail.house.gov
Sen. Bill Hagerty (TN)	202-224-4944	Lucas Da Pieve	lucas_dapieve@hagerty.senate.gov
Sen. Marsha Blackburn (TN)	202-224-3344	Jamie Susskind	jamie_susskind@blackburn.senate.gov
Rep. Riley Moore (WV-2)	202-225-2711	Ryan Rasins	ryan.rasins@mail.house.gov
Rep. Carol Miller (WV-1)	202-225-3452	Emily Henn	emily.henn@mail.house.gov
Sen. Shelley Moore Capito (WV)	202-224-6472	James Mann	james_mann@capito.senate.gov
Sen. Jim Justice (WV)	202-224-3954	Kathryn Cromack (Legislation and Policy Counsel)	kathryn_cromack@justice.senate.gov

1) Call YOUR Representatives

Senators: <https://www.senate.gov/senators/senators-contact.htm>

Representatives: <https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative>

Congressional Switchboard: 202-224-3121

Sample Script

“My name is [] and I am your constituent from [TOWN]. I’m calling today to express my concern about the federal freeze on grants and loans in my community. Federal grants support:

[choose what you’re most concerned about]:

- Disaster recovery
- New energy jobs
- Economic development projects
- Abandoned mine land clean up
- Black lung clinics
- University research

Ensuring federal taxpayer dollars are not wasted is important, but programs that provide overdue opportunities to our communities must not be cut. Please use your power to ask the Trump administration to reverse course and please protect programs that support jobs, health, and safety.”

2) Write to YOUR Representatives - Short Version

Dear Senator/Representative _____,

My name is [] and I am a constituent living in [TOWN]. I'm writing to express my concern about the federal freeze and cancellation of grants and loans for essential services in my community. My community benefits from federal funding that supports:

[describe the concerns most relevant in your community. A few examples here]:

- Disaster recovery
- New energy jobs
- Economic development projects
- Abandoned mine land clean up
- Black lung clinics
- University research

Ensuring federal taxpayer dollars are not wasted is important, but doing so does not have to be disruptive to businesses and organizations in our community, and programs that provide overdue opportunities to our communities must not be cut. Please ask the administration to reverse course on this damaging freeze and please defend these programs in Congress. Our communities can't afford to lose this funding.

3) Amplify on Social Media

Share X and other social media posts and tag Congressional leadership + YOUR reps:
@LeaderJohnThune @SpeakerJohnson #RebuildingAppalachia #FundAppalachia

Sample message:

- [@INSERT HANDLE] Federal grant programs drive economic growth and repair our lands in Appalachia. Protect these vital programs. We need Congress to protect federal grant and loan funds. #RebuildingAppalachia #FundAppalachia