

# **Navigating the Next Research Frontier: Expectations and Opportunities**

**Erin Rothwell, PhD  
Vice President for Research  
February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025**



# Agenda

- Shared Leadership Research Team
- Review of Executive Orders Impacting Research within Higher Education
  - OMB Memo on Temporary Pause of Agency Grant, Loan and Other Financial Assistance Program
- Updates as of February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025
- Next Steps
  - Townhall February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 12 pm
- Questions

Townhall RSVP link:



# Research Leadership Across the U

- Erin Rothwell, VPR
- Jake Jensen, AVPR
- Caren Frost, AVPRIC
- Rachel Hess, AVPRHS
- Jim Hotaling, AVPRC
- Chris Hill, VDR SOM
- Neli Ulrich, Director, HCI
- Jim McDonough, AME Lab
- Dave Gray, AVPRIT
- Brent Brown, Asst VPR, OSP
- Steven Phillips, Controller, GCA



# Research Leadership Across the U

- We hear you
- We understand the concerns and have taken them seriously
- We are working across senior leadership and with the state
  - [www.research.utah.edu](http://www.research.utah.edu)
  - <https://www.utah.edu/federal-transition/>
  - Question and Answer Sessions for next 4 weeks: Fridays at 12 on zoom
    - <https://utah.zoom.us/j/99493212825>
  - Council of Associate Deans of Research and Institute Leaders (CADRILs) on February 14<sup>th</sup>
- We have been anticipating changes in funding priorities for the past few years

# Research Leadership Across the U

- Focus on the facts
- Executive Orders are common
- All of this is happening in real time
- We still have many questions
- State legislative session



# What are we doing?

<https://www.cogr.edu/2025-administration-transition-information-resources>



Council on Research



Council on Research



# What are we doing?

- Any pause on federal grants sets important and impactful research back
- Unforeseen negative impacts at the university level
- Research Universities are essential for:
  - Develop scientific breakthroughs
  - Cure diseases
  - Drive economic development
  - Educate future workforce

# Executive Orders on Recissions Impacting Research

- Rescinding EO 14021 of March 8 2021: Guaranteeing an Educational Environment Free From Discrimination on the Basis of Sex, Including Sexual Orientation or Gender Identity
- Rescinding EO 14124 of July 17 2024: White House Initiative on Advancing Educational Equity, Excellence, and Economic Opportunity Through Hispanic-Serving Institutions
- Rescinding EO 14084 of September 30 2022: Promoting the Arts, the Humanities, and Museum and Library Services
- Rescinding EO 14035 of June 25 2021: Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility in the Federal Workforce



# Executive Orders on Recissions Impacting Research

- Rescinding EO14110 of October 30, 2023: Safe, Secure, and Trustworthy Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence
- Rescinding EO14007 of January 27, 2021: President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology
- Rescinding EO 14087 of October 14, 2022: Lowering Prescription Drug Costs for Americans
- Rescinding EO 14009 of January 28, 2021: Strengthening Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act

# Executive Orders on Recissions Impacting Research

- Rescinding EO 13990 of January 20, 2021: Protecting Public Health and the Environment and Restoring Science To Tackle the Climate Crisis
- Rescinding EO 14030 of May 20, 2021: Climate-Related Financial Risk
- Rescinding EO14082 of September 12, 2022: Implementation of the Energy and Infrastructure Provisions of the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022
- Reversal of EO14057 of December 8, 2021: Catalyzing Clean Energy Industries and Jobs Through Federal Sustainability

# Executive Orders Impacting Research

- Restoring Freedom of Speech and Ending Federal Censorship  
Executive Order 14149 January 20, 2025
- Ending Radical and Wasteful Government DEI Programs and  
Preferencing Executive Order January 20, 2025
- Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity  
January 21, 2025
- Removing Barriers to American Leadership in Artificial Intelligence  
Executive Order January 23, 2025
- President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology  
Executive Order January 23, 2025
- Establishing and Implementing the President's "Department of  
Government Efficiency" Executive Order January 20, 2025

# Federal Transition

- <https://www.utah.edu/federal-transition/>



# Office of Management and Budget

## Memo-25-13

- Office of Management and Budget issued a memo (M-25-13) ordering a temporary pause to all federal grants, loans and other financial assistance programs.
- The temporary pause is to provide the administration time to review agencies and determine best use of those funds with the President's priorities:
  - Protecting the American People Against Invasion
  - Reevaluating and Realigning United States Foreign Aid
  - Putting America First in International Environmental Agreements
  - Unleashing American Energy
  - Ending Radical and Wasteful Government DEI Programs and Preferencing
  - Defending Women from Gender Ideology Extremism and Restoring Biological Truth to the Federal Government
  - Enforcing the Hyde Amendment



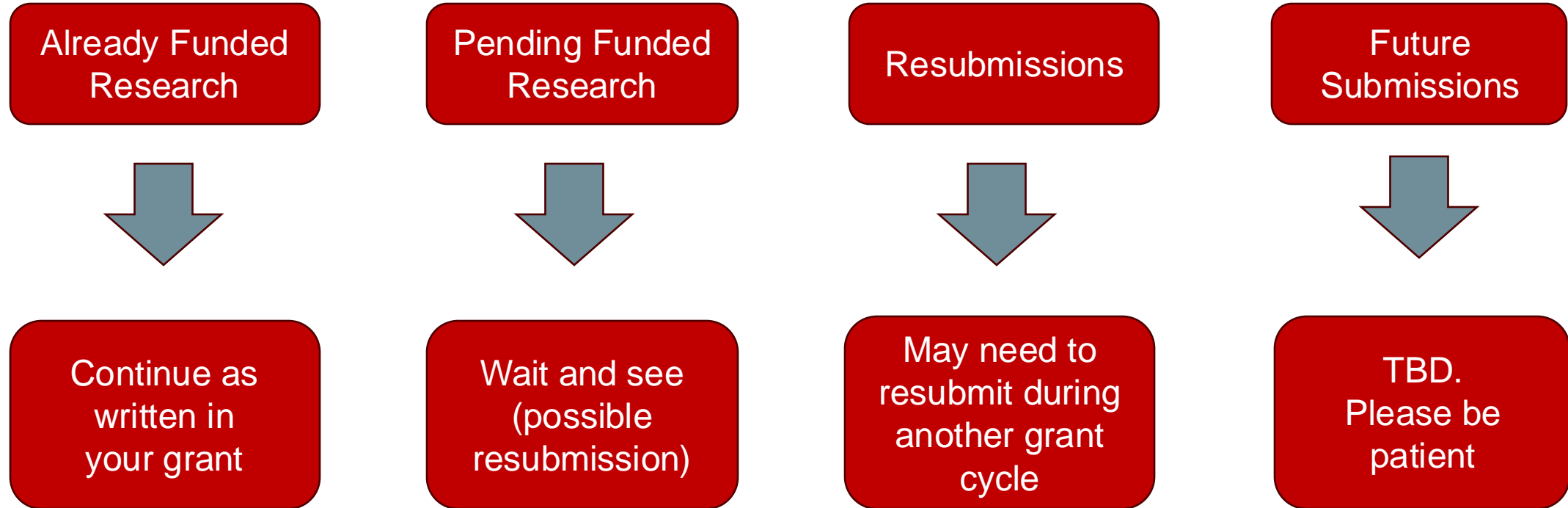
# New York et al. v. Trump, No. 25-cv-39-JJM-PAS (D.R.I.), ECF No. 50 (Jan. 31, 2025)

- Federal agencies cannot pause, freeze, impede, block, cancel, or terminate any awards or obligations on the basis of the OMB Memo, or on the basis of the President's recently issued Executive Orders.
- This prohibition applies to all awards or obligations—not just those involving the Plaintiff States in the above-referenced case—and also applies to future assistance (not just current or existing awards or obligations).
- Agencies may exercise their own authority to pause awards or obligations, provided agencies do so purely based on their own discretion—not as a result of the OMB Memo or the President's Executive Orders—and provided the pause complies with all notice and procedural requirements in the award, agreement, or other instrument relating to such a pause.

# How may OMB M-25-13 impact my research?

- Inconsistencies across agencies
  - NIH paused on all communication and travel
    - Mathew Molei NIH Acting Director
  - DOE/NASA/ARPA E
  - NSF
  - DOD
  - USAID
  - NEH/NEA

# How may OMB M-25-13 impact my research?



# What should I do now?

- Continue to work on your grants until we get more guidance
  - Do what you can, not what you can't
- VPR Website contains ongoing updates and information
- Complete the simple intake survey at the end of this presentation

# How can we help the UU continue to be a science leader?

- Identify, Refine, and Use Paths to Accelerate Science
- Increase Innovation & Impact
- Vibrant R1 Institution
  - Seek out leadership roles
  - Cultivate interdisciplinary/team science
- Visioning Research Strategy Meeting February 11th at 12 pm



Resilient & Ready





# Common Questions



# Scope Modification in Response to Shifting Funding Landscape

Federal funders are considering shifts based on multiple Executive Orders (EOs) issued in January 2025. As part of those shifts, PIs may need to modify the scope and/or budget for ongoing and newly funded projects. Understandably, PIs are concerned about possible modifications and how it might impact the trajectory of their research.

If a PI is asked to modify their project scope, here are four things to consider:

1. How can the project be modified to fit with the **portfolio of the funder**?
2. Can the modification focus on **accelerating the research**?
3. Is there an opportunity to align with **emerging technology**?
4. Are there opportunities to **enhance the evidence-base**?

The modification of a project hinges greatly on the funder, mechanism, and shifting priorities. There is no approach that will work for all grants, and the value and success of modification hinges significantly on careful execution.

# Funding Support During this Transition

- Is there a **consensus/university approved response** or should it be PI determined?
- Can you elaborate more on **budget balances** and how PIs should proceed with the possibility of the following year's budget not being renewed? Can you also talk to how to proceed with communication with subrecipients?
- There are lots of questions about **funding:**
  - How will loss of faculty FTE from suspended/pulled grants be handled?
  - How will this affect staff in research support positions? Will there be personnel layoffs?
  - What does this mean for our current graduate students and their funding support?
  - Will wages be affected?

# University Response

- Can you plan a **weekly meeting** with managers updates, and they can disseminate info to their departments?
- Given how central the research mission is to our university, why is there not a stronger, more visible response to the current administration's actions, which create uncertainty about the future of grant funding? Could we take a **proactive role** by organizing a March for Science in Salt Lake City, inviting peer institutions to join us in voicing our concerns and advocating for the vital importance of research and science?
- Regarding **future grant submissions**, are there existing opportunities that are more or less likely to be affected?
  - Health Disparities/Health Equity



# Additional Questions

- Any additional **guidance on travel** is very welcome. Fielding lots of questions from trainees, scholars, and other grant recipients. Since NIH POs can't talk, we can't consult with them for guidance.
- Will the University continue to support **bridge funding** recognizing that federal funding will be unstable/difficult to obtain with this current administration?
- If my parent grant is not related to any DEI activities but I do have a **diversity supplement** supporting a PhD student, would there be a chance that both my parent award and diversity supplement could be cancelled?
- What is the future of **Early Investigator/training** funding?

# Survey

