

FEDERAL CUTS: IMPACT ON NEW YORKERS

A new interactive mapping project created by Cornell University ILR School, with support from the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo (CFGB) and New York State (NYS), breaks down the impact on how federal actions in pursuit of government efficiency and domestic economic growth are affecting New York State and its diverse geographic areas. This information is to provide NYS residents, government leaders and staff, businesses, nonprofits, and other stakeholders with timely data-driven insights. Collectively, the Phase 1 tools developed for this project allow users to explore recent trends in two major areas: **job (de)growth** and **federal spending** across NYS, and to monitor changes in these trends that might take shape following recent shifts in federal policy priorities.

Access the interactive map at the link below or use the QR code:

<https://blogs.cornell.edu/nysfederal/>



HOW TO USE THE TOOL

Scan the QR code above or navigate to <https://blogs.cornell.edu/nysfederal/>. This is the homepage for the interactive map. Take note of the two tabs at the top of the page: “NYS Federal Impact Interactive Map” and “Documentation.” Take a moment to review the “Documentation” tab before proceeding.

Click into the “NYS Federal Impact Interactive Map” tab. Scroll to the bottom of the page to see the buttons reading “Jobs,” “Federal Assistance” and “Federal Contracts.” These buttons allow the user to toggle back and forth from different data sets to look at impact of federal cuts in three different ways.

Click the “Jobs” button and take note of the map features. On the left side, the user will see two drop-down menus to select the job variable and narrow down the impact to specific NYS counties. Below the drop-down menus is a map that provides the user with another way to select counties. On the right side, the user will see three visualizations. The first two visualizations show change in public and private sector jobs since December 2024, divided by level of government, and the third shows the change in all jobs 2016-present.

The interactive map functions similarly for the “Federal Assistance” and “Federal Contracts” buttons. Click the “Federal Assistance” button to access information related to federal spending on aid and assistance. On the left side, the user will see two drop-down menus to filter by county or congressional district, followed by the map that allows the user to select counties, and lastly, a graph showing the total assistance year-over-year at the bottom. On the right side, the user will see two visualizations that show change in assistance from fiscal year 2024 to fiscal year 2025 broken down first by industry type, and then by recipient type.

Click the “Federal Contracts” button to access information related to federal contract spending. On the left side, the user will see two drop-down menus to filter by county or congressional district, followed by the map that allows the user to select one or more counties, and lastly, a graph showing the total contract obligation year over year at the bottom. On the right side, the user will see two visualizations that show change in federal contract obligations for Minority Owned Business Enterprises (“MBEs”) & Minority and Women Owned Business Enterprises (“MWBs”), first showing year-over-year changes, and then showing the change from fiscal year 2024 to fiscal year 2025.



JOBS

The premier source for timely information on the number of jobs present in a state or county economy is the [Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages](#) (“QCEW”) conducted by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (“BLS”). The ten years’ worth of QCEW snapshots for NYS in the interactive map allow users to explore recent trends in employment throughout the State. The map plots absolute changes in employment – and employment by selected industry.

Relative to the end of (December) 2024, prior to the shift toward a targeted government efficiency and domestic economic growth agenda the following have changed:

- 120,000 total jobs lost, with the hardest hit counties including Queens (35,305), New York (25,741), Suffolk (11,310), Erie (8,825), Nassau (8,600), Westchester (7,515), Onondaga (9,078), Monroe (8,806), Orange (3,809), and Albany (3,647)
- Private Sector Jobs have been reduced by the following: 34,000 in Retail Trade, 27,000 in Accommodation and Food Service, 19,000 in Transportation and Warehousing, 11,000 in Wholesale Trade, 9,500 in Construction
- In the Public Sector, there has been a 1,600 reduction in federal jobs across NYS

FEDERAL SPENDING

Federal spending comes in two forms: (1) *Grants and financial assistance* are transfers of money or in-kind resources to non-federal entities that serve a public purpose; and (2) *Contract spending* refers to the purchase of goods and services by federal agencies in order to fulfill their public duties and obligations.

Data on all grants and assistance and contract records are publicly available through USASpending.gov. While actual spending (outlays) has not always been required of agencies, obligations, have been consistently tracked since 2001, so Phase 1 of this project, which covers spending through FY2025, is best used as a trend tracker and potential early detection system for types of spending that are likely to experience higher magnitude decreases next year and plausibly beyond.

As of October 2025, there is a **\$15.8 billion reduction** in funding to NYS in FY25 compared to FY24.

Grants and Assistance

Grants and assistance spending records were filtered to ensure “Place of Performance State” was listed as NYS – so the focus is on only those dollars that were awarded to entities for a public purpose in the jurisdiction of the State of New York and then adjusted for inflation.

- Relative to FY24, grants and assistance obligations for public purposes performed in NYS dropped by nearly **-\$7.6 billion year over year**.
- Spending commitments to direct payments for [specified uses](#) increased by roughly **\$3.7 billion from FY2024 to FY2025**.



- Obligations to individuals dropped by more than **-\$3.1 billion**: Pensions to veterans, surviving spouses and children, federal student loan (Perkins cancellations), promotion of the humanities, SSDI, SSI, SSRI, unemployment insurance, vocational rehabilitation for disabled veterans
- Nonprofit organizations with 501(c)(3) status saw a drop of nearly **-\$2.3 billion** in obligations
- Obligations to institutions of higher education dropped by approximately **\$535 million**.

Contract Spending

Following the same protocol used above for grants and assistance, contract spending records were obtained for FY16 through FY25 for all recipients located or doing work in NYS and adjusted for inflation.

- Contract obligations for work performed in NYS dropped by **\$8.2 billion**
- Spending on construction projects that adopt labor standards, including prevailing wage requirements, fell by more than **\$2 billion**
- Heavy decreases for Minority Owned Business Enterprises (“MBEs”) & Minority and Women Owned Business Enterprises (“MWBEs”).
- millions of dollars in contract obligations were also moved away from what have often been key NYS policy issue areas, such as alternative energy power generation, apprenticeship training, and nursing care facilities.

WHAT IS NEXT?

If recent changes offer early signals of what is to come from the federal government efficiency and domestic economic growth agenda, then New Yorkers – residents, businesses, state and local governments, nonprofits, and communities – are likely to face meaningful adjustment costs as federal austerity measures permeate throughout the State.

Next Steps

Following the October 2025 release of the interactive map, several next steps have been identified:

1. Continued updates to Phase 1 numbers as more data becomes available.
2. Demonstrations around the state to eager audiences.
3. Addition of further indicators integrated into in the map based on identifying information (race, sex, income status, family, etc.)



Types of Federal Domestic Assistance

The following definitions have been extracted verbatim from OMB Circular A-89 or the General Services Administration's "CFDA Reference Manual for Agency Liaisons and Staff."

1. **Formula Grants:** Allocations of money to States or their subdivisions in accordance with distribution formulas prescribed by law or administrative regulation, for activities of a continuing nature not confined to a specific project.
2. **Project Grants:** The funding, for fixed or known periods, of specific projects. Project grants can include fellowships, scholarships, research grants, training grants, traineeships, experimental and demonstration grants, evaluation grants, planning grants, technical assistance grants, survey grants, and construction grants.
3. **Direct Payments for Specified Use:** Financial assistance from the Federal government provided directly to individuals, private firms, and other private institutions to encourage or subsidize a particular activity by conditioning the receipt of the assistance on a particular performance by the recipient. This does not include solicited contracts for the procurement of goods and services for the Federal government.
4. **Direct Payments with Unrestricted Use:** Financial assistance from the Federal government provided directly to beneficiaries who satisfy Federal eligibility requirements with no restrictions being imposed on the recipient as to how the money is spent. Included are payments under retirement, pension, and compensatory programs.
5. **Direct Loans:** Financial assistance provided through the lending of Federal monies for a specific period of time, with a reasonable expectation of repayment. Such loans may or may not require the payment of interest.
6. **Guaranteed/Insured Loans:** Programs in which the Federal government makes an arrangement to identify a lender against part or all of any defaults by those responsible for repayment of loans.
7. **Insurance:** Financial assistance provided to assure reimbursement for losses sustained under specified conditions. Coverage may be provided directly by the Federal government or through private carriers and may or may not involve the payment of premiums.