

NIH Indirect Costs Caps Toolkit

How to Fight Back Against the Trump Administration's Research Cuts

Take Political Action

Host a phone bank. Provide members with names and phone numbers for the public officials you'd like to contact. Below is a sample call script. Adapt freely based on the specifics of your situation.

"Hello, my name is [your name], and I'm a constituent of Representative/Senator [their name]. I work at [name of college/university], which is an anchor in our [community/Congressional district/state]. I'm calling to express profound alarm at the Trump administration's freezes and cuts to federal research funding. The destructive executive orders will likely result in layoffs and job losses in our community and could impact lifesaving research on cures for Alzheimer's, diabetes, and childhood diseases.

[If the staffer is open to engaging in a longer conversation, explain what the stakes are for your immediate local community: layoffs, job losses, less student access to a college education, and other harms/injuries.

Briefly share how your research benefits ordinary, everyday community members in the areas immediately surrounding your college/university.

Adapt basic info from the attached NIH Indirect Rates Explainer in your own words.

Demonstrate the direct impacts on your town, city, and state. Use tools such as [the NIH reporter](#) or the United for Medical Research "[NIH In Your State](#)" tool to provide specifics about how much funding comes to your community from federal grant sources. If discussing NSF grants, you can use [NSF by the Numbers](#). If you would like help identifying numbers for other agencies, please reach out to your union, chapter, or state conference staff.]

The education and research at [name of college/university] will be severely compromised, which will directly affect the health of every American. I'm asking Representative/Senator [their name] to stop these cuts and freezes because of the threats they represent to our community's economic security and educational opportunities."



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