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GENERAL NEWS

OMB Pauses Federal Grants, Loans, and Financial Assistance

Last night the Office of Management and Budget ([OMB](#)) issued a [memorandum](#) directing all federal departments and agencies to temporarily pause all federal financial assistance. The memorandum requires that the departments and agencies perform a comprehensive analysis to ensure that all federal financial assistance programs and supporting activities are consistent with the current administration’s recent executive orders. While conducting the analysis, federal agencies must temporarily pause all activities related to obligation or disbursement of all federal financial assistance. The memo specifies that the order excludes assistance provided directly to individuals and it does not affect Social Security or Medicare benefits. In a [Q&A document](#) issued today, OMB clarified that “funds for small businesses, farmers, Pell grants, Head Start, rental assistance, and other similar programs will not be paused.”

The temporary pause will become effective today, January 28, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. Eastern time. Agencies must submit to OMB detailed information on any programs, projects, or activities subject to this pause no later than February 10, 2025. For further details, read the complete [memo](#) and accompanying [Q&A document](#).



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Nan McKay & Associates, 1810 Gillespie Way, Suite 202, El Cajon, CA 92020, USA, 1-800-783-3100
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