

## Federal Grant Rules Are Being Rewritten — **Comment Window Closes July 13**

It impacts more than you can imagine.

### Background

#### Who's Affected

Every university, nonprofit, park board, tribe, and local government that touches a federal dollar — including projects in Minnesota.

**The change:** On May 29, the Office of Management and Budget proposed the most sweeping rewrite of federal grant rules since 2013 (Docket OMB-2026-0034), converting the "Uniform Guidance" governing every federal grant into binding regulation while rewriting its substance.

**Political review:** Senior political appointees would review every discretionary grant before it's issued to confirm it "demonstrably advances the President's policy priorities."

**Termination powers:** Agencies could terminate active grants at any time if an award no longer serves "agency priorities or the national interest," with only a brief explanation and no administrative appeal.

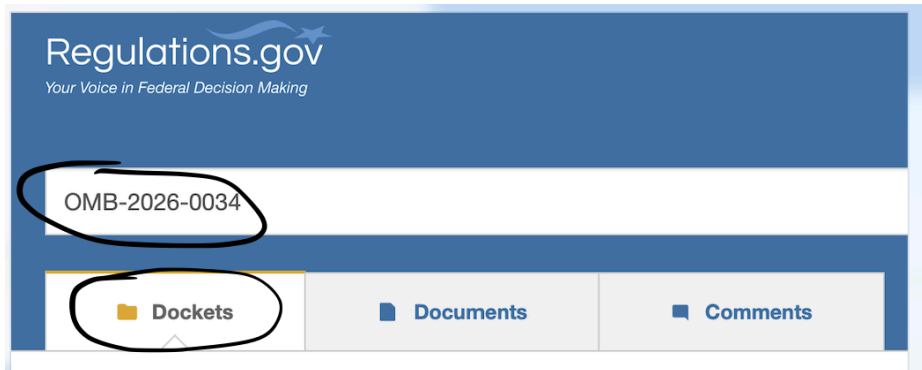
**Speech restrictions:** The rule would bar federal funds from supporting broadly defined categories of speech and programming, including diversity and inclusion work, without defining key terms like "anti-American values."

Now [check out this short video](#) for an example of what's at stake if politics overrides expertise.

**Why comments matter now:** OMB is legally required to read and respond to substantive comments. A thin record makes a weak rule easier to finalize and harder to challenge in court. The comment period closes Monday, July 13, with OMB aiming to finalize the rule by October 1.

### Who to Contact

1. Go to Regulations.gov → search docket **OMB-2026-0034** → click "Comment."



### Comment Template

Speak from your own experience — name the section that concerns you, say how it would affect programs you know, and **ask OMB and members of congress to withdraw the rule or extend the comment period.**

Sections to cite:

- Political review — § 200.205
- Termination powers — § 200.340
- Speech restrictions — § 200.300

**Sample comment:**

*I am writing to oppose the proposed rewrite of federal grant regulations under Docket OMB-2026-0034. Under § 200.205, senior political appointees would review every discretionary grant before it's issued to confirm it advances the President's policy priorities — a level of political control that has no place in merit-based federal funding decisions. This rule would let political appointees override merit-based funding decisions and terminate grants with no appeal, harming the organizations and communities that rely on this funding.*

*I urge OMB to withdraw this rule or, at minimum, extend the comment period to allow for full public input.*

2. A second way to fight back is to participate in [Stand Up for Science's campaign](#) against the rule, which includes their own link to provide comments.

Stand Up for Science notes in a letter to their membership that “the *Heritage Foundation* . . . has been pushing its members to submit comments in support of the rule.” As they point out, that likely means that the OMB is panicking. On the other hand, it also means that Heritage Foundation followers are “flooding the zone with pro-comments giv[ing] them the false cover to force this catastrophic rule into law.”

Read: [Beyond Science: How OMB's Proposed Rule on Federal Financial Assistance Threatens Essential Services Nationwide](#) to dig deeper