

A Deeper Dive on the Trump Administration Funding Freeze and Its Impacts on Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania has been unable to access \$1.2 billion in Congressionally appropriated federal funding, with an additional \$900 million requiring an undefined “review” by federal agencies. [Governor Shapiro has filed a lawsuit](#) to free up these federal dollars committed to Pennsylvania but unlawfully shut off by the Trump Administration. One federal District Court has already entered a “[Temporary Restraining Order](#)” requiring the Trump administration to “immediately restore frozen funding,” but Governor Shapiro’s lawsuit will help protect Pennsylvania’s funding in the long term.

These are essential investments that are lowering electricity bills, creating good-paying jobs, safeguarding communities, and cleaning up pollution. In spite of court orders and multiple federal lawsuits to stop this unconstitutional action, the Trump administration is continuing to ignore the law and, in many instances, continues to deny funding for projects already underway or about to begin. This has created business uncertainty, hurting communities, and has already put American jobs at risk.

Here’s a closer look at some of the major investments that Governor Shapiro has demanded be released and what that means for Pennsylvanians:

Hazardous abandoned mine land cleanup. Pennsylvania has more than [5,000 documented abandoned mine lands](#), about a third of the abandoned mine land in the country. These mines can produce toxic runoff polluting the soil and water and mine subsidences and sinkholes that can collapse homes and buildings and even cause deaths, [as occurred recently in Westmoreland County](#). [Congress approved \\$3 billion for Pennsylvania over the next 15 years](#) to reclaim around 24,000 acres of abandoned mine land, construct or maintain 16 water treatment systems that deal with toxic runoff from abandoned mines, and respond to about 60 abandoned mine emergencies each year. That has all been halted. Pennsylvania’s abandoned-mine-cleanup grant, which is [\\$244 million a year](#), remains frozen.

RISE PA, short for “Reducing Industrial Sector Emissions in Pennsylvania,” is a \$396 million statewide industrial decarbonization grant program that has [enormous potential to slash emissions](#) from industrial facilities and to create thousands of good-paying jobs in the state. Defending **RISE PA** funding could create upwards of 6,000 new jobs installing and maintaining new technologies and equipment that will make Pennsylvania’s businesses more profitable and competitive in world markets. According to BW Research, RISE PA will create over 6,000 new direct and indirect jobs.¹ The industrial retrofits, and related private sector construction leveraged by RISE PA funding will require painters, electricians, pipefitters, carpenters, and more.

Plugging of leaky, dangerous gas wells. Pennsylvania is home to more than 350,000 orphaned and abandoned wells, many leaking methane and other toxic pollutants. Methane is especially hazardous, being up to 86 times more potent than carbon dioxide, and poses health risks to local families and communities. Federal funding currently supports roughly 900 well-plugging jobs in energy communities across the Commonwealth. Under Governor Shapiro, efforts to plug abandoned wells have been ramped up, so the loss of current federal funding would stop the scheduled plugging of about 500 wells in the short-term, and could cost more than [4,000 Pennsylvania jobs](#), with thousands more lost in the future.

¹ In job-years.

Lower energy costs for Pennsylvania families.

Hiking Household Energy Bills: Millions of Americans nationwide will face higher out-of-pocket costs on their electricity bills. Nearly 1 million American households could be forced to pay \$350 million more on electricity annually, approximately \$400 per household, while millions of others would lose up to \$14,000 in rebates for home energy projects that would save up to \$1 billion per year on utility bills.

Home Energy Rebates (HER), Home Electrification and Appliances Rebates (HEAR) programs, and Weatherization Programs

Rebates - The funding freeze threatens \$8.8 billion in funding to states. At risk are consumer rebates - up to \$14,000 per qualifying household - and more than \$250 million for Pennsylvania families to support increased home energy efficiency, improved indoor air quality, and reduced utility bills.

Home Energy Rebate Programs (HER & HEAR)	\$259M
Home Energy Efficiency Training (two grants)	\$9.5M
Weatherization Assistance	\$186M
Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants	\$3M
Energy Efficiency Revolving Loan Fund	\$3.4M

Weatherization Assistance for low-income homes: Replacing inefficient heating and cooling systems, windows, and insulation in low-income homes across the Commonwealth would provide jobs for HVAC workers, plumbers, electricians, and general contractors and save households hundreds of dollars on utility bills for years to come.

Affordable, reliable solar power for low-income families and communities. The Trump Administration has frozen a \$156 million Solar for All grant to Pennsylvania. It was earmarked for solar technology and associated energy storage projects in low-income areas, including rural communities and [energy communities](#), which were tied to coal mining and fossil fuel-related energy industries in the past. These Solar Green Bank investments will leverage private sector investments to create good-paying energy jobs. Green Bank projects will also save families money and increase the reliability of the electrical grid by decreasing demand for electricity. Once “unfrozen,” these Green Bank investments will help 10,000 Pennsylvanians save at least 20% on their electricity bills and put hundreds of Pennsylvanians to work.

Real Jobs and New Industries – EV Chargers - On February 6th, the Federal Highway Administration [announced the suspension of federal funding](#) for states to build electric vehicle charging stations along our highways. For Appalachia & PA, this means the loss of \$426 million in funding and over 1,550 lost job opportunities in PA alone, [according to economic modeling](#) from the Ohio River Valley Institute. These cuts aren’t “wasteful spending” – those are real dollars that would have directly supported hard-working men and women in construction, electrical work, engineering, and project management jobs. And these aren’t just statistics — they’re real paychecks that could have supported families and built real, local opportunities to keep young people from leaving their hometowns in search of work.

Conclusion

From engineers to skilled workers to equipment operators to manufacturers, these federally funded programs will put Pennsylvanians to work and improve our economy and communities.

<https://www.notus.org/policy/energy-environment-funding-trump-states>

State Officials Say They're Shut Out of Billions of Dollars for Energy Programs

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