



# Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

## Timeline of Attacks

- **February 7, 2025:** The New York Times reported that Elon Musk's DOGE aides had “[descended upon](#)” HUD.
- **February 13, 2025:** Secretary of Housing Scott Turner [tweeted](#) a video claiming that the DOGE task force at HUD “identified \$260 million in savings.”
- **February 14, 2025:** Antonio Gaines, president of the American Federation of Government Workers told *Politico* that DOGE cuts at the agency [could reduce staff levels by 50%](#), with the offices of Policy Development and Research, Community Planning and Development, and Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity potentially seeing a 75% staff reduction.
- **February 14, 2025:** DOGE posted screenshots of [unredacted HUD contracts](#) that had sensitive tax information of two companies.
- **February 19, 2025:** The administration reportedly [recommended](#) terminating over 40% of staff at HUD's Office of Housing, the largest subsection of the Federal Housing Administration, which provided mortgage insurance for nearly 500,000 first time home-buyers in FY 2024.
- **February 23, 2025:** A leaked memo [detailed](#) plans to cut overall HUD staff from 8,300 to 4,000 employees. The Office of Community Planning and Development would lose 84% of employees, the Office of Public and Indian Housing would lose 50% of employees, and the Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity would be cut by 77%.
- **February 23, 2025:** The leaked memo revealed roughly 600 employees, including senior officials, [accepted](#) the deferred resignation offer.
- **February 26, 2025:** DOGE agent Michael Mirski [gained access](#) to the HUD Enforcement Management System (HEMS), which “contains medical records, financial files, documents that may list Social Security numbers and other private information.”
- **February 28, 2025:** At DOGE's direction, HUD began [terminating](#) grants to organizations that help process complaints of housing discrimination under the Fair Housing Act. Roughly half of the 162 grants were slated for cancellation.
- **March 7, 2025:** HUD [froze](#) \$60 million in funding for affordable housing through community development nonprofits.
- **March 12, 2025:** HUD [froze](#) a \$1 billion program that helped maintain and improve affordable housing units.
- **March 19, 2025:** HUD [began](#) reductions in force of 150 employees to effectively close its Office of Field Policy and Management.
- **April 16, 2025:** Approximately 2,300 HUD employees [accepted](#) the deferred resignation offer.
- **April 17, 2025:** HUD [initiated](#) plans to sell off its headquarters in DC.



- **June 5, 2025:** Bloomberg reported that HUD's Office of General Counsel had lost 39% of its staff, including large swaths of its managing attorneys.
- **August 14, 2025:** Wired reported that DOGE agents at HUD had developed an AI tool called SweetRex Deregulation AI Plan Builder to expedite the process of identifying and eliminating regulations DOGE deems unnecessary.
- **October 10, 2025:** HUD issued reductions in force for over 400 employees, 114 of whom were in the Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity. HUD also lost employees at its Office of Public and Indian Housing, Office of Housing, and Office of Community Planning and Development.

## Impacts on Capacity

The vast majority of the planned cuts at HUD targeted the very teams that administer its most critical programs. The proposed 84% cut to the Office of Community Planning and Development would render it incapable of overseeing the distribution of \$4.5 billion in annual grants that fund homeless shelters and services.

DOGE's contract review explicitly targeted expertise related to equity. HUD's political leadership canceled \$4 million in contracts related to DEI, signaling a deliberate shift in the agency's human capital away from civil rights enforcement.

The most significant reduction in force was in the Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, a clear sign of the administration's disinterest in protecting rights in the housing space. HUD employees fear a "regression to the 1960s or '70s," where landlords are able to violate rights and the public is unable to "hold private-sector landlords accountable for these things."

While HUD did not lose as many employees as was floated at the start of the administration, the department still lost over 3,000 employees through deferred resignations and reductions in force.

## Material Harms

The DOGE-led infiltration of HUD resulted in the active dismantling of civil rights enforcement and the withdrawal of critical support for the nation's most vulnerable populations. DOGE's Office of General Counsel lost nearly 40% of its total workforce, including "50% of the managing attorneys in its Chicago, San Francisco and Seattle offices; 75% of its managers in Boston; and all of its managers in Denver." Even if the agency's leadership decided to begin pursuing enforcement actions on behalf of victimized people, the main office tasked with doing so is now severely understaffed.

The most immediate material harm was the deliberate defanging of federal fair housing law. DOGE directed the elimination of around half of the 162 grants for organizations that process complaints under the Fair Housing Act, 75% of which are processed by these nonprofits.



The [termination](#) of the Green and Resilient Retrofit Program had immediate, catastrophic effects. For the Smith Tower Apartments in Vancouver, Washington—a building housing low-income seniors—the revocation of a \$10 million GRRP award meant the cancellation of critical upgrades, including a new roof and the building's first-ever sprinkler system. A 72-year-old resident described the situation as "[terrifying](#)." This same scenario will be seen across the country as the \$1 billion in funding dries up.

## Notable Names

### *DOGE Agents*

- [Christopher Sweet](#)
- [Scott Langmack](#)
- [Michael Mirski](#)