



DOGE: From Meme to Government Erosion Machine

How Attacks on the Civil Service Destroyed Federal Capacity and Harmed Communities

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January 2026



RevolvingDoorProject.org
[Watchdog Weekly](#)



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Acknowledgements

The authors would like to thank Revolving Door Project Executive Director Jeff Hauser, and Assistant Director Timi Iwayemi, who provided guidance and expertise that greatly contributed to this paper. The authors would also like to thank Kenny Stancil, Hannah Story Brown, and Andrea Beaty for their edits and contributions.

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Executive Summary

From the minute President Donald Trump stepped into the White House on January 20, 2025, the Trump administration has aggressively pursued its goal of stripping the federal government to its bare bones.

Under the banner of the so-called “Department of Government Efficiency” (DOGE), Elon Musk and Russell Vought have eagerly shred political, professional, and legal precedent in their effort to dismantle the essential functions of the federal government—and most importantly, democracy at large.

DOGE agents—a cohort of unelected, unqualified, and unaccountable goons recruited from Elon Musk and Peter Thiel’s orbit—have been given unfettered access to the internal machinery of federal agencies. From seizing control of the nation’s payment system at the Treasury Department to orchestrating mass purges of the experts who ensure our food is safe, these actors bypassed traditional oversight to strip agencies of their ability to serve the American public.

DOGE: From Meme to Government Erosion Machine serves as a recounting of DOGE’s first year. We outline DOGE’s operational takeover and systemic demolition of the federal government. We hope this effort to record the scale of DOGE’s destruction engenders much needed accountability for all who enacted and cheered the initiative’s irrational actions.

The audit offers a comprehensive picture of what happens when federal capacity is erased by:

- Probing DOGE’s origin story. From thought leaders like Marc Andreessen and Peter Thiel, to foot soldiers like Gavin Kliger and Edward Coristine, we map out key figures within the DOGE machine;
- Detailing the material costs of DOGE’s infiltration across the administrative state, covering everything from reduced regulatory action to increased death tolls from anemic responses to crises; and
- Examining the emerging threat posed by the transfer of power to DOGE’s new leader, Office of Management and Budget Director Russell Vought.



Introduction

President Donald Trump's creation of the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) marked a radical restructuring of the federal government and an unprecedented transfer of power to an unelected private citizen in Elon Musk. Even as DOGE fell out of the daily headlines following Musk's exit, the guiding principles of the agency lived on through Russell Vought, Director of the Office of Management and Budget, who took up the mantle of decimating federal capacity on behalf of billionaire interests.

Pitched as a solution to our purported bureaucratic malaise, the Trump administration initially advertised the initiative as a vehicle to bring more accountability and transparency to federal spending. Instead, DOGE became a central hub for dismantling core public services and accelerating agency attrition, while consolidating power through tech-aligned privatization efforts. DOGE functioned less as an efficiency project and more as an instrument of institutional erosion, one whose effects are evident across the federal government.

This audit explores how DOGE operated, who enabled it, and what the consequences were.

We've compiled documentation and created an interactive map to help the public, journalists, and oversight bodies understand what happened—and what's still at stake.

Timeline of DOGE's Formation

- **March 2024:** Musk [traveled to Florida](#) as Trump tried to convince wealthy Republican donors to finance his presidential bid. [Musk had indicated](#) he was "leaning away from Joe Biden."
- **May 2024:** Musk [helped create](#) the pro-Trump [America PAC](#).
- **July 2024:** Musk "[fully endorsed](#)" Trump.
- **August 2024:** During an online conversation with Trump, Musk [raised the idea of a government efficiency commission](#).
 - Days later, Trump publicly floated [bringing Musk into his administration](#); Musk [confirmed his willingness to serve](#) on X while also teasing the name "Department of Government Efficiency."
- **October 2024:** Musk joined Trump on the campaign trail, having already [donated](#) \$75 million to the campaign. A week before the 2024 election, Musk pledged that he would use DOGE to cut federal [spending](#) by \$2 trillion.



- Musk [pledged to give away \\$1 million a day](#), between October 20 and November 5, to people signing the pro-Trump America PAC petition supporting the First and Second Amendments. Registration to the PAC was a prerequisite for eligibility, raising concerns about the legality of paying people to register to vote.
- **November 2024:** Trump [announced](#) Musk as the co-lead of DOGE. Ultimately, Musk [spent at least \\$250 million](#) in direct efforts to help secure Trump's election victory.
 - Additionally, [analyses of X during the 2024 election](#) found that content from Musk and pro-Trump conservative accounts was systematically boosted, suggesting that the [platform's algorithm may have been manipulated](#) to advantage Trump.
- **Post 2024 Election:** Reporting started to chronicle Musk's [growing influence](#) at the White House. During the presidential transition period, Musk started [sending DOGE personnel](#) into federal agencies.

Key Players at DOGE

Shortly after Trump's return to office, Elon Musk and former Republican presidential candidate Vivek Ramaswamy were tapped to lead DOGE. Musk and Ramaswamy, with the help of venture capitalist Marc Andreessen and other allies, spent the lame duck period recruiting lackeys to join the new agency.

At the start of the administration, the character of DOGE personnel became clear. Many were young professionals from tech companies backed by Peter Thiel or Elon Musk. Others had online footprints filled with racist or misogynistic remarks. One had founded a telehealth startup that went bankrupt after raising millions of dollars and faced litigation from a former business partner.

This section will catalog the most important players at DOGE, from the leaders directing DOGE's attacks to the inexperienced agents carrying them out.

These summaries, in conjunction with the personnel map, serve as a repository of the actions taken by DOGE affiliates and their ties to Elon Musk.

Leadership and Higher Ups

- **Elon Musk:** The man behind the Department of Government Efficiency. Musk [became Trump's top donor](#) during the 2024 presidential campaign, shelling out at least \$250 million in financial support. His reward: free rein to form and staff DOGE to pursue concurrent missions of cutting out government "waste, fraud, and abuse" by drastically minimizing the size and role of the federal government. Musk has [had](#) frequent run-ins with federal regulators throughout his career, and



used his power at DOGE to gut some of those same agencies, which we warned would happen in November 2024.

- Legal experts warned that Musk's actions amounted to an illegal power grab, triggering a constitutional crisis between Congress and the executive branch. Almost as soon as DOGE moved to fire federal employees or slash programs, lawsuits followed to halt or reverse those actions.
- In protest against Musk's government purge, objectors demonstrated outside of Tesla dealerships and called for boycotts.
- **Peter Thiel:** Though he is not directly connected to DOGE, Thiel's influence can be felt within DOGE and across the broader Trump administration. Thiel and Musk have had a long and deep professional relationship starting with their time together at PayPal, and a number of staffers at DOGE are either Thiel employees, current or former, or beneficiaries of a Thiel-fellowship. Thiel's libertarian ideology aligns with DOGE's mission of effectively reducing the size and capacity of government.
- **Marc Andreessen:** Andreessen is a Trump donor and ally, and one half of Andreessen-Horowitz (a16z), the Silicon Valley venture capital firm with heavy investments in several of Musk's companies. As early as December 2024, billionaire Andreessen became DOGE's "unpaid intern," working to interview and recruit candidates. Andreessen has pushed for AI use in government, while a16z is heavily invested in AI companies marketed for government use.
 - a16z has invested heavily in cryptocurrency firms that have either broken the law or been involved in controversies. This includes the likes of Anchorage Digital, who failed to comply with anti-money laundering mandates from DHS, and Coinbase, which faced SEC charges for operating as an unregistered securities exchange.
 - The crypto industry poured tens of millions of dollars into electing friendly politicians, and donated at least \$26 million to Trump in the first half of 2025.
- **Scott Kuper:** The current head of the Office of Personnel Management (OPM), Kuper was a long-time Marc Andreessen collaborator and managing partner at Andreessen-Horowitz.
 - As head of OPM, Kuper has openly worked with DOGE to cut the size of the federal workforce and reform the federal hiring process.
- **Amy Gleason:** Named the administrator of DOGE after weeks of confusion from the White House on who was leading the agency. She previously held the position



of Senior Advisor at the US Digital Service, the agency that ultimately morphed into DOGE.

- **Russell Vought:** Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), chief architect of Project 2025, and the de-facto leader of DOGE after Musk left government. Vought is also the acting director for the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) and the US Agency for International Aid (USAID), two agencies significantly gutted by DOGE.
 - Vought is ideologically motivated to reduce the scale and impact of government and worked closely with Musk, making him a natural successor.
 - **October 2024:** Vought told a private audience he wanted “bureaucrats to be traumatically affected” by their time in government. He went on to say, “When they wake up in the morning, we want them to not want to go to work, because they are increasingly viewed as the villains. We want their funding to be shut down ... We want to put them in trauma.”
- **Steve Davis:** Musk’s long-time right-hand man, who became the day-to-day leader of DOGE. He helped construct DOGE after Trump’s 2024 election win, and was in charge of interviewing DOGE recruits. Davis is involved in several Musk-companies, helping Musk secure government contracts key to his wealth. He also managed Musk’s 2024 Super PAC, which played a key role in electing Donald Trump.
- **Brad Smith:** One of Steve Davis’ closest colleagues within DOGE, Smith operated across federal health agencies. Smith was an investor who founded and sold several healthcare companies. He also served in the first Trump administration as the director of the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation, helping manage the federal government’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Chris Young:** Director and treasurer of Musk’s pro-Trump America PAC before joining DOGE as a “senior advisor” at the CFPB, where he was given full access to sensitive records. As he worked to dismantle the CFPB, Young may have earned up to \$1 million simultaneously working as a political advisor to Musk.
- **Anthony Armstrong:** Installed as a senior advisor at OPM, Armstrong viewed OPM as a test case for DOGE’s government-wide goal of reducing “the footprint of the federal workforce.” Before joining DOGE, Armstrong was an investment banker at Morgan Stanley, where he worked on Musk’s deal to buy Twitter.
- **Tom Krause:** As Fiscal Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, Krause was appointed to what was previously the highest career staffer position at the department. Described as a Musk-ally, Krause was responsible for overseeing the federal government’s financial infrastructure and requested access to Treasury payment



systems despite lacking clearance. Krause was CEO of Cloud Software Group, a Silicon Valley tech company that was subjected to major hacks after he made deep staffing cuts to save costs.

- **Antonio Gracias:** Chief of DOGE's immigration task force who was on stage with Musk as he spread misinformation about Social Security during a town hall in Wisconsin. Gracias, who worked in DOGE while simultaneously serving as CEO of Valor Equity Partners, was a long time Musk associate and investor. Gracias left DOGE shortly after an AFL-CIO report reported on by the Revolving Door Project in the American Prospect raised due diligence questions about his management of public employees' pension funds.

Notable Staff

- **Thomas Shedd:** A former Tesla engineer who first joined DOGE as the director of the Technology Transformation Service (TTS), the branch of the GSA that oversees the government's IT infrastructure. While at the TTS, it was reported in April that Shedd still maintained employment ties to Tesla, despite stating that he left the company in January in his financial disclosure for the GSA.
- **Edward Coristine:** A former intern at Musk's Neuralink and one of DOGE's youngest staffers at 19-years old. At DOGE, Coristine was deployed to sit atop numerous federal agencies, where he was granted seemingly unfettered access to classified information and data systems. His high-level access created security concerns due to his alleged history of leaking proprietary information, his potential ties to cybercriminal communities, and his overall lack of professional experience. Coristine is infamously linked with his online username "Big Balls" in addition to his racist, misogynistic, and violent digital footprint.
- **Gavin Kliger:** A former senior software engineer at Databricks, an Andreessen Horowitz backed company; Kliger was reportedly still an employee at the company during his DOGE tenure. Described as a "top staffer," Kliger was reportedly the first DOGE member to meet with IRS officials a day before the IRS had discussed laying off 9,000 employees. Kliger also burrowed inside the CFPB, allegedly managing the April reduction in force that attempted to cut agency staff by 90%. Kliger's social media featured retweets from known white supremacists and misogynists, and he has publicly defended alleged sex criminals.
- **Luke Farritor:** Farritor is tied to both Musk and Peter Thiel; he interned for both SpaceX and Starlink, and was a Thiel fellow during his time at DOGE, receiving \$100,000 for the fellowship. With DOGE, Farritor helped to illegally gut the CFPB, helped dismantle USAID at the State Department, and was reportedly given access to the Department of Energy's IT system over the objection of the department's general counsel.



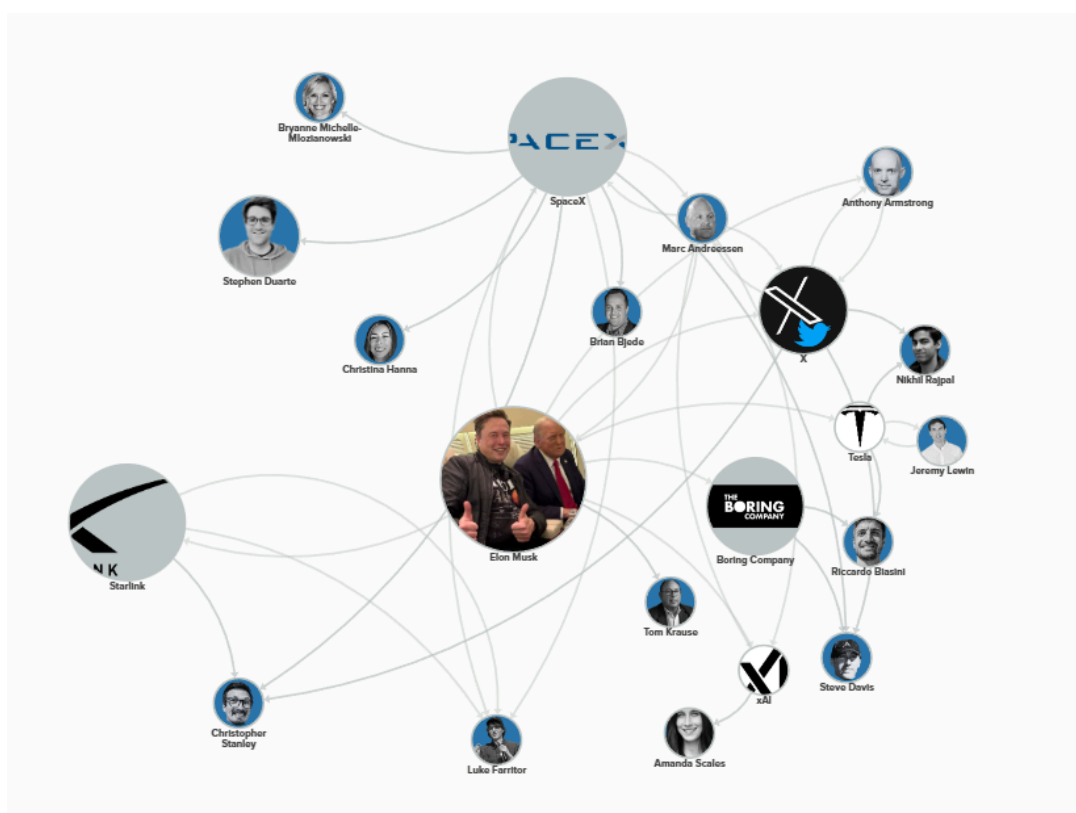
- **Amanda Scales:** A former employee at xAI, Musk's artificial intelligence company that developed the [problematic AI chatbot Grok](#). Scales joined DOGE to work as Chief of Staff at the Office of Personnel Management, where she became the [point of contact for DOGE's purge of federal employees](#). Scales became one of the few individuals at OPM with the authority to [approve exemptions](#) to the administration's mass firings and hiring freeze.
- **Brian Bjelde:** One of the first employees at SpaceX, Bjelde worked there for 21 years. Described as a "[Musk insider](#)," Bjelde was [appointed as a senior advisor at OPM](#) and credited with the directive to cut agency staff by 70%. He also attempted to [gain access to federal databases](#) holding sensitive information about federal employees, including Social Security numbers.
 - Bjelde was [named in a civil lawsuit](#) against SpaceX alleging leadership promoted a culture of sexual harassment. The employees that filed the lawsuit [were fired by SpaceX](#) and the NLRB sued on their behalf; the suit is still ongoing.
- **Marko Elez:** Former SpaceX and Starlink employee turned DOGE staffer that was temporarily granted read/write access to Treasury payment systems. Elez [resigned from DOGE](#) after the Wall Street Journal discovered social media posts espousing anti-Indian racism and eugenics. Elez was later [rehired by DOGE](#) with support from Elon Musk and Vice President Vance.
- **Akash Bobba:** Former intern at Meta and Palantir that was [deployed](#) to the Office of Personnel Management, the GSA, and the Department of Education. Bobba was [granted administrator access](#) to the Department of Education and GSA IT systems.
- **Jeremy Lewin:** Former lawyer and investment banker who was deployed to USAID. Lewin was installed as head of USAID and sent a memo informing staff and Congress that USAID would [eliminate nearly all staff](#).
- **Justin Fulcher:** Founder of telehealth startup RingMD that [went bankrupt after raising \\$10 million from investors](#). Fulcher was sued by his former business partner for \$500,000 for a cash advance, unpaid consulting fees, and interest.
- **Michael Grimes:** Former investment banker who had [advised Elon Musk on his purchase of Twitter](#) before serving as a senior official at the Department of Commerce.
- **Nikhil Rajpal:** Former Twitter employee pre-Musk who worked on a Tesla redesign. Rajpal was [granted edit access](#) to all NOAA sites.
- **Bryton Shang:** Part of an [administration publicity stunt](#) at the Bureau of Reclamation during January's wildfires in California before joining the NOAA as a senior advisor.



- **Michael Mirski:** [Granted read-only access](#) to HUD's confidential Enforcement Management System (HEMS), which contained the unredacted personal data of hundreds of thousands of housing discrimination victims.
- **Christopher Sweet:** Agent deployed to HUD [who was the primary developer](#) of SweetRex Deregulation AI Plan Builder, an artificial intelligence tool designed to identify regulations that aren't statutorily required and expedite the process of eliminating regulations.

For more on DOGE personnel and the billionaires behind it, see our profiles of [DOGE Agents](#) and [Oligarchs in Trump World](#).

We have designed an [interactive map](#) that shows the network of Musk affiliates involved in dismantling the federal government and their connection to his private companies:





Agencies Targeted By DOGE

On January 20, 2025, President Trump [issued an executive order](#) to officially rename the United States Digital Service (USDS) as the United States DOGE Service and establish the US DOGE Service Temporary Organization within the agency.

The executive order quickly led to [a host of lawsuits](#) challenging its legality under the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 and [the appointments clause](#) of the Constitution.

Despite its questionable legality, DOGE and its agents moved quickly. In the weeks following the executive order, [DOGE agents](#)—many of whom were college-aged and most of whom had no government experience—appeared at dozens of federal agencies demanding access to data systems with sensitive information and advising senior leadership on grants and programs to axe and people to fire.

It was a chaotic period. DOGE often claimed, through its government website or its account on the Musk-owned X, to be saving taxpayers billions of dollars through cancelled grants or contracts. The actual federal disbursements undergirding these purported savings—not to mention the potential illegality of the cancellations of congressional appropriations—were often not cited, contained duplicates, or were already partially or substantially disbursed. One month after Trump’s inauguration, an analysis by *CBS News* [found](#) that DOGE’s “wall of receipts” drastically overestimated savings.

The federal workforce was equally thrown into chaos. Within the first few weeks of DOGE’s creation, hundreds of thousands of federal employees [received](#) a “Fork in the Road” email from the Office of Personnel Management urging them to accept a deferred resignation. The [offer](#) would allow federal employees to resign from their jobs but continue receiving pay and benefits through September. Some employees did not know if it was legitimate. Others, [including air traffic controllers at the FAA](#), received the email—and in some instances indicated they wished to accept—only to later be told they did not qualify for the offer.

Each federal agency that DOGE visited experienced a version of these attacks; tens of thousands of employees were either forced into resignation or fired, while billions of government awards and contracts were unilaterally cancelled.

This section will break down DOGE’s activity at individual agencies in narrative order with timelines of the incursions, DOGE’s impact on workforce capacity, and the materials harms DOGE’s cuts generated.

This should not be considered a comprehensive accounting of every DOGE action, but it serves as a summary of DOGE’s activities across a swath of agencies and the negative consequences that have flowed from these haphazard, far-reaching cuts.



Office of Personnel Management (OPM)

Timeline of Attacks

- **January 20, 2025:** Amanda Scales, a former employee of Musk's xAI, was appointed as Chief of Staff at OPM.
- **January 21, 2025:** OPM issued a memo to the heads of executive branch departments and agencies directing them to close all offices dedicated to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and place all such employees on administrative leave.
- **January 22, 2025:** DOGE Agent Greg Hogan was installed as Chief Information Officer of OPM. Hogan previously worked at a semi-autonomous driving technology startup backed by Andreessen Horowitz.
- **January 28, 2025:** OPM sent out a government-wide "Fork in the Road" email offering deferred resignations. The government-wide email system was managed by DOGE Agent Riccardo Biasini, a former employee of several Musk-owned companies.
- **February 6, 2025:** DOGE agents gained access to OPM's vast records of personally identifiable information of millions of federal employees.
- **February 13, 2025:** As agencies across the government began mass termination efforts against probationary employees, OPM reportedly suggested to the Energy Department that they cite "performance reasons" as the reason for termination, even when employees had demonstrably strong records during the probationary period. OPM also terminated its own probationary employees.
- **February 18, 2025:** CNN reported that OPM terminated members of its communications staff, privacy team, and employees processing Freedom of Information Act requests.
- **February 22, 2025:** OPM sent a government-wide email demanding employees respond with 5 bullet points detailing what they accomplished in the past week. Musk said that failure to respond would be considered a resignation. The email sparked confusion across the government since it was sent over the weekend and some departments told their staff not to respond.
- **February 24, 2025:** OPM clarified that responding to the email was not mandatory, but Musk contradicted the agency, saying that failure to respond would result in termination.
- **February 26, 2025:** In a joint memo with the Office of Management and Budget, OPM directed executive branch agencies to submit reduction in force plans (RIF) by March 13, 2025.
 - Reduction in force actions are the process through which agencies layoff, demote, or furlough federal employees.
- **February 28, 2025:** OPM sent a second "What did you do last week?" email to federal employees.



- **November 21, 2025:** *Government Executive* [reported](#) on a draft OPM rule that would remove protections for federal employees during reduction in force processes.
- **November 23, 2025:** OPM Director Scott Kuper [said](#) the “principles of DOGE remain alive and well” and will be institutionalized by OPM.

Impacts on Capacity

DOGE gutted key OPM offices that served to protect the privacy of the personal information of federal employees. DOGE also [fired](#) people within OPM’s FOIA office, further slowing an already sclerotic system for the public to gain insight to the inner workings of the administration.

Material Harms

While the biggest direct harm was to the safety and privacy of federal employees, the material harms emanating from DOGE cuts at any agency can be traced back to the Office of Personnel Management. OPM served as a central hub for DOGE efforts to degrade the quality of life for federal employees, [issuing emails and memos](#) that created confusion throughout the federal workforce and subjected them to excessive scrutiny over their work. OPM’s deferred resignation program alone led to the loss of hundreds of thousands of federal employees, causing the public sector to lose an untold amount of institutional knowledge and capacity to deliver services to the American people.

The stress and confusion DOGE imposed on federal workers could not have been beneficial to their performance professionally, even as it is to the credit of the federal workforce that there are not widespread stories of failure amidst the intentional affliction of (in Russell Vought’s words) “trauma” upon them.

Notable Names

Ousted Leadership

- **Erica Roach:** Former Chief Financial Officer at OPM who [resigned](#) after being told to develop plans to cut 70% of her staff.
- **Melvin Brown:** Former Deputy Chief Information Officer at OPM who briefly [served](#) as CIO before being replaced by DOGE Agent Greg Hogan. Brown then served as a Deputy Executive Director before leaving the agency in March.

DOGE Agents

- **Greg Hogan**
- **Amanda Scales**
- **Riccardo Biasini**
- **Noah Peters**



- Anthony Armstrong
- Stephen Duarte
- Christina Hanna
- Bryanne-Michelle Mlodzianowski
- Mike Gonzalez
- Yat Choi
- Andrew Vilcsak
- Jamie Sullivan



United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

Timeline of Attacks

- **January 27, 2025:** Following Trump's executive order freezing all foreign aid, over 50 USAID staff members, including senior officials, **were placed** on administrative leave. The administration claimed the staffers were trying to circumvent the freeze.
- **January 30, 2025:** Nicholas Gottlieb, a top USAID official, **was placed** on administrative leave after attempting to reverse the firings of senior staff.
- **January 31, 2025:** Acting administrator of USAID Jason Gray **ordered** staff to give DOGE agents Luke Farritor and Gavin Kliger access to the agency's IT systems.
- **February 1, 2025:** USAID's website **was** shut down.
- **February 2, 2025:** CNN **reported** that DOGE agents had gained access to USAID security systems and personnel files. John Voorhees and Brian McGill, USAID's Director and Deputy Director of Security respectively, were **placed** on administrative leave after attempting to prevent DOGE agents from accessing classified material. DOGE also **accessed** USAID's financial management system and shut it down.
- **February 3, 2025:** USAID staff were **told** via email that the agency headquarters would be closed and staff should work remotely.
- **February 4, 2025:** USAID employees **received** an email notifying them that "direct hire personnel" would be placed on administrative leave, with the exception of "mission-critical" staff.
- **February 6, 2025:** *Wired* **reported** that DOGE was cutting USAID staff from over 10,000 people to under 300.
- **February 6, 2025:** The *Associated Press* **reported** that DOGE's incursion at the Treasury Department was carried out in order to access the payment system and stop disbursements to USAID.
- **February 27, 2025:** Over 4,000 USAID workers were **placed** on administrative leave while another 1,600 were terminated. Staff at USAID headquarters were given 15 minute windows to come in and clear their desks.
- **March 10, 2025:** Secretary of State Marco Rubio **announced** that USAID had eliminated 83% of its programs and thanked DOGE for its help. The remaining programs were to be administered by the State Department.
- **March 12, 2025:** Leadership at USAID **ordered** employees to shred and burn the agency's classified and personnel records.
- **March 19, 2025:** Pete Marocco, the acting deputy administrator of USAID, **informed** employees that he was leaving the agency and handing over authority to DOGE Agent Jeremy Lewin.



- **March 28, 2025:** Lewin [sent](#) a memo titled “USAID’s Final Mission,” informing employees and Congress that USAID would eliminate all positions not required by law, with employees being terminated on July 1 or September 2, 2025. Only [around](#) 15 positions remained.

Impacts on Capacity

DOGE’s attack on USAID effectively dismantled the agency, abruptly [ending](#) funding for thousands of humanitarian efforts, which forced staff across the globe to abandon their posts and return to the United States. The vast majority of US foreign aid programs were eliminated and nearly all staff were terminated, with the small percentage of remaining contracts [transferred](#) to the State Department.

Material Harms

For more information on USAID’s impact and the humanitarian cost of DOGE’s cuts, see this study published in [The Lancet](#) and the documentary [Rovina’s Choice](#).

DOGE’s dismantling of USAID will likely have the most devastating and far-reaching harms of any of the DOGE attacks. The gutting of foreign aid has destabilized humanitarian efforts in every region of the globe, which will lead to increased death rates as funding dries up for nutrition and food aid, and prevention of diseases like HIV and malaria, among other programs. A [model](#) from Dr. Brooke Nichols of Boston University’s School of Public Health estimated that USAID cuts caused over 700,000 excess deaths and rising as of January 2026.

Examples of the impacts of eliminating USAID’s lifesaving programs include:

- DOGE [cut](#) \$1.3 billion for emergency food assistance and nutrition programs for children administered by the World Food Programme in Middle East and African countries. *ProPublica* [reported](#) that US embassy officials noted increases in “criminality, sexual violence, and instances of human trafficking” in Malawi refugee camps and violent protests at food distribution centers in Kenya. The *New York Times* [reported](#) on the severe malnutrition and starvation of children in war-torn areas of Sudan as 300 soup kitchens were forced to close.
- Four contracts to contain an Ebola outbreak in Uganda were discontinued, [leaving](#) just six USAID contractors to manage the crisis. In late February, after the cuts, a 4- year-old boy died from the disease.
- *Reuters* [reported](#) on 60,000 metric tonnes of food rations, which could feed 3.5 million people for a month, that were at risk of becoming unusable due to DOGE cuts to distribution programs and contracts with warehouses that store the food.
- DOGE [cut off](#) USAID funding for World Relief, an organization that helped treat a cholera outbreak in South Sudan that had infected 36,000 and killed 600 in the



first three months of 2025. World Relief clinics in the country had saved 500 lives.

Notable Names

Ousted Leadership

- **Matt Hopson:** USAID chief of staff that was **appointed** by President Trump resigned after security staff tried to block DOGE agents from accessing classified USAID material.

DOGE Agents

- **Jeremy Lewin**
- **Luke Farritor**
- **Edward Coristine**
- **Gavin Kliger**



General Services Administration (GSA)

Timeline of Attacks

- **January 28, 2025:** GSA employees received the deferred resignation offers from the Office of Personnel Management.
- **January 29, 2025:** GSA leadership sent an email to regional managers telling them to begin the termination of 7,500 federal leases. The effort was reportedly led by Nicole Hollander, a former Twitter/X employee.
- **January 31, 2025:** DOGE agents took over GSA headquarters, accessing GSA IT infrastructure and monitoring software to surveil GSA employees.
- **February 6, 2025:** DOGE was in the process of developing a chatbot named GSAi to analyze the agency's contract and procurement data.
- **February 8, 2025:** *Washington Post* reported that the cancellations of leases was "intended to depress workforce morale and increase attrition" according to people with knowledge of internal conversations at GSA.
- **February 12, 2025:** DOGE terminated dozens of workers at the GSA's Technology Transformation Services office. 50-70 members of the US Digital Corps, a two year fellowship program, were also terminated.
- **February 12, 2025:** According to *NPR*, GSA staffers were told to expect the agency to cut its budget and staff in half and closely surveil the employees that remained at the agency.
- **February 20, 2025:** DOGE put a spending limit of \$1 on all credit cards for GSA employees and contractors.
- **March 2, 2025:** DOGE dismantled the GSA's 18F office, which was responsible for building and updating government websites, including the IRS' Direct File service. In all, around 200 employees resigned or were fired from the US Digital Service.
- **March 5, 2025:** The GSA published a list of 320 federal properties to be sold, claiming they were "not core to government operations." The agency initially published a list of over 440 buildings, including the headquarters of the FBI, Department of Labor, and Department of Housing and Urban Development.
- **March 7, 2025:** DOGE launched its GSAi chatbot. The rollout memo warned employees not to type "federal nonpublic information" or personally identifiable information into the bot.
- **September 24, 2025:** GSA was compelled by reality to issue reinstatement offers to hundreds of GSA employees who had lost their jobs due to DOGE. According to the *Associated Press*, "the administration [had] slashed GSA's headquarters staff by 79%, its portfolio managers by 65% and facilities managers by 35%."
- **November 25, 2025:** A DOGE spokesperson said it is working with the GSA to implement "responsible AI governmentwide."



Impacts on Capacity

Internal communications show that DOGE's lease cancellations were intended to make the lives of federal employees more difficult, and therefore increase the number of voluntary resignations. Due to office closures, staff [could](#) be reassigned to posts in different states, but would not be informed of the change until after the deadline for acceptance of deferred resignation offers. Furthermore, DOGE's use of artificial intelligence in government offices was intended to replace the jobs of federal employees.

The widespread firings and resignations were seemingly deemed excessive by the administration, as they moved to rehire hundreds of employees in September. A former official talking to the *Associated Press* [described](#) the agency as a "broken and understaffed" husk, which could not "carry out basic functions" after DOGE's rampage.

Material Harms

DOGE's efforts at GSA to terminate vast amounts of federal leases seemingly [contradicted](#) the administration's other stated goal of forcing federal employees to end work from home arrangements. In practice, the combination of these policies meant that employees across the government still needed to show up to work in person, but now had longer commutes to lower quality offices.

The campaign at GSA was part of a larger agenda to replace large swaths of the federal workforce with artificial intelligence. Furthermore, the use of surveillance technology, including a "keylogger" software that [monitors](#) everything an employee types, created immense security risks for GSA staffers working on sensitive projects.

Far from increasing efficiency, DOGE's actions at GSA dismantled successful offices and may have led to unnecessary expenses. The limitation of credit card spending, for example, meant that federal employees could not avoid paying [state sales tax](#) on hotels and car rentals, which government credit cards are exempted from. The dismantling of 18F meant the government lost its ability to use in-house experts to develop and roll out technology like Direct File, which was [enormously popular](#) and would have saved taxpayers millions of dollars each year.

Notable Names

Ousted Leadership

- **Steven Reilly:** Former engineering lead for notify.gov, part of the Technology Transformation Services, [resigned](#) after DOGE Agent Thomas Shedd requested access to notify.gov's systems, which included the phone numbers and other



personally identifiable data of the public. Reilly said granting access would allow DOGE to “download and store...without anybody else receiving a notification.”

DOGE Agents

- Jeremy Lewin
- Akash Bobba
- Ashley Boizelle
- Emily Bryant
- Brian Michael Burroughs
- Nate Cavanaugh
- Allison Childs
- Edward Coristine
- Steve Davis
- Stephen Ehikian
- Bee Elvy
- Justin Fox
- Nicholas Gallagher
- Derek Geissler
- Nicole Hollander
- Rajasekar Jegannathan
- Gautier Killian
- Boris E. Kizenko
- David Malcher
- Allan Mangaser
- Jonathan Mendelson
- Donald Park
- Matthew Parkhurst-Session
- Kyle Schutt
- Riley Sennott
- Ryan Shea
- Thomas Shedd
- Ethan Shaotran
- Alexander Simonpour
- Jack Stein
- Christopher Sweet
- Alexander Tullman
- Marshall Wood



Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB)

Timeline of Attacks

- **February 1-3, 2025:** Trump [fired](#) then-CFPB Director Rohit Chopra, replacing him with Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent.
- **February 8, 2025:** Russell Vought [was](#) made acting CFPB Director.
- **February 9, 2025:** Vought formally notified the Federal Reserve that the Bureau would [decline](#) its legally mandated quarterly funding transfer.
- **February 10, 2025:** Vought [directed](#) CFPB employees to “not come into the office” or “perform any work tasks” and paused all investigations.
- **February 12, 2024:** Around 73 probationary CFPB staffers [were](#) terminated.
- **February 13, 2025:** Approximately 100 career staff [were](#) laid off.
- **February 14, 2025:** A federal judge temporarily [blocked](#) Vought from terminating more employees following a lawsuit by the National Treasury Employees Union.
- **March 15, 2025:** At the CFPB's own request, a federal court [vacated](#) the rule capping credit card late fees at \$8. Major issuers announced plans to revert to fees of \$30-\$41. Consumer advocates estimated the move would extract an additional \$10 billion annually from consumers.
- **April 17, 2025:** The CFPB issued layoff notices to around 1,400 employees after a federal appeals court [allowed](#) the reduction in force efforts to move forward. Simultaneously, the administration locked a majority of the CFPB's workforce out of their offices and revoked their IT credentials.
- **April 18, 2025:** A federal judge again ordered the CFPB to [halt](#) terminations, stating the agency was “thumbing their nose” at her court.
- **August 15, 2025:** The DC Circuit Court of Appeals [allowed](#) the mass layoffs to move forward, though a NTEU [request](#) for an en banc hearing has held up implementation.
- **December 30, 2025:** A federal judge rejected CFPB's attempt, under Vought's leadership, to [declare](#) the Bureau's funding mechanism illegal.
- **January 9, 2026:** Vought complied with the ruling and [requested](#) \$145 million from the Federal Reserve to fund the CFPB.

Impacts on Capacity

The biggest cuts to CFPB personnel occurred within its enforcement and supervision divisions. For a more detailed accounting of DOGE's actions across financial agencies, [see Revolving Door Project's Cuts to Corporate Enforcement Capacity tracker](#).

DOGE [employed](#) personnel with direct conflicts of interest with the CFPB's regulatory authority. Gavin Kliger, a 25-year-old DOGE software engineer, was given a key role in managing CFPB system access despite owning over \$365,000 in stock of companies



like Apple and Tesla—firms with significant interests in the digital payment systems the CFPB was slated to regulate.

The targeted reductions in force (RIFs) caused a catastrophic brain drain, with the [most significant losses](#) among senior examiners and attorneys specializing in complex financial instruments and fair lending analytics. The RIFs also reduced the digital services team, the Office of Fair Lending and Equal Opportunity, and the Office of Civil Rights to one employee each, effectively dismantling them. With the vast majority of its staff subjected to layoffs, the CFPB will be unable to perform any of its key oversight functions.

Material Harms

As a result of DOGE's raid on the CFPB and the subsequent dismantling of key market oversight functions, consumers now face direct financial harm and openly predatory behavior from corporations.

The most immediate impact was the explicit blocking of financial restitution for consumers victimized by corporate malfeasance. The [revocation](#) of the credit card late fee rule alone represented a transfer of approximately \$10 billion annually from American households to major financial institutions. Furthermore, the CFPB under Vought [dismissed](#) a \$60 million order against Toyota Motor Credit, waiving roughly \$48 million in consumer redress. Former CFPB Director Eric Halperin [said](#) the CFPB now "wants to actively reward lawbreakers."

The paralysis of the CFPB [degraded](#) the fundamental integrity of the consumer financial marketplace. The CFPB's consumer complaint database became a black hole, as around 70,000 complaints went unaddressed in the week after Vought's stop-work order. This, in turn, created an immense backlog of complaints that required a manual review, including around 75 complaints regarding imminent foreclosures. This void not only harmed the people in need of rapid assistance, but signaled to bad actors that predatory practices were less likely to be detected or punished.

Since Vought took over, the Bureau has only filed *one* enforcement action. At the same time, Vought unilaterally ended or voided [scores](#) of enforcement cases and actions. One beneficiary of such canceled actions was [Navy Federal Credit Union](#), who had been on the hook for \$80 million in refunds after illegally charging overdraft fees.

Given the absence of police on the banking beat, it seems inevitable that many people will be taken advantage of by amoral financial services companies.



Notable Names

Ousted Leadership

- **Rohit Chopra:** Senate-confirmed CFPB Director who was systematically sidelined before being terminated in February. Operational control of the Bureau was transferred to Russell Vought as Acting Director, who immediately began implementing the DOGE-aligned plan to dismantle the agency's core functions.
- **Lorelei Salas:** Supervision director of the CFPB who resigned citing Vought's stop-work directive, saying, "I do not believe it is appropriate, nor lawful, to stop all supervisory activities and examinations."
- **Eric Halperin:** CFPB enforcement director who resigned after Vought's directives made it so he could not "effectively serve" in his role to protect consumers.
- **Gabriel O'Malley:** CFPB Deputy enforcement director for policy and strategy who resigned after enforcement staff were placed on administrative leave, saying the Bureau's work was "marked by silence and uncertainty."
- **Mark McArdle:** CFPB assistant director for mortgage markets who resigned shortly after Vought's takeover.
- **Michael Salemi:** Principal deputy enforcement director of CFPB who resigned in December 2025. Salemi told CFPB staff he saw "no path to an effective future enforcement program at the Bureau."

DOGE Agents

- **Russell Vought**
- **Gavin Kliger**



Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

Timeline of Attacks

- **February 5, 2025:** DOGE agents gained access to the payment and contracting systems of HHS' Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).
- **February 14, 2025:** DOGE agent Rachel Riley met with the heads of CMS.
- **February 14, 2025:** DOGE Agent and former Palantir employee Clark Minor was installed as chief information officer at HHS.
- **February 15, 2025:** 3,600 probationary employees were terminated at HHS. Most of the firings were at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), which lost around 1,300 employees, and the National Institutes of Health (NIH), which lost between 1,000 and 1,200 employees.
- **February 21, 2025:** The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, a subagency of HHS, lost 10% of its staff to DOGE cuts. Some of the terminated staff were working on a mental health crisis hotline.
- **March 10, 2025:** Nearly all HHS employees received deferred resignation offers with a \$25,000 incentive.
- **March 26, 2025:** HHS announced it was cutting \$11.4 billion of funding for state and local health departments.
- **March 27, 2025:** HHS announced it was aiming to reduce its workforce by 20,000 employees and had achieved half of that goal through deferred resignations and early retirements.
- **April 1, 2025:** HHS announced that it would be laying off 10,000 employees in accordance with DOGE efforts. The cuts included 2,400 positions at the CDC, 3,500 positions at the Food and Drug Administration, and 1,200 at the National Institutes of Health.
- **April 2, 2025:** DOGE ordered HHS to reduce contract spending by 35%.
- **April 3, 2025:** Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. said that 20% of DOGE cuts at HHS are going to be "mistakes" and employees will need to be reinstated.
- **April 17, 2025:** DOGE rolled out a "Defend the Spend" program at HHS that put a hold on funding in some subagencies, requiring grant awardees to justify each disbursement and receive approval from political appointees.
- **April 22, 2025:** *Wired* reported that DOGE had gained access to a total of 19 sensitive systems at HHS, including those that handle Medicaid payments to states.
- **May 2, 2025:** The FDA rehired FOIA workers that had been terminated during April's DOGE cuts.
- **May 2, 2025:** The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health moved to terminate over 900 employees, including those working on mine safety and workplace respiratory hazards. Around 328 of these firings were reversed a few weeks later after pressure from unions and representatives.



- **June 16, 2025:** HHS [reinstated](#) approximately 800 CDC employees who had been terminated in April.
- **June 24, 2025:** Secretary Kennedy [told](#) Congress that HHS has rehired a total 1,250 employees who had been terminated in DOGE layoffs.
- **July 16, 2025:** A DOGE review of CDC grants [delayed](#) \$140 million of funding for fentanyl overdose response efforts.

Impacts on Capacity

Under the dual threats of DOGE and Health Secretary RFK Jr.'s "Make America Healthy Again" agenda, HHS [lost](#) roughly 25% of its workforce due to terminations and deferred resignations. The cuts affected a host of critical programs which the department manages in service of its expansive mission and authority.

HHS let go of the [team](#) that administers the National Survey on Drug Use and Health, which has collected data on drug use and mental health since 1971, serving as a critical resource for research and policy. The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program was virtually eliminated, with all full time staff terminated.

In April, cuts at the CDC initially [included](#) over 200 workers at the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) in Morgantown, West Virginia. As a result of firings, the union said hundreds of lab animals would be euthanized. In May, around 900 employees at NIOSH were [slated](#) to be terminated, including those working on tracking cancer in firefighters and combating black lung in coal miners. After pushback, 328 employees were [rehired](#).

At CMS, the agency [lost](#) employees who worked on initiatives to improve care for beneficiaries, staffers who oversaw the Affordable Care Act, and staffers working on insurance fraud, among others.

At the FDA, DOGE cut staff [responsible](#) for overseeing the regulation of prescription drugs and medical devices, as well as [support staff](#) at offices that conducted inspections of food processing and drug manufacturing plants. This included 20 people at the office of neurological and physical medicine devices, which was [responsible](#) for oversight of Elon Musk's brain chip company Neuralink. 140 members of the agency's Center for Veterinary Medicine [were](#) also fired.

In all, the consolidation or elimination of HHS divisions [reduced](#) the number of subagencies in the department from 28 to 15 and resulted in the loss of a quarter of its staff.



Material Harms

In addition to the massive layoffs and resignations at HHS, the dramatic reduction of grants will negatively impact health efforts across the country.

Some major DOGE cuts included:

- \$226 million [for](#) the Minnesota Department of Health, a quarter of its budget. The funds were used in vaccination clinics and health programs, among other initiatives.
- Funds for “immunizations, health disparities, community health workers, and epidemiology programs” [administered](#) by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, said by DOGE to total \$49 million.
- Approximately \$10 million for the Louisiana Department of Health for mental health, substance abuse, and crisis services. While DOGE’s website [claimed](#) to have saved \$55 million by cutting grants to the Louisiana Health Department, the department’s Deputy Secretary said cuts were closer to \$10 million.
- A \$4 million CDC grant [for](#) HIV prevention in Tennessee.

The cancelled grants had immediate impacts—some vaccination clinics were forced to close right away—but the decimation of funding will also inevitably lead to lower vaccination rates for various diseases, and, in turn, lead to more preventable disease and death.

The safety of our food and drug systems has also been put at risk. Even prior to losing over 3,000 employees, the FDA inspection regime was woefully inadequate: in 2024, the Government Accountability Office [found](#) a 16% vacancy rate for FDA investigators, leading to fewer inspections than in 2019. While investigators themselves were [exempted](#) from cuts, terminating the support staff that handle travel and logistics for investigators will only slow the pace of inspections and investigations, diminishing the government’s ability to guarantee sanitary food processing and safe medical devices. Current FDA investigators speaking with *NPR* [detailed](#) how travel reimbursements were slowed and booking travel arrangements made more difficult due to the loss of staff. Speaking about the firings at the FDA, the president of the American Veterinary Medical Association [warned](#) that oversight of food safety and animal-borne diseases would become limited by personnel cuts.

At the CDC, experts warned that cuts at the agency will harm disease research, prevention, and communication. The cuts were [far ranging](#) across the agency, hitting research into hepatitis, sexually transmitted diseases, tuberculosis, gun violence, and domestic violence. It will be hard to directly trace the relationship between these cuts and any spikes in these issues, but one thing is clear: the government’s ability to understand and combat these problems has been decimated by DOGE.



Notable Names

Resignations

- **Susan Monarez:** Director of the CDC who was ousted in August 2025 after less than one month on the job after refusing to sign on to “unscientific, reckless directives,” according to her attorneys.
- **Dr. Debra Houry:** Deputy director of the CDC who resigned in response to the termination of Director Monarez.
- **Dr. Daniel Jernigan:** Head of the CDC’s National Center for Emerging Zoonotic Infectious Diseases who resigned in response to the termination of Director Monarez, saying it was clear that the administration was not interested in an “evidence-based approach.”
- **Dr. Demetre Daskalakis:** Head of the CDC’s National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases who resigned in response to Monarez’s termination, citing Secretary Kennedy’s anti-vaccine rhetoric and the administration’s “efforts to erase transgender populations” in his resignation letter.
- **Jen Layden:** Director of the Office of Public Health Data at the CDC who resigned after budget cuts made it “challenging” for her office to do its job.
- **Peter Marks:** Top vaccine official at the FDA who resigned in protest of Secretary Kennedy’s anti-vaccine views and misinformation.
- **Michael Rogers:** FDA’s associate commissioner for inspections and investigations who resigned in May 2025 after 34 years with the agency.

DOGE Agents

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| • Luke Farritor | • Aram Moghaddassi |
| • Marko Elez | • Zachary Terrell |
| • Edward Coristine | • Kyle Schutt |
| • Rachel Riley | • Clark Minor |



Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)

Timeline of Attacks

- **February 5, 2025:** The VA's press secretary [confirmed](#) to Military.com that a DOGE agent was present at the department, claiming that the employee would improve efficiency, but "not have access to veterans' or VA beneficiaries data." The employee was later [confirmed](#) by Bloomberg to be Justin Fulcher.
- **February 13, 2025:** The VA [announced](#) it was terminating over 1,000 employees.
- **February 25, 2025:** DOGE [announced](#) the cancellation of 875 VA contracts amounting to nearly \$2 billion. The contracts funded medical services, cancer programs, recruited doctors, and provided burial services according to a Washington Post analysis of VA documents. VA Secretary Douglas Collins celebrated the cuts, [tweeting](#) "No more paying consultants to do things like make Power Point slides and write meeting minutes!"
- **February 25, 2025:** The VA [announced](#) that another 1,400 probationary employees had been terminated.
- **March 4, 2025:** A leaked memo obtained by *Government Executive* [revealed](#) that the administration planned to cut VA staff by 83,000 employees by the end of the year. Secretary Collins later [confirmed](#) that he intended to cut the workforce by 72,000 employees.
- **April 4, 2025:** *Wired* [reported](#) that, in late March, DOGE Agent Sahil Lavingia was attempting to insert coding changes into the VA's government website. Lavingia was reportedly using AI to write code for the department's systems.
- **May 20, 2025:** 14,000 VA employees [applied](#) to accept DOGE's deferred resignation program. The agency [initially approved](#) resignations of crisis hotline staff before later walking back that decision.
- **June 6, 2025:** DOGE agents built an artificial intelligence tool to identify VA contracts that it considered non-essential and labeled them "Munchable." *ProPublica* [found](#) that the tool used the label on 2,000 contracts and regularly produced false information about the size of the contracts. VA employees attempting to retain a given contract had to justify doing so in 255 characters or fewer and often only had a few hours to do so.

Impacts on Capacity

The massive DOGE cuts at the VA were intended to bring the department back to 2019 levels, [reversing](#) a massive hiring surge undertaken by the Biden Administration to prepare for expanded veteran health care coverage under the 2022 PACT Act.

Personnel responsible for mental health support for veterans were [included](#) in the first two rounds of cuts. According to *Rolling Stone*, the VA [lost](#) PTSD specialists, crisis hot line staffers, and a suicide prevention counselor. DOGE also ended support



contracts for the National Center for PTSD. Not only were these services for veterans eliminated, but a [large majority](#) of the canceled contracts supported veteran-owned businesses.

Material Harms

The extensive DOGE cuts to VA staffing and contracts reverberated in communities throughout the country as VA operated clinics were gutted. For example, 14 employees [were fired](#) at the Boise VA Medical Center in Idaho in February 2025, with potentially 300 more terminations coming through Secretary Collins' reduction in force plan. Local workers and representatives said the cuts [would](#) "devastate" the ability to provide adequate care.

The administration claimed patient care would not be affected by cuts, but VA employees told a different story. Speaking anonymously with NBC News, VA employees [expressed concern](#) that the cancelled contracts will impact patient safety, as the cuts included contracts for sterilization of hospitals and equipment and maintaining safe air quality in VA facilities.

Mental health care was also on the chopping block. DOGE cuts [initially included](#) probationary employees at the VA's crisis hotline before public outrage forced a reversal. This chaos, in conjunction with the increased stress among veterans caused by DOGE, overwhelmed remaining staff, as call volume [increased](#) to 80,000 calls per month in the first three months of 2025. Furthermore, the cuts targeted other call centers that help veterans access care. The National Call Center for Homeless Veterans, for example, [lost](#) 30% of its staff.

To make matters worse, the return-to-office mandates risked the confidentiality of patients speaking to VA therapists, as telehealth meetings could be overheard by other staff. The American Psychological Association [criticized](#) the mandate, stating it "could compromise access to care and confidentiality standards."

By June of 2025, DOGE had cancelled about 600 VA contracts. While it's unclear how many of these were part of the 2,000 contracts flagged by the AI tool Munchable, *ProPublica* identified two dozen contracts from the DOGE list that had been cancelled. Per *ProPublica* [reporting](#), among the contracts were "a gene sequencing device used to develop better cancer treatments" and a "blood sample analysis in support of a VA research project."

Notable Names

DOGE Agents

- Justin Fulcher
- Cary Volpert



- Christopher Roussos
- David Malchers
- Sahil Lavingia



Department of Education

Timeline of Attacks

- **February 3, 2025:** At least 55 employees at the Education Department were placed on administrative leave, in alignment with the administration's directive to eliminate DEI offices across the government. According to the American Federation of Government Employees, the action included civil rights attorneys focused on discrimination and antisemitism.
- **February 3, 2025:** The *Washington Post* reported that approximately 20 DOGE agents were present at the Department of Education. The agents had gained access to sensitive data systems which contained personal and financial information about students in the federal student aid program.
- **February 5, 2025:** Top officials at the Education Department told employees that DOGE's deferred resignation offer could later be unilaterally cancelled by the Education Secretary, leaving employees who accepted the offer with no legal recourse.
- **February 6, 2025:** DOGE reportedly began feeding sensitive information, including personally identifiable information about grantees, from the Education Department into a Microsoft AI software program. DOGE intended to use AI to determine where to cut funding and staff from the department.
- **February 7, 2025:** Congressional Democrats were denied access to the Education Department during their attempt to meet with Acting Secretary Denise Carter.
- **February 8, 2025:** DOGE agents, including Akash Bobba and Ethan Shaoiran, were given administrator email accounts for the Education Department.
- **February 10, 2025:** DOGE initiated \$881 million in cuts to Education Department grants and contracts. The cuts included 170 contracts from the Institute of Education Sciences and grants for diversity, equity and inclusion efforts.
- **February 17, 2025:** DOGE canceled another \$369 million in contracts and grants after prompting from far right activist Christopher Rufo. These cuts included grants for Equity Assistance Centers and contracts with Regional Educational Laboratories.
- **March 11, 2025:** The Education Department planned to terminate roughly half of its workforce as part of DOGE's cuts, totaling over 1,300 workers. The cuts were in addition to 600 accepted deferred resignation offers.
- **March 20, 2025:** President Trump signed an executive order directing the dismantling of the Education Department.

Impacts on Capacity

By cutting contracts from the Institute of Education Sciences, including to Regional Educational Laboratories, the Department of Education lost hundreds of millions of



dollars worth of research capabilities to study ways to improve the education system. Furthermore, [Equity Assistance Centers](#) are instrumental to addressing long standing educational inequalities and implementing desegregation, “ensuring that all students have equitable access to learning opportunities, regardless of their child's race, sex, national origin, or religion.”

The administration took particular aim at the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) where 240 employees were [terminated](#) in March. Operating as a watchdog, OCR is responsible for ensuring schools that receive federal funding uphold antidiscrimination laws. In fact, one of their many responsibilities is to ensure schools are not segregated.

Staffing at the Office of Federal Student Aid was also drastically reduced, with the FSA [losing over](#) 725 employees to resignations and terminations. These employees were responsible for oversight of student loan companies, as well as IT specialists that managed the FSA program.

Material Harms

DOGE's incursion at the Education Department risked the security of sensitive data of millions of students in the federal student loan program. Not only did DOGE agents themselves [gain access](#) to this information, they fed sensitive data into an artificial intelligence program, leaving it vulnerable to cyberattacks.

The DOGE [cuts](#) to grants and research contracts undermined efforts to improve education across the country, as the Institute of Education Sciences [funded research](#) on student performance, analysis of educational improvement programs, and best training practices, among other efforts. While Trump and DOGE claimed the Education Department must be dismantled due to alleged poor performance, they targeted the very offices whose sole purpose was to determine how to improve education programs and practices.

Amid the administration's efforts to purge any and all DEI programs, research and programs helping children with disabilities were also eliminated. DOGE [cancelled](#) a contract with the American Institutes for Research (AIR) that studied the “effectiveness of transition supports for youth with disabilities served under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.”

DOGE hits to the Office of Civil Rights will negatively impact women, students of color, and LGBTQIA+ students. As the single governing body that [administers](#) protections for students of protected classes under Title IX, DOGE cuts severely crippled the guardrails that ensured nondiscrimination.

Cuts to Federal Student Aid [hamstringing](#) the office's ability to competently oversee student loan disbursements, threatening Americans' access to higher education while also leaving students more vulnerable to scams. One of the largest cuts to the pivotal



office targeted staff who ensure that for-profit colleges and universities are kept in check.

For more information on the harmful effects of dismantling the Education Department, [see here](#).

Notable Names

DOGE Agents

- Akash Bobba
- Ethan Shaotran
- Brooks Morgan
- Alexandra Beynon
- Adam Ramada
- Jehn Balajadia



Treasury Department

Timeline of Attacks

For a more detailed timeline of attacks on Treasury payment systems and suspended federal spending, [see here](#).

- **January 20, 2025:** President Trump [issued](#) an executive order halting disbursement of foreign aid.
- **January 24, 2025:** Treasury Chief of Staff Dan Katz emailed senior officials [directing them](#) to grant DOGE access to payment systems in order to freeze US Agency for International Development (USAID) payments. Acting Treasury Secretary David Lebryk declined, stating “I don’t believe we have the legal authority to stop an authorized payment certified by an agency.”
- **January 25, 2025:** DOGE Agent Tom Krause [responded](#) to Lebryk insisting that DOGE be granted access, stating “I think this deserves serious consideration as well. I believe we can all feel more comfortable that we hold payment at least to review the underlying payment requests from U.S.A.I.D. now so that we can be given time to consult State.”
- **January 31, 2025:** Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent [authorized](#) Krause and his team to access the payment systems.
- **February 4, 2025:** The Treasury [wrote a letter](#) to Congress claiming that Krause and his team would have “read-only access,” and the review was not “resulting in the suspension or rejection of any payment instructions submitted to Treasury by other federal agencies across the government.”
- **February 4, 2025:** DOGE agent Marco Elez had administrator-level privileges at Treasury, which [include](#) “the ability not just to read but to write code on two of the most sensitive systems in the U.S. government: the Payment Automation Manager and Secure Payment System at the Bureau of the Fiscal Service (BFS).”
- **February 11, 2025:** In an [affidavit](#), Krause said that he is “responsible, among other duties, for reducing and eliminating improper and fraudulent payments; waste, fraud, and abuse; and improving the accuracy of financial reporting.” According to Krause, his work included “ensuring that the Treasury DOGE Team was leveraging its unique technological expertise to help operationalize the president’s policy priorities for the early days of the administration, including by helping identify payments that may be improper under his new executive orders.”
- **March 13, 2025:** A federal judge [ruled](#) that thousands of terminated federal employees should be reinstated, including those at the Treasury Department.
- **May 28, 2025:** A federal judge [ended](#) restrictions that prevented DOGE staffers from accessing the Treasury’s sensitive data systems. The ruling [modified](#) a preliminary injunction, stating that DOGE staffers who have undergone proper training and vetting could be given access to the sensitive information.



- **December 16, 2025:** Treasury CIO and DOGE staffer Sam Corcos **approved** \$1.5 million for ChatGPT licenses and **issued** coding tests to evaluate hundreds of IRS IT staff's "technical proficiency."

Impacts on Capacity

In addition to cuts to the IRS, the Treasury Department instituted cuts to the Bureau of Fiscal Service (BFS), with a union representative **estimating** that layoffs would eliminate up to 25% of its 3,300 employees. The layoffs would result in "outsourcing the work at the bureau's Servicing of Savings Bonds, Debt Cross-Servicing Program and Paper Check Printing and Ancillary Services offices."

Material Harms

As a result of DOGE's raid on the Treasury, DOGE agents were able to access people's sensitive personal information, including social security numbers, bank account information, and more. In one instance, DOGE staffer Marko Elez **violated** Treasury data security practices when he emailed a spreadsheet containing personally identifiable information to officials in a different agency. Granting access to Treasury payment systems also **opened the door** for DOGE to arbitrarily impound congressionally appropriated funds.

The staffing cuts at BFS could have severe ramifications for Parkersburg, West Virginia where BFS employs 2,200 people. A Republican state legislator representing parts of Parkersburg **said** that BFS cuts would "devastate" the city's economy.

Notable Names

Ousted Leadership

- **David Lebryk:** After **refusing** to give in to DOGE's request to take over the Treasury's payment system, Acting Deputy Secretary of the Treasury David Lebryk was forced out of the government. Lebryk first **joined** the Treasury Department as a civil servant in 1989.

DOGE Agents

- Tom Krause
- Marko Elez
- Linda Whitridge
- Samuel Corcos
- Todd Newman
- Ryan Wunderly
- Aram Moghaddass



Internal Revenue Service (IRS)

Timeline of Attacks

- **February 11, 2025:** The administration issued the "Workforce Optimization Initiative," mandating a "1-to-4" hiring ratio and requiring the IRS to develop a reduction in force (RIF) plan.
- **February 13, 2025:** DOGE operative Gavin Kliger, a 25-year-old software engineer, entered IRS headquarters and was given access to the agency's Integrated Data Retrieval System (IDRS).
- **February 17, 2025:** DOGE staffers reached an agreement to gain limited "read-only" access to anonymized taxpayer data within the IRS.
- **March 13, 2025:** Acting Chief Counsel William Paul was removed and demoted after clashing with DOGE over the sharing of sensitive taxpayer data. He was replaced by Andrew De Mello.
- **July 18, 2025:** The Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration revealed a dramatic shrinking of the IRS workforce from roughly 103,000 staffers in January 2025 to 77,428 as of May 2025.

Impacts on Capacity

The 25% reduction in the IRS's total workforce has rendered the agency a "zombie" of itself at best, and a "feast for wealthy tax evaders" at worst. By ousting nearly a third of the agency's auditing workforce—especially those focused on auditing the ultra wealthy—DOGE has effectively granted corporate criminals a reprieve from paying taxes.

The DOGE-induced degradation of the IRS's operational capacity is likely to be especially noticeable during the 2026 tax season. To maintain current levels of service for the upcoming filing season, the IRS would have needed to hire over 11,000 customer service employees, a task rendered impossible by the DOGE-mandated cuts. The implementation of Trump's One Big Beautiful Bill Act would require the IRS to update forms and programming systems at the same time its technical and support staff are being purged.

Material Harms

The realignment of the IRS under DOGE has led to the weaponization of taxpayer data and financial losses caused by misinformation.

DOGE leaders floated the idea of a "DOGE Dividend"—a payment of up to \$5,000 to be distributed to taxpayers from the "savings" generated by government cuts. The "DOGE Dividend" has yet to materialize, but it has created an opening for scammers to take advantage of the confusion and prey on the public.



What's more concerning however, is the way DOGE has sought to [weaponize](#) taxpayer data. Historically, the IRS has guarded taxpayer information to ensure that all residents, regardless of immigration status, feel safe participating in the voluntary tax system. But on April 7, 2025, the IRS [agreed](#) to share names, addresses, and tax data for individuals under final orders of removal or under criminal investigation for immigration violations. By August 2025, the IRS had [disclosed](#) tens of thousands of records to ICE, despite warnings from internal legal counsel that the deal likely violated federal privacy laws. The use of IRS data to target specific populations sets a dangerous precedent for using the tax system as a tool of political or administrative retribution against any group of citizens.

Devastating the auditing capacity of the IRS did benefit some groups, however: private equity and venture capital firms. Under the Biden administration, the IRS began auditing firms in these massive industries to uncover the various tactics they were using to avoid billions in taxes. It was working. With DOGE cuts, however, audits have [dropped](#) by “80 or 90 percent,” potentially leaving billions upon billions of dollars of tax dollars in the pockets of private corporate behemoths.

The loss of these audits is indicative of DOGE's project at the IRS: decimate the ability of the government to investigate tax cheats while normal people lose valuable tools like DirectFile.

Notable Names

Ousted Leadership

- **Melanie Krause:** Chief Operating Officer and Acting Commissioner who [resigned](#) in May in protest of IRS' data-sharing agreement with ICE.
- **Traci Di Martini:** Head of human resources at IRS was [ousted](#) in March 2025 for informing employees that firings within the agency were authorized by the DOGE-controlled Office of Personnel Management.

DOGE Agents

- **Gavin Kliger**
- **Samuel Corcos**



Department of Agriculture (USDA)

Timeline of Attacks

- **February 13, 2025:** Secretary Brooke Rollins was [sworn](#) into office. She welcomed the integration of DOGE into the USDA and immediately initiated mass layoffs across the agency.
- **February 18, 2025:** The USDA admitted to [accidentally firing](#) several employees tasked with managing the federal response to the H5N1 avian flu outbreak.
- **February 20, 2025:** The USDA initiated [widespread layoffs](#), including “many hundreds of staff at critical scientific subagencies” and 2,000 [Forest Service](#) employees.
- **March 12, 2025:** The USDA [eliminated](#) two critical food safety advisory committees: the National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods and the National Advisory Committee on Meat and Poultry Inspection.
- **March 13, 2025:** The USDA [canceled \\$1 billion](#) in funding for programs that assisted local schools and food banks in sourcing products from their own communities.
- **March 14, 2025:** Investigative reporting [revealed](#) that hundreds of USDA sites were listed on DOGE’s “Wall of Receipts,” signaling they were targeted for termination.
- **April 10, 2025:** 12,000 USDA employees [accepted](#) resignation offers; notably, 10% of these departures occurred within the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS).
- **May 1, 2025:** New regulations [required](#) DOGE approval for over one-third of USDA farm-loan dollars—totaling at least \$1.7 billion.
- **May 4, 2025:** Total resignations at the USDA [reached](#) 15,000, or 15% of the total staff. This included 555 departures from the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS).
- **June 11, 2025:** The USDA Forest Service Chief stated that the agency had [lost](#) 4,200 employees to paid leave and 600 employees to early retirements.
- **August 13, 2025:** The USDA [terminated](#) union contracts for over 8,000 employees within the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service and the Food Safety and Inspection Service.
- **September 30, 2025:** Approximately 1,200 employees from the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) [resigned](#) after accepting DOGE buyouts.

Impacts on Capacity

DOGE’s assault on USDA has effectively eliminated the agency’s capacity to maintain national food security and rural infrastructure. The removal of technical staff responsible for irrigation engineering, invasive disease mitigation, and rural housing assistance has [created a backlog](#) of critical projects that experts indicate may remain



stalled indefinitely. As the remaining workforce faces unmanageable caseloads, the collapse of these support systems threatens the viability of America's food supply.

The [mass firing](#) of federal avian flu response personnel leaves America's poultry supply defenseless against an emerging public health threat. And while USDA later scrambled to rehire these essential experts, the initial purge occurred at a moment of heightened vulnerability.

Material Harms

DOGE's attacks on USDA is an attack on America's physical health. The loss of hundreds of inspectors at entry points increases the probability of a [catastrophic](#) invasive species breach. Additionally, this bottlenecking of the national supply chain raises concerns of a port-to-table failure, as perishable food imports rot in transit due to processing delays.

In addition to supply chain issues, the USDA canceled direct food assistance programs to the tune of [over \\$1 billion](#). In March, the agency announced they were scrapping [\\$660 million](#) for the Local Food for Schools Cooperative Agreement Program. The program helped schools and child care facilities provide better nutrition for their students by working with local producers to buy fresh food. Affected communities [called](#) the cuts "devastating" and a "slap in the face." Without these funds, schools are forced to buy from national corporations and often cannot afford fresh, healthy food for children. The agency cuts also [targeted](#) the Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement Program, which supported food banks.

At the Forest Service, the dramatic cuts to probationary employees forced firefighters to take on the duties of support staff. The agency simultaneously stated it did not have "enough capacity to meet the needs of the continuing wildfire crisis." While USDA leadership [publicly claimed](#) to be ready for wildfire season, remaining firefighters speaking with reporters said employees were "[worried](#)" and described the loss of institutional knowledge as "[crippling](#)."

Rural communities that helped elect Trump to office are [suffering](#) the most from DOGE-controlled USDA. Agency cuts have stopped the flow of rural development funds to isolated communities. As a result, programs that helped transport families to medical appointments or repaired homes for the elderly were "[forced to stop community outreach](#)."

USDA's dereliction of duty has also harmed the public's financial health. DOGE's assault on avian flu response personnel has already been linked to rising egg prices, a trend that [stands](#) to impact grocery costs more generally.



Notable Names

DOGE Agents

- **Gavin Kliger**
- **Joshua Fox**



Department of Commerce

Timeline of Attacks

- **February 4, 2025:** DOGE staffers entered the Department of Commerce. DOGE was granted access to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) computer systems.
- **February 20, 2025:** DOGE implemented a \$1 spending cap on government-issued credit cards that federal employees use to cover travel and other work-related expenses.
- **February 22, 2025:** At the direction of Elon Musk, employees across the government received an email from the Office of Personnel Management directing them to give 5 bullet points of their accomplishments from the past week. According to Musk, failure to respond would "be taken as a resignation." Though workers at many agencies were informed they could ignore the directive, Department of Commerce employees were told to comply.
- **February 27, 2025:** DOGE laid off 880 NOAA employees, representing over 5% of its workforce. More than 100 of the fired employees worked in the National Weather Service (NWS).
- **February 28, 2025:** Approximately 500 NOAA employees accepted DOGE's deferred resignation offer. Nearly 200 of the resignations were employees at NWS.
- **March 3, 2025:** 73 workers at the National Institute for Science and Technology (NIST), a Commerce subagency, were terminated.
- **March 4, 2025:** NIST's AI Safety Institute signed a deal with Elon Musk's artificial intelligence company xAI.
- **March 10, 2025:** NOAA submitted plans to fire 1,029 employees. The plan was in response to a memo from the Office of Management and Budget and Office of Personnel Management directing agencies to submit reduction in force plans. Employees had until April 17 to decide whether to take early retirements or buyouts. NOAA approved more than 1,000 exit requests from eligible workers, including roughly 300 from NWS.
- **March 13, 2025:** A federal judge ruled that thousands of terminated federal employees should be reinstated, including those at the Department of Commerce.
- **April 9, 2025:** A Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals panel reversed the lower court's ruling, saying the court lacked jurisdiction to reinstate terminated workers.

Impacts on Capacity

The vast majority of the cuts at the Department of Commerce occurred at NOAA, where more than 2,300 workers were pushed out. The agency lost roughly 10% of its staff before the start of tornado season and nearly 20% before the start of hurricane season.



The National Weather Service (NWS), a critical subagency of NOAA that is responsible for collecting the data used for weather forecasting, [lost](#) about 600 employees. Approximately 6% of the agency's workforce [was missing](#) at the start of tornado season and around 13% were gone before the start of hurricane season.

By March 20, NWS had [suspended](#) weather balloon launches or reduced the frequency of launches in 11 different locations, worsening forecasting and modeling capabilities. On April 17, NWS [announced](#) the suspension of additional weather balloon launches. In late May, *The Washington Post* [reported](#) that in the wake of DOGE cuts "up to 30 [weather balloon] launches have been missed each day, representing around 17 percent of total daily launches."

The legislative director of the NWS employees union [said](#) that as of mid-May, 52 of 122 weather forecast offices had staff vacancy rates over 20%. In addition, 35 offices were missing meteorologists-in-charge, also known as chief meteorologists.

Eight NWS forecast offices were [forced](#) to cease overnight operations in the spring.

The administration implicitly admitted the cuts had gone too far—in June, the NWS announced it was [looking](#) to hire 126 people in order to "stabilize" its operations. In August, NOAA was reportedly looking to hire 450 critical positions. As of December, just 80 previously [ousted](#) NWS workers had accepted offers to return.

At the National Institute for Science and Technology, DOGE [terminated](#) 42 employees working on administering the CHIPS and Science Act.

Material Harms

The NWS cuts caused so much alarm that five former agency directors [penned](#) an open letter about the potential consequences, stating, "Our worst nightmare is that weather forecast offices will be so understaffed that there will be needless loss of life."

Wired [reported](#) in early March that "the DOGE-mandated credit card freeze is delaying shipments of critical supplies, stalling travel, and stopping employees from doing their jobs." NOAA scientists, for example, "aren't able to order equipment used to repair ships and radars."

Fired NOAA employees [warned](#) that due to staffing shortages, the agency would struggle to keep its fleet of "hurricane hunter" aircraft flying 24/7, jeopardizing forecast accuracy.

Weather balloons [collect](#) upper atmospheric data that is essential to accurate forecasting. Forecast quality was [degraded](#) as a result of DOGE cuts, [including](#) during the tornadoes and hail storms that hit the Midwest in mid-April.



Ahead of the July floods that killed more than 130 people in Texas, local NWS offices were missing key officials, which may have undermined swift coordination between forecasters and local emergency managers. The agency's San Angelo office, which covers many of the hardest-hit areas, was missing a senior hydrologist, staff forecaster, and a meteorologist-in-charge. The latter position, also known as a chief meteorologist, is "the critical linchpin in the operation of our weather forecast offices," former NOAA administrator Rick Spinrad told CNN. "They ensure the forecasters have all they need to be most effective, and they are the direct link to NWS HQ for safe and timely communications during weather events." Spinrad lamented that "not having a permanent MIC in place is like having a substitute pilot on the airplane."

Before the Alaska Native village of Kipnuk was inundated by catastrophic floods in October, reductions in weather balloon launches likely degraded forecasts and cuts to public radio stations probably impeded the distribution of warnings.

DOGE also terminated a \$8.2 million Department of Commerce grant that was intended to expand rural broadband in Kansas. According to the Kansas Health Institute, 12% of Kansas households do not have broadband, including 30% of households with income under \$20,000.

Notable Names

Ousted Leadership

- **Jeff Dillen:** NOAA deputy general counsel who was placed on administrative leave, ostensibly for "performance issues."
- **Stephen Volz:** Assistant administrator for NOAA's Satellite and Information Service who was placed on administrative leave. Volz previously led an investigation into two Trump NOAA officials and found they violated NOAA's "scientific integrity policy."

DOGE Agents

- **Michael Grimes**
- **Nikhil Rajpal**
- **Bryton Shang**



Department of Homeland Security (DHS)

Timeline of Attacks

- **February 5, 2025:** The Department of Homeland Security **offered** a "deferred resignation" to Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) employees. Under this agreement, 174 employees resigned.
- **February 5, 2025:** DOGE staffers **gained** access to computer systems of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), a DHS subagency, including sensitive databases containing the personally identifiable information of tens of thousands of disaster victims.
- **February 10, 2025:** Elon Musk's inaccurate claims on X about FEMA spending on undocumented immigrants **disrupted** the flow of agency funds. Then-Acting FEMA Administrator Cameron Hamilton **gave** DOGE "full system access to our financial management system." In late February, FEMA **imposed** a "manual review" of all grants, resulting in a freeze on more than \$100 billion in payments.
- **February 14, 2025:** DOGE **fired** an estimated 130 CISA employees.
- **February 18, 2025:** CISA staff members specifically focused on disinformation and foreign influence operations were **placed** on administrative leave.
- **February 19, 2025:** DOGE agent Edward Coristine was **embedded** at DHS and began targeting the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction (CWMD) Office's bio-detection program and CISA's Cybersecurity Advisory Division.
- **February 25, 2025:** DOGE **began** closing DHS agencies across the country.
- **February 2025:** The Trump administration **fired** more than 200 "probationary" FEMA workers. Over 800 FEMA employees **accepted** a deferred resignation offer. A dozen senior leaders were among the 1,000-plus who were laid off or left FEMA.
- **March 8, 2025:** In-person disaster response and emergency management training at the National Fire Academy was abruptly **halted** and suspended as part of a DOGE "efficiency review" of government operations.
- **March 19, 2025:** House oversight Democrats **requested** a GAO review of DOGE's layoffs, embedded staff, and contract terminations at DHS.
- **April 4, 2025:** Reports **indicated** broader reductions at CISA could impact ~1,300 staff and contractors.
- **April 4, 2025:** FEMA eliminated the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant program and **rescinded** more than \$3 billion in funding for climate adaptation and hazard mitigation projects that had been approved but not completed.
- **April 2025:** Roughly 1,000 additional FEMA employees, including many senior officials, **sought** early retirements or accepted buyouts amid DOGE-inflicted chaos.
- **June 3, 2025:** Axios **reported** that roughly 1,000 employees had left CISA through reductions in force or resignations.
- **October 11, 2025:** DHS **issued** a reduction in force notice to 54 employees.



Impacts on Capacity

The staff levels at CISA were severely diminished by DOGE cuts, with nearly one third of the workforce [leaving](#) via terminations or resignations. The Cybersecurity Division, which [serves](#) to “fortify the nation’s cyber defenses against immediate threats and vulnerabilities,” was hit particularly hard, losing close to 200 of its 1,100 employees.

The forced departure of roughly up to [33%](#) of FEMA's permanent full-time staff by May 1—including senior executives and critical coordinating officers—[decimated](#) the agency's operational capacity and undermined training and planning. At the start of the 2025 hurricane season on June 1, FEMA [had](#) almost 800 fewer disaster workers available than the year prior and [roughly half](#) as many staff trained to respond to disasters as in May 2024. All of FEMA's most senior leadership positions were [filled](#) by DHS personnel with little to no disaster management expertise.

The [elimination](#) of the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities grant program and the [halt](#) to climate adaptation and hazard mitigation work destroyed FEMA's ability to fund projects that reduce future disaster risk. The [removal](#) of equity and climate considerations from mitigation planning guides increased the likelihood that low-income and vulnerable communities would be overlooked.

Material Harms

For more on the administration’s mishandling of natural disasters, see our [Disaster Policy Tracker](#).

The systematic dismantling of FEMA directly led to catastrophic failures in disaster response. During the deadly Central Texas floods in July 2025:

- Call center worker contracts were [allowed](#) to lapse, leaving thousands of calls for assistance unanswered.
- DHS Secretary Kristi Noem [waited](#) over 72 hours to authorize the deployment of Urban Search and Rescue Teams.
- Requests for critical aerial imagery to aid rescue operations were [stalled](#) awaiting political sign-off.
- The acting FEMA administrator was [unreachable](#) for over 24 hours and did not [visit](#) the disaster zone for nine days.

Since March 2025, DHS has made the allocation of funding—including the Emergency Management Performance Grant program used to train and pay state and local emergency management staff—[contingent](#) on cooperation with Trump’s crackdown on immigrants. This and Noem’s [requirement](#) for political approval of all contracts over \$100,000 [paralyzed](#) the agency's ability to disburse congressionally appropriated funds, [impeding](#) preparedness and delaying recovery for communities across the country. An analysis [found](#) that proposed changes to federal assistance



thresholds would have disqualified 71% of major disasters declared from 2008-2024, depriving state and local governments of \$41 billion in aid.

Notable Names

Ousted Leadership

- **MaryAnn Tierney:** Acting deputy administrator cited the Trump administration's attacks on FEMA in her May resignation letter.
- **Jeremy Greenberg:** The Director of the National Response Coordination Center, FEMA's "24-hour war room," resigned on June 11, one day after Trump announced plans to phase out the agency.
- **Ken Pagurek:** FEMA search and rescue chief resigned in the wake of Noem's delayed response to the Texas flooding disaster.

DOGE Agents

- **Edward Coristine**
- **Kyle Schutt**



Department of Energy

Timeline of Attacks

- **February 5, 2025:** Energy Secretary Chris Wright **granted** DOGE agent Luke Farritor access to the Department of Energy's IT system against the advice of the agency's general counsel, who said Farritor was "not cleared to be in DOE." Farritor previously worked as a SpaceX intern.
- **February 7, 2025:** DOE leadership **appointed** former SpaceX engineer Ryan Riedel as Chief Information Officer.
- **February 13, 2025:** The Department of Energy **initiated** plans to lay off approximately 2,000 probationary employees.
- **February 14, 2025:** Officials at the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), a sub-agency of DOE responsible for overseeing US nuclear weapons, **rescinded** the terminations of hundreds of employees. Nearly all of the 300 terminated employees had their firings reversed. *NBC News* **reported** that NNSA had difficulty reaching some of the terminated employees, as the agency did not have their personal contact information.
- **March 31, 2025:** Secretary Wright **reopened** the deferred resignation program, giving employees a second opportunity to take the offer after the initial deadline passed. The new deadline was set for April 8, 2025, but Wright later extended the deadline to April 11, 2025.
- **April 4, 2025:** The Energy Department **identified** over 8,500 positions as nonessential workers that could be targeted for another round of reductions in force, representing nearly 50% of DOE staff.
- **April 22, 2025:** Over 3,500 employees **accepted** the deferred resignation offers.

Impacts on Capacity

The NNSA staff cuts led to a severe loss of institutional knowledge. This includes the 27 engineers and five scientists, among others, that were **involved** in nuclear modernization efforts, and an arms control expert.

At the DOE's Loan Programs Office (LPO), which **provides** loans for domestic energy projects often focusing on technological advancements deemed too risky for traditional banks, around 60% of its staff accepted resignation offers. Billions of dollars in loans **originating** from the office were also frozen.

Another casualty, the Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations (OCED), which helps kickstart new energy and decarbonization projects, **lost** 77% of its staff to deferred resignations. OCED's **cancelled** awards included up to \$500 million for a lower-carbon steel production in Ohio and up to \$500 million for an aluminum smelter run by carbon-free electricity. The administration later terminated billions of dollars in awards



originating from the office and, in November 2025, [announced](#) the closure of the entire office.

Material Harms

Former officials with the NNSA said the cuts would [reduce](#) the agency's ability to oversee the contractors working with the agency, opening the door for fraud or wasteful spending of taxpayer dollars.

At LPO, frozen loans forced companies to change their business plans. Planned battery plants in Arizona and Georgia were [scrapped](#) after loans to the respective companies were frozen. In conjunction with the widespread cancellation of other awards from DOE offices, DOGE's cuts will have untold negative impacts on the future of clean energy and decarbonization in this country.

The closure of OCED alone could result in the loss of over 290,000 jobs, \$22.9 billion in wages, and \$65.9 billion in economic output, according to an [economic impact analysis](#) by the Center for Climate and Energy Solutions.

The loss of federal support has and will lead to the cancellation of clean energy projects, [forcing](#) entities to either scrap plans altogether or revert to dirtier forms of energy production. Still, the impact reverberates beyond federally-backed projects. Innovative technologies reliant upon federal research and investment to become commercially viable were a key focus of DOE's efforts. Without federal backing, clean energy efforts that rely on technological advancement and require heavy initial investments will likely flounder as the private sector shies away.

Notable Names

DOGE Agents

- **Luke Farritor**
- **Ryan Riedel**
- **Adam Ramada**



Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)

For more on Trump administration actions regarding air safety, see our [Aviation Disaster Tracker](#).

Timeline of Attacks

- **January 28, 2025:** FAA employees, including air traffic controllers, [received](#) deferred resignation offers. After the deadly crash at Reagan National Airport, the Office of Personnel Management said air traffic controllers were not eligible to take the offer.
- **February 5, 2025:** Musk and DOGE [said](#) they would “make rapid safety upgrades to the air traffic control system.”
- **February 14, 2025:** DOGE [fired](#) approximately 400 probationary FAA employees, including aviation safety assistants, nautical aviation specialists, and maintenance mechanics.
- **March 5, 2025:** Musk’s company SpaceX [began](#) deploying Starlink terminals to airports across the country. The terminals were deployed shortly after reporting [revealed](#) that the FAA was considering canceling a contract with Verizon to upgrade the national airspace system and awarding it to SpaceX instead.
- **March 7, 2025:** During a cabinet meeting, Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy [accused](#) Musk and DOGE of attempting to fire air traffic controllers. Musk denied the allegation but “insisted that people hired under diversity, equity and inclusion programs were working in control towers.”
- **April 25, 2025:** DOGE staffers at the FAA [directed](#) employees to sign non-disclosure agreements regarding “Project Lift,” a plan to upgrade the FAA’s communications network.
- **May 15, 2025:** 2,700 FAA employees [reportedly](#) signed up for the deferred resignation program, though a portion of them may be deemed ineligible.

Impacts on Capacity

While the administration claims that no “critical” staff [were](#) let go as part of DOGE’s incursion, the 400 dismissed employees were still involved in maintaining aviation safety. For example, DOGE terminated nautical aviation specialists that were responsible for updating maps used by pilots and mechanics that repaired air traffic control facilities.

DOGE cuts and resignation offers [came](#) while the FAA was already [dealing](#) with severe understaffing of both air traffic controllers and support staff.



Material Harms

Investigations into aviation disasters can often take months or years to determine all the causes of a given accident. While there is no indication that DOGE resignations and cuts have directly caused the extensive flight delays or aviation disasters throughout the year, experts and FAA employee union leaders have [warned](#) that the cuts make it harder to do “safety oversight.”

Notable Names

Ousted Leadership

- **Michael Whitaker:** FAA administrator who [resigned](#) upon Trump’s inauguration after a months-long pressure campaign from Elon Musk. Musk [called](#) for his resignation in 2024 after the agency [proposed](#) \$633,009 in fines for SpaceX due to the company’s alleged failure to follow license requirements during two rocket launches.

DOGE Agents

- **Elon Musk**
- **Brady Glantz**
- **Thomas Kiernan**
- **Ted Malaska**
- **Sam Smeal**



Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Timeline of Attacks

- **January 28, 2025:** EPA employees received Elon Musk's "Fork in the Road" email offering deferred resignations.
- **January 29, 2025:** More than 1,100 EPA employees received an emailed notice that they could be terminated immediately due to their probationary status.
- **February 4, 2025:** DOGE agent Gautier Cole Killian was listed on the EPA's directory as a "Federal Detailee."
- **February 5, 2025:** EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin's public calendar listed a meeting with DOGE staffers.
- **February 6, 2025:** The EPA placed 168 employees on leave at the Office of Environmental Justice. The office was focused on the disproportionate impact of pollution on minority, low-income, and rural communities.
- **February 6, 2025:** Congressional Democrats were denied entry to the EPA headquarters while trying to meet with the DOGE staffers at the agency.
- **February 12, 2025:** DOGE agents were granted read-only access to the EPA's Acquisition System. The system houses information regarding the agency's spending, including sensitive personal information such as employee names, ID numbers, and the tax IDs of government contractors.
- **February 14, 2025:** Hundreds of EPA employees were informed via email that they were being fired. Just five days later, the EPA then emailed a portion of the terminated employees to inform them that the firing had been rescinded. The EPA told *Business Insider* that a total of 388 probationary employees were terminated.
- **February 26, 2025:** During a cabinet meeting, President Trump lauded a plan from Administrator Zeldin to cut 65% of the EPA's staff. The White House later corrected his comments to claim Zeldin's plan would cut 65% of EPA spending, not staff.
- **March 5, 2025:** DOGE announced the cancellation of seven leases for EPA offices across the country.
- **March 7, 2025:** The EPA issued guidance mandating that any spending originating from the agency greater than \$50,000 must be approved by DOGE staff at the agency.
- **March 12, 2025:** The EPA eliminated a host of offices focused on diversity efforts and environmental justice, including the Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights, the Environmental Justice Division, and the Office of Inclusive Excellence. 171 staffers were placed on administrative leave as a result.
- **March 14, 2025:** DOGE added three more EPA offices to its list of cancelled leases.
- **July 18, 2025:** The EPA announced it was eliminating the Office of Research and Development, which analyzed a range of environmental hazards and pollutants to



undergird EPA's decision making. The agency also announced plans to reduce staff level by 3,700 employees.

- **November 14, 2025:** 2,620 employees [accepted](#) the EPA's deferred resignation offer.

Impacts on Capacity

DOGE's early focus at the EPA targeted offices working on addressing the disproportionate impacts that pollution and environmental disasters have on low income and minority communities. The Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights, Environmental Justice Divisions within regional offices, and the Office of Inclusive Excellence were all [completely eliminated](#).

Furthermore, the Office of Research and Development was [shut down](#), decimating the agency's scientific research capacity. The EPA said it would [replace](#) the Office of Research and Development with the Office of Applied Science and Environmental Solutions, but the agency plans also put over 1,100 scientists at risk of layoffs. In all, the agency staff levels were reduced by over 6,000 employees between reduction in force efforts and [deferred resignations](#).

Material Harms

Grant cancellations from DOGE and Administrator Zeldin affected so many communities and environmental efforts across the country that it is impossible to name them all here. By late April, the agency had already identified [nearly 800 grants](#) for cancellation. They canceled [\\$2 million](#) in grants that would have funded water testing kits and filters, among other efforts, in the Pittsburgh area; [\\$20 million](#) for improved water quality and removal of pollutants from local watersheds in Brunswick County North Carolina; [\\$250 million](#) to fund solar energy infrastructure in Texas. The list goes on and on.

As a result, the country will not be able to transition to clean energy in the near future. Communities will be needlessly subjected to increased amounts of polluted air and water and must contend with the poor health outcomes that will inevitably follow.

FedScoop also [spoke](#) with scientists across the country about work that has now ceased due to canceled grants, including \$1.5 million at Texas A&M to develop new ways to quickly assess the environmental lifecycles of chemicals and \$2.5 million at Texas Tech to study the impact of chemicals from fireworks on drinking water, among others. For more on the harm caused by DOGE's efforts at EPA, see [these resources](#) from the National Resources Defense Council detailing the \$29 billion in frozen or cancelled EPA grants.

The Revolving Door Project has also [maintained](#) a tracker of environmental harms caused by Trump administration actions.



Notable Names

DOGE Agents

- **Gautier Cole Killian**
- **Kathryn Loving**
- **Erica Jehling**



Department of Labor (DOL)

Timeline of Attacks

- **February 5, 2025:** A group of unions, including the American Federation of Government Employees, filed a lawsuit to block DOGE from accessing the Department of Labor's data systems. The complaint **alleged** that Department of Labor leadership told employees to grant access to any systems DOGE asked for without pushback.
- **February 7, 2025:** A federal judge **declined** to block DOGE's access, ruling that the plaintiffs did not establish standing.
- **February 25, 2025:** A memo from the Department of Labor's Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFFCP) **stated** that the office will reduce staff from 479 to 50 workers.
- **March 10, 2025:** DOGE **announced** the termination of **at least** 29 leases for US Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) offices, and 11 leases for Occupational Safety and Health Administration offices. The administration later **reversed** the MSHA closures in May.
- **March 29, 2025:** A court filing in *AFL-CIO v. Department of Labor* **revealed** that DOGE agent Marko Elez was **given** read-only access to Department of Labor databases.
- **April 2, 2025:** DOGE **announced** it would be shutting down 87 Department of Labor offices and terminating 96 contracts for "trainings, software, and other services."
- **April 17, 2025:** Department of Labor Chief Intelligence Office Thomas Shedd **reportedly** aimed to reduce the workforce of DOL's Office of the CIO by 30%. While not officially a DOGE member, Shedd was **working** in government while on a leave of absence from Tesla.
- **May 2, 2025:** DOGE **implemented** a new "Defend the Spend" requirement for grant officers and grantees to provide an explanation every time funds are allocated.
- **May 3, 2025:** DOL **lost** about 20% of its workforce to DOGE's deferred resignation program according to sources inside the agency.

Impacts on Capacity

The dramatic cuts to the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFFCP), which served as a watchdog over the hiring and compliance practices of companies that contract with the government, kneecapped its operations. Audits into discrimination claims were **halted** and the office shifted its focus to solely monitoring for discrimination against disabled workers and veterans. Among the terminated employees **were** "labor economists and statisticians, who were charged with conducting systemic statistical analyses."



Material Harms

In closing Labor Department offices, DOGE left communities without a federal presence to oversee their rights to safe workplaces and wage protections. Louisiana, for example, [lost](#) its only Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) office, which was particularly important given the state does not have its own workplace safety agency. Louisiana was [ranked](#) as the sixth most dangerous state in terms of workplace fatalities.

DOGE [cancelled](#) nearly 100 Department of Labor contracts, many of which were grants originating from the Bureau of International Labor Affairs. The grants [sought](#) to improve labor conditions and prevent exploitative labor practices that both hurt the workers in other countries and undercut the competitiveness of US companies. Furthermore, the added “Defend the Spend” requirement on other grants could [slow down](#) the disbursement of funds that go to job training and apprenticeship programs.

Notable Names

Ousted Leadership

- **Sydney Rose:** The Department of Labor’s Chief Human Capital Officer, who had [worked](#) in the government for over 40 years, accepted DOGE’s deferred resignation offer.
- **Troy Finnegan:** The Department of Labor’s assistant secretary for administration and management [resigned](#) less than a month after his appointment. The resignation came just days before the administration’s deadline to submit plans for mass layoffs.

DOGE Agents

- **Sam Beyda**
- **Derek Geissler**
- **Miles Collins**



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



United States Postal Service (USPS)

Timeline of Attacks

- **December 2024:** President-elect Donald Trump [hinted](#) at his intention to privatize the U.S. Postal Service.
- **February 19, 2025:** Postmaster General Louis DeJoy [asked](#) the Postal Service Board of Governors to begin a search for his successor.
- **February 24, 2025:** President Trump publicly floated the idea of a Commerce Department [takeover](#) of the USPS, which could remove USPS's independence.
- **March 5, 2025:** While speaking at a Morgan Stanley technology conference, Elon Musk said the Postal Service should be [privatized](#) "as much as possible."
- **March 18, 2025:** DeJoy agreed to a cost-cutting deal, allowing DOGE representatives to [infiltrate the agency](#) to root out "further inefficiencies."
- **March 24, 2025:** Louis DeJoy officially [resigned](#) and appointed Deputy Postmaster General Doug Tulino as the interim leader.
- **March - May 2025:** Tulino [initiated](#) a series of high-level meetings between interim USPS leadership and DOGE operatives Alex Simonpour and Ethan Shaotran to discuss ethics, pricing strategy, and exigent price increases. The meetings later [expanded](#) to include DOGE chief attorney James Burnham and James Sherk, a White House official involved in reduction in force efforts.
- **July 17, 2025:** David Steiner [began](#) his tenure as the new Postmaster General.

Impacts on Capacity

Under a formal agreement signed with the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) and the General Services Administration (GSA), Postmaster General Louis DeJoy committed to a drastic downsizing of the postal workforce. The agreement outlined a 30-day window to [remove 10,000 employees](#) from the postal workforce via an early retirement program. By August, the Postal Service's third quarter financial report showed [nearly 10,500 employees](#) had taken the early retirement offer.

Material Harms

DOGE [joined](#) Postal Service leadership in implementing plans that threatened the postal service's [universal service obligation and 6-day delivery standard](#), which will likely result in delayed or lost mail—including time-sensitive medication, legal documents, ballots and benefit checks. Rural, indigenous, and remote areas that [rely on USPS for "last-mile delivery"](#) are at especially high risk of being cut off from services. Should Musk get his wish of privatization, these issues will only be further exacerbated.

According to a [USPS internal review](#) published in May 2025, its delivery time for first-class letters had been 5% slower in the two preceding years. While not directly attributable to DOGE, the poor performance is likely due to [DeJoy's past cost-cutting](#)



measures, a mantle DOGE happily took up.

Notable Names

Ousted Leadership

- **Louis Dejoy:** Postmaster General who stepped down shortly after signing an agreement with DOGE to allow the agency to find “further efficiencies” at USPS.

DOGE Agents

- **Alex Simonpour**
- **James Burnham**
- **Ethan Shaotran**



United States Institute of Peace (USIP)

Timeline of Attacks

- **February 19, 2025:** President Donald Trump [issued an executive order](#) calling for the elimination of the "unnecessary" U.S. Institute of Peace.
- **February 24, 2025:** USIP leadership [met](#) virtually with DOGE representatives and [explained](#) that USIP was an independent, congressionally-established nonprofit corporation, not an executive branch agency.
- **March 14, 2025:** Trump abruptly [fired](#) all 10 Senate-confirmed voting members of USIP's Board of Directors. This left Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, Secretary of State Marco Rubio and National Defense University President Peter Garvin as the only remaining board members. A [separate, coordinated DOGE](#) attempt to gain physical access to USIP's headquarters failed.
- **March 14, 2025:** The three remaining board members [signed a resolution](#) to remove USIP's acting president.
- **March 16, 2025:** DOGE, with the [assistance](#) of FBI agents and employees from USIP's security contractor Inter-Con, [gained unlawful entry](#) to the USIP headquarters. DC Metropolitan Police [assisted DOGE](#) in securing control of the building.
- **March 17, 2025:** Remaining Trump-aligned board members [appoint](#) Kenneth Jackson as acting president.
- **March 19, 2025:** DOGE [gained access](#) to USIP's internal computer systems.
- **March 21-28, 2025:** DOGE [initiated mass terminations](#), first issuing notices to six senior staffers, followed by "virtually all" of USIP's remaining employees days later.
- **March 25-29, 2025:** DOGE Representative Nate Cavanaugh [was given authority over USIP and instructed](#) the transfer of all its assets, including its headquarters building, to the General Services Administration (GSA) for free. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Director Russell Vought [signed off on the transfer](#).
- **May 22, 2025:** Following a federal judge's ruling that the takeover was "unlawful," USIP [temporarily regained control](#) of its headquarters.
- **June 27, 2025:** A federal appeals court [stayed](#) the lower court's ruling, returning control to DOGE.

Impacts on Capacity

DOGE's assault resulted in the functional elimination of an independent, quasi-governmental peacebuilding institution. The agency has suffered a near-total dissolution, with between [200-300 employees laid off](#) on two separate occasions. DOGE's [physical occupation and neglect](#) of USIP's headquarters caused hundreds of thousands of dollars in damages, leaving the facility in disarray and "littered with drugs



and cockroaches.”

Material Harms

The neutralization of USIP caused immediate and severe setbacks to U.S. foreign policy and global stability. Critical, on-the-ground efforts to mediate conflicts and reduce violence were abruptly terminated. This included ending community violence prevention programs in Latin America and halting conflict mediation services in active war zones such as in the Middle East and Africa. The elimination of the agency's \$55 million annual budget—a cost equivalent to what the military spends on three helicopters—effectively destroyed what a former U.S. Central Command chief called the "Marine Corps or special forces for foreign affairs and peace-building," creating a significant strategic void.

Notable Names

Ousted Leadership

- **George Moose:** USIP acting president who was removed from his position via a resolution signed by Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, and Vice Admiral Peter Garvin during DOGE's chaotic infiltration and takeover of the institute.

DOGE Agents

- **Chris Young**
- **Kenneth Jackson**
- **Nate Cavanaugh**



Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)

Timeline of Attacks

- **January 29, 2025:** A person “[affiliated with Elon Musk’s SpaceX](#)” was brought in to advise FBI Director Kash Patel.
- **February 3, 2025:** Through DOGE’s incursion at the Small Business Administration, DOGE agent Edward Coristine [was granted access](#) to the National Finance Center (NFC). The NFC handles human resources and payroll for the FBI, among other agencies, and its systems [include](#) the “Social Security numbers, banking information, addresses, and dates of birth for federal employees.”
- **February 6, 2025:** Justin Monroe, [a former senior director for security at SpaceX](#), was working as an adviser at the FBI.
- **April 18, 2025:** Former Tesla employee Tarak Makecha [was serving as a senior advisor](#) to the FBI’s executive assistant director for human resources.
- **June 17, 2025:** The Justice Department’s downsizing plans [outlined](#) the elimination of 1,500 FBI positions, including 700 vacant agent jobs.
- **October 1, 2025:** About [800 FBI agents](#), roughly 40% of whom were special agents, officially left the agency through accepted deferred resignation offers.

Impacts on Capacity

In addition to the administration’s ideological and retaliatory purges at the FBI, DOGE’s deferred resignation program was directly responsible for the [retirement of hundreds of agents](#). The FBI also used resources to [conduct a federal investigation](#) into Tesla Takedown protests that originated in opposition to Elon Musk’s DOGE involvement.

Material Harms

As with many DOGE incursions, one of the main concerns is the unfettered access to sensitive personal information of federal employees. This is of particular concern regarding Coristine, as his network servicing company DiamondCDN previously [provided infrastructure services](#) to a cybercrime gang that targeted an FBI agent who was investigating them.

Notable Names

DOGE Agents

- Edward Coristine
- Justin Monroe
- Tarak Makecha



The Long Tail of DOGE

The Trump-Musk Fallout

After months of DOGE cutting federal grants and terminating federal workers at will, Elon Musk announced in late May 2025 that he was leaving the agency. Just days later, the political alliance between Donald Trump and Musk reached its breaking point over Trump's One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA). Musk and Tesla [complained](#) on X that it was "very unfair" that electric vehicle subsidies were being eliminated while oil and gas subsidies remained. Though Musk denied the EV tax credits were his main point of opposition, the policy [threatened](#) Tesla's bottom line.

On June 3, in a thinly veiled reminder of his heavy electoral spending in 2024, Musk argued that electeds who [supported](#) the "pork-filled" legislation ought to be ousted by voters in the next election. He [labeled](#) the then-bill a "disgusting abomination" and urged Congress to "Kill the Bill." Trump responded days later during a press conference in the Oval Office, [expressing](#) "disappointment" in Musk, and suggesting that the billionaire's outbursts were fueled by the removal of electric vehicle subsidies.

Trump further [claimed](#) that he would have won Pennsylvania without Musk's help, an assertion Musk immediately refuted. Musk [accused](#) Trump of "ingratitude," argued that Republican electoral success was largely dependent on his support, and stated that Trump was in the Epstein files. That was largely the end of Musk's direct DOGE involvement.

Despite the shakeup, Musk never fully removed himself from Trump World. Within a week, the billionaire [deleted](#) his post implicating Trump in the Epstein Files. And by August, Musk had seemingly [abandoned](#) plans to start his own party in an effort to appease Vice President JD Vance. Any residual ill-will between the president and Musk has not stopped him from [financially backing](#) the GOP heading into the 2026 midterm elections.

The Shift: Enter "Vampire Vought"

After Musk's exit, DOGE, filled with his lackeys, remained a feature in the federal government. In fact, the [guiding principles of DOGE](#)—traumatizing federal workers, decimating government capacity, and slashing funding for people and places in need—were rejuvenated, albeit with a new, more [effective and more discreet](#) standard bearer. Russell Vought, Director of the Office of Management and Budget, began firming up DOGE's legacy behind the scenes, using the power of his office to embed DOGE personnel in federal agencies as full time staff and institutionalize funding cuts through illegal use of the Impoundment Control Act.



Vought's effectiveness stems from the immense [structural power of the OMB](#). As director of the agency, Vought can review and reshape federal budget proposals according to his own ideological priorities, even if the agency leaders disagree. A [supposed](#) hyper-originalist and self-described Christian Nationalist, Vought has used this leverage to reshape the federal government from the top down.

As our Chris Lewis wrote ahead of the 2024 election, Vought has [acted](#) as a "reverse Robin Hood." As OMB Director during Trump's first term, Vought [moved](#) to eliminate the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, slashed nutrition assistance, and pushed to throw 90,000 children off the Head Start program. During his time at the Heritage Foundation, he [led](#) the pressure campaign to repeal the Affordable Care Act. As head of the Republican Study Committee, he [authored](#) a "highly unbalanced" budget that prioritized tax cuts for the wealthy. His career goal of dismantling the welfare state has been turbocharged in the era of DOGE.

The Institutionalization of DOGE

Before his return to government, Vought was explicit about his goals for the next Trump administration—[put](#) civil servants "in trauma." DOGE, with its chaotic terminations and forced resignations of federal workers, did just that. It's no wonder that Vought said in July that he was [looking to make](#) DOGE's legacy "permanent" by using "OMB institutional expertise."

Vought has taken several steps to do so, starting with withholding funding seemingly through rescissions and impoundment. In July, the OMB [conducted](#) "an ongoing programmatic review" of \$6 billion in funding for a host of Department of Education programs, including teacher training, English as a Second Language classes, and more.

Though ultimately [released](#) several weeks later after immense pressure, including from some Republicans, the showdown was indicative of Vought's mindset: if congressionally-appropriated funding does not align with his priorities, he will try to hold it up by any means necessary. As a case in point, in early January 2026, OMB [froze](#) funding for \$10 billion in funds for child care and low-income families in retaliation against blue states.

Vought also [gleefully executed](#) the personnel cuts that began with DOGE, directing widespread reductions in force in October 2025 at the start of the government shutdown. He [personally took to X](#) to announce the action, which cut around 4,200 employees across several agencies.



Proof of Concept: Sucking the Life out of the CFPB

The CFPB was a prime example of Vought's vision of dismantling federal agencies that do not serve his interest. On February 7, 2025, shortly after being made acting director of the Bureau, Vought [issued a stop-work order](#) that explicitly covered all supervision, examination, and enforcement activities. This order effectively halted the work of over 1,700 employees, many of whom were simultaneously grappling with the physical closure of the agency's headquarters at Vought's request. Vought also [issued reductions in force notices](#) for approximately 1,500 CFPB employees, attempting to completely defang the agency's oversight capabilities, though the layoffs are still being debated in court.

In conjunction with these attacks on personnel, Vought attempted to manufacture a funding crisis to zero-out CFPB's budget. In November 2025, Vought [secured](#) a legal opinion from the Department of Justice's Office of Legal Counsel (OLC) that redefined the term "combined earnings" in the statute to mean net profits. Because the Federal Reserve had been incurring operating losses due to the interest rate environment, the OLC [concluded](#) that there were no "earnings" available for the CFPB to draw upon. Vought utilized this opinion to justify his refusal to request funding for Fiscal Year 2026, in an attempt to burn through the bureau's remaining cash. Though again ultimately unsuccessful—a court [ruled](#) against Vought's argument and he subsequently requested a budget—the confrontation was yet another example of Vought testing the limits of the law to upend the agency.

In the midst of the ongoing legal battles, Vought ensured the CFPB would no longer serve as a financial watchdog. Under his direction, the Bureau [abandoned](#) cases against Zelle, Capital One, and dozens of other corporate crooks, preventing consumers from receiving billions in restitution. Many of these cases have been [dismissed](#) "with prejudice," meaning they cannot be pursued again.

The CFPB saga serves as a template of things to come with Vought at the helm of the DOGE mission.

Conclusion

One year after its inception, the story of DOGE is one of extensive degradation of the federal government and harm to communities across the country. This audit should serve as a reminder of this harm and the cutthroat nature with which DOGE personnel carried it out. DOGE proved that the widespread decimation of government capacity has real, detrimental consequences for the American people. That should not be forgotten.

Some of the harmful effects of DOGE are already evident; many are still hidden; most will not take full effect until the dangers we would have ordinarily expected our government to mitigate or prevent fully emerge. Nevertheless, we hope this interim examination serves as a resource for policymakers, organizations, and journalists that



aim to engrain these capriciously villainous acts into the public consciousness. Society cannot begin to heal itself until DOGE personnel are held accountable for their roles in the destruction of our government.