



SHEA

The Society for Healthcare
Epidemiology of America

HHS Cuts & What They Mean for Public Health

Presented by Lynne Batshon - SHEA Town Hall April 23, 2025

Question: Which of the following actions have you taken (or plan to take) in response to recent federal policy and funding changes impacting public health?

Answer choices (check all that apply):

- Contacted a local or national policymaker
- Shared information through professional networks or social media
- Engaged in advocacy through my institution or society
- Participated in letter-writing campaigns or signed petitions
- Adjusted my own programs or staffing plans in response to budget cuts
- Joined or supported a coalition or working group
- Haven't acted yet but plan to
- Not sure what to do—here to learn
- Other (please specify)

Trump Executive Orders and Administrative Actions

As of April 10 ([LINK](#))

- HHS Reorganization
 - HHS-wide reduction in force
 - AHRQ merger with ASPE
- Research grant funding cuts
- Termination of COVID-19 supplemental state grant funding (ELC programs)
- Limitations on external communications from agencies
 - Pause on federal advisory committee meetings (PACCARB, HICPAC)

Leaked OMB Draft Budget

OMB Memo Leaked on April 18

- Correspondence between the White House and Federal Agencies on funding levels to be included in the President's Budget Request
- Agencies can ask for what they need; funding needs must align with the Administration's priorities
- IMPORTANT: The President's Budget Request is rarely adopted as requested
- Memo reflects some administrative cuts already implemented
- Eliminates AHRQ, ASPR, programs for rural health under CDC
- "Skinny Budget" expected at the end of this week or early next week.
- Rumor mill: Skinny budget to contain an increase for "emerging infectious diseases" funding line in the CDC budget

STATUS: HHS Reorganization

- New HHS department = “AHA” Administration for a Healthy America
- Consolidating programmatic authorities
- HHS communications departments and offices to be centralized
- DEI – removing language and programming
- Limited communications with agency staff



PACCARB

- All staff in the White House Office of Infectious Diseases and HIV Policy were laid off March 30
- No staff support for PACCARB
- No meetings schedule
- Future uncertain

HICPAC

- No meetings in 2025
- Earlier meetings cancelled/postponed
- Future meetings listed as tentative (next scheduled meeting in June)
- Future uncertain

ACIP

First meeting of 2025 scheduled for April 15 ([agenda](#))

STATUS: Funding Cuts

- \$11 billion termination of COVID-19 supplemental funding
- Proposed elimination of the Prevention Fund (will impact the Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity state grant program)
- NIH funding (impoundment of budget authority)
- CDC funding (impoundment of budget authority)

STATUS: Public Health and Research Workforce Reductions

- Widespread job eliminations at HHS agencies – roughly 20% and more to come
- Plan to limit CDC to infectious diseases only (no chronic disease)
- Senate HELP Committee requested Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. to appear on April 10 to explain the strategy and goals of the dramatic layoffs and reassignments across HHS.
- STAT News [reported](#) April 7 the hearing will be delayed “by several weeks.”
- Secretary Kennedy has suggested that some job eliminations were done in “error” and will be reinstated.

Pandemic/Emergency Preparedness Advocacy/PAHPA

- Pandemic and All Hazards Preparedness Act (PAHPA) expired December 31 without extenders.
- Recent virtual Hill meetings revealed a sense of urgency within some offices, recognizing the peril of expired authorization, funding for pandemic preparedness as measles and avian flu cases grow.

SHEA Media Statements

- 4/3/25 - [SHEA Statement on HHS Reductions in Force](#)
- 3/27/25 - [Reduction in Force and Funding Cuts at HHS Will Undermine Public Health and Patient Safety](#)
- 2/27/25 - [SHEA Encourages Rescheduling Postponed Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices \(ACIP\) Meeting](#)
- 2/18/25 - Make America Healthy Again Agenda at Risk with Reduction in Force Across Federal Health Agencies
- 2/13/25 - [SHEA Supports Key Federal Advisory Committees](#)
- 2/12/25 - [SHEA Advocates for Responsible NIH Funding Reforms](#)
- 2/3/25 - [HHS External Communications Pause Prevents Critical Updates on Current Public Health Threats](#)
- 1/21/25 - [Global Public Health Collaboration Benefits Americans, SHEA Urges Continued Support of the World Health Organization](#)

Year-to-date deliverables: ID/IP/PH Collaborations

- SIGN ON: Oppose any reduction or elimination of the Prevention and Public Health Fund during the budget reconciliation process- (Trust for America's Health) ([LINK](#))
- JOINT LETTER: ID societies on HHS Secretary nominees (IDSA) ([LINK](#))
- SIGN ON: Support for Appropriations for the CDC's National Wastewater Surveillance System (American Society for Microbiology) ([LINK](#))
- SIGN ON: Support for ACIP (Partnership to Fight Infectious Disease) ([LINK](#))
- SIGN ON: Fully fund AHRQ in FY 2026 appropriations (Friends of AHRQ Coalition) ([LINK](#))
- JOINT LETTER: APIC, SHEA, IDSA, PIDS Letter to HHS to Support HICPAC (APIC) ([LINK](#))
- JOINT LETTER: HHS Reorg Letter Senate version (IDSA) ([LINK](#))
- SIGN ON: FY 2026 NIAID Funding (ASM) ([LINK](#))
- SIGN ON: Senate HELP and House Energy & Commerce committees urging a more robust CDC response to the ongoing measles outbreaks (AAP) ([LINK](#))



Year-to-date deliverables: Coalition Work

1

Coalition for Health Funding (CHF)

- OMB's memorandum on a pause of federal agency grants, loans, and other financial assistance
- 1 "emergency" coalition meeting

2

Research!America

[Research!America Statement on Devastating Staff Cuts at Health and Human Services Endangering Americans' Health, Prosperity](#)

3

Friends of AHRQ

2 "emergency" coalition meetings

SHEA Appropriations Priorities

Existing Programs

- NHSN
- Antibiotics Resistance Solutions Initiative
- Advanced Molecular Detection program
- CDC ELC program: healthcare-associated infections and antimicrobial resistance
- Data Modernization Initiative
- AHRQ top-line

Proposed Funding

- NIAID funding for infection prevention and antimicrobial stewardship

Monitoring – Currently Not Prioritized

- Center for Forecasting and Outbreak Analytics
- NETEC National Special Pathogens System of Care (NSPS)

Grassroots Advocacy Events and Activities

- January 19 – 2024 “Wrapped” year in review and advocate recognition
- January 30 – Advocate Update and Discussion Forum
- February 24 – Virtual Hill Visits Advocate Training (recorded)
- March 2025 – SHEA Virtual Hill Visits
- May 12 - First 100 Days Advocate Update and Discussion Forum



March SHEA Virtual Hill Visits

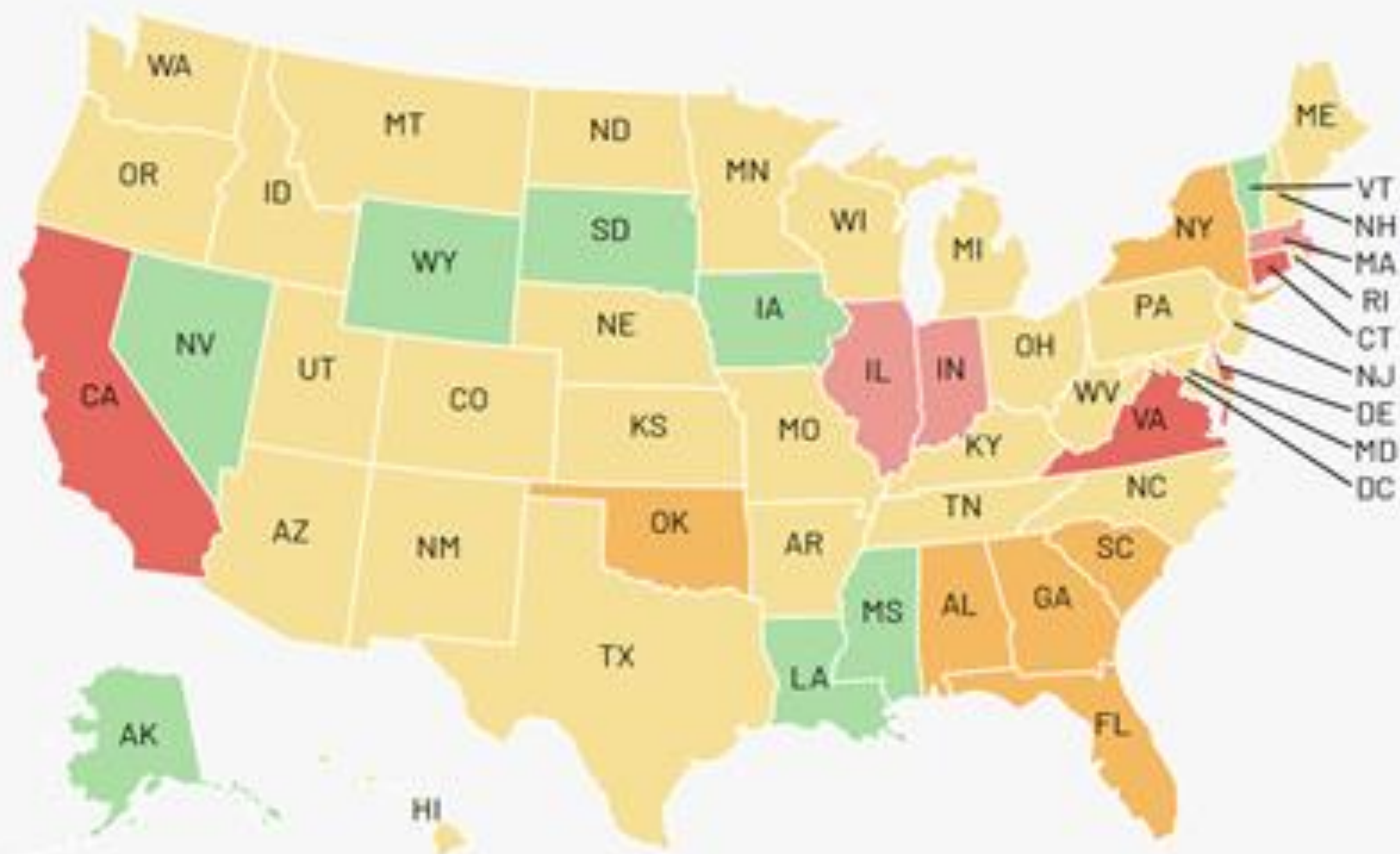
As of April 10:

- 34 advocates
- 33 meetings
- State delegations

States visited:

- Colorado
- Delaware
- Georgia
- Indiana
- Maryland
- Massachusetts
- Michigan
- Minnesota
- New Jersey
- New York
- North Carolina
- Texas
- Washington
- Wisconsin

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Question: Which of the following actions have you taken (or plan to take) in response to recent federal policy and funding changes impacting public health?

- Talking to family members about the impact of NIH and research funding cuts
- Emailing Congress, regular phone calls to senator
- Discuss at faculty meetings
- Participating in rallies/Nationwide rallies
- Attend local town Hall meetings
- Planning local town hall to address misinformation, provide education, and advocate for public health support
- Submitted a letter to the editor at my hometown newspaper
- Trying to plan for uncertainty of program future
- Trying to provide mental health support for employees and ex staff
- Advocacy via my union
- Signed petitions
- Education of the public and advocacy

Opportunities for Advocacy through SHEA

[9 Simple Ways to Advocacy for SHEA](#) (log in required)

1. Contact your elected officials
2. Stay informed – bi-weekly Policy Update emails
3. Tell us your story
4. Submit an editorial to your local newspaper
5. Maintain your membership profile
6. Tell a friend
7. Engage your institution's government affairs office
8. Volunteer for focus groups, calls to action, etc.
9. Educate yourself and colleagues