

Federal Funding and Local Impact:

ENSURING OUR COMMUNITY THRIVES

The Essential Partnership Between Federal Funding and the Nonprofit Sector

The federal government cannot maintain direct service operations in every community across America. Instead, federal agencies strategically fund nonprofits with deep local roots and established presence. This partnership delivers essential services efficiently and responsively, maximizing impact while minimizing bureaucracy. It ensures federal resources translate into meaningful support that reflects each community's unique needs, creating an important partnership with the nonprofit sector that is critical to our community's stability.

To better understand how individuals and families would be affected by potential federal funding disruptions, United Way of Greater Cincinnati and other local funders surveyed more than 100 nonprofit organizations over a three-week period. Survey results, paired with data from national, state and local sources, help illustrate the broad impact of federal funding on the overall well-being of our region.



\$1.3 billion

In federal funding received by 625 nonprofit organizations in Greater Cincinnati in 2022



1.2 million

Services delivered annually with federal funding



Two out of three nonprofits would face difficult choices without federal funding

Amplifying Public Investment Through Local Partnerships

Federal funding to nonprofits isn't simply a financial transaction – it's an intentional, strategic design that benefits our entire community:

- **Nonprofits serve as essential partners** in fulfilling government obligations to citizens.
- **Local expertise and community trust** enhance the effectiveness of federal programs.
- **Partnerships leverage resources** – federal investments help nonprofits secure additional funding.
- **Service delivery remains responsive** to unique community needs and conditions.

The Reach and Scale of Federally Funded Services

The impact of federal funding in our region is broad and significant.

In 2022, over 625 nonprofit organizations across Greater Cincinnati reported receiving \$1.3 billion in federal funding. In our recent survey, two-thirds of nonprofits reported federal funding accounts for at least 25% of their overall operating budget. They consider it a critical source of revenue to deliver services to the community. Most of the funding flowed from the departments of Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development, Education, Justice, Agriculture and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Federal funds support a broad spectrum of human services across our region: essential needs, housing, workforce development, physical and mental health services, and educational programs for children and youth. With this critical support, nonprofit organizations in Greater Cincinnati reach thousands of community members, with individual programs serving anywhere from 200 to 250,000 people annually.

Collectively, survey respondents indicated that more than 1.2 million services were delivered with federal funding annually. That's the equivalent of providing a service to nearly one in every two people in Greater Cincinnati.

Community Stability Requires Public Funding Stability

Our community relies on the continuity of services provided by federal government support. When federal funding is disrupted, even temporarily, it highlights how vital these resources are to maintaining stable support systems.

Without this funding:

- **Two out of three nonprofit service providers would face difficult choices about service reductions or closures within just six months.**
- Many organizations would be unable to continue providing essential services that are vital to our community's stability, such as housing assistance, food security programs, early childhood education, and workforce development and adult education.

We All Play a Part in the Solution

This challenge requires all of us working together. The impact of federal funding affects our entire community's economic well-being. Together, we can:

- Recognize the importance of stable federal funding to our community's well-being.
- Share real stories of community impact to demonstrate the value of these partnerships.
- Advocate for reliable, sustainable funding that supports critical services in our community.
- Collaborate across sectors to strengthen our region's capacity to serve all residents.

By living united, we strengthen the partnerships, systems and solutions that help our entire community thrive – now and in the future.