

University of Maine System

Federal Impact Snapshot - May 28, 2025



The University of Maine System (UMS) is the state's largest educational and economic development enterprise. Led by the state's only Carnegie-classified R1 institution, the University of Maine, the System has long partnered with the federal government to advance activities to benefit students' career preparation, our state's quality of life and economic growth, and the nation's competitiveness and security. Consistent with our public mission and commitment to transparency, UMS is issuing this current snapshot of known impacts of federal funding changes on our statewide education, research, and public service. Due to the pace of federal directives and related responses, this information is subject to change, and the System is limited in what details can be shared while impacts are assessed.

Impacted Federal Awards

Maine's public universities have experienced a range of impacts on federal grants, including:

Terminations: Awards officially cancelled or ended by the federal government with no expectation of resumed funding, though an appeal process may be available.

Pauses: Awards where UMS has been formally notified that activity must be suspended and any costs incurred will not be allowable, typically for a period of time defined in the notification letter.

Unknown: In some instances, UMS has not received any notice from a federal agency but can no longer access or "draw down" previously awarded funding. In these cases, the status of the award is unclear, but it is characterized below as being paused.

As of May 28, 42 federal awards that originally totaled \$50 million to UMS are currently impacted, primarily at UMaine. The total balance remaining on the 23 awards for which termination notices have been received is \$7.8 million, while \$17.1 million remains on the 19 paused awards. An additional \$21.2 million across 10 awards that were previously announced but for which the final terms and conditions were still being negotiated with a federal agency have also been terminated or are on hold. Another 44 previously affected awards with a total remaining balance of \$6.2 million have been restored, including those associated with Maine Sea Grant (see below). The System continues to explore avenues of appeal and is actively working with Maine's Congressional Delegation, federal agencies, the State of Maine, professional societies, and other key partners to understand impacts, restore funding where possible, and develop strategies for moving forward.

Impact on the Ground: Farmers, Fishermen & Loggers Lose Maine AgrAbility

UMaine is unable to access its federal funding for a popular Cooperative Extension program that helps Maine farmers, fishermen, and loggers work safely and more productively.

The university received no notice but has been unable to draw down funding from the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) since early April to support [Maine AgrAbility](#) activities. NIFA is an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and AgrAbility is a national program that provides education and technical assistance to farmers and other natural resource workers, including those whose businesses have been impacted by an injury, illness, or chronic condition. Given the uncertainty about when and if funding will be restored, the university has canceled all Maine AgrAbility upcoming trainings and direct client services.

Each year, Maine AgrAbility serves more than 1,600 workers in the state's heritage industries, enabling their upward mobility and the growth of our state's rural economy. For example, UMaine recently delivered training to more than 100 loggers in Hancock County on preventing slips, trips, and falls on the work site as part of the Professional Logging Contractors of the Northeast spring safety training. Participation in the training helps loggers reduce their risk of injury, maintain their professional certification and lower the rates of their workers' compensation coverage.

Other Recent Updates

- Amid unprecedented uncertainty, last week [Trustees approved](#) a **UMS FY26 budget** but cautioned that workforce reductions could come if the Legislature does not provide the State appropriation proposed by Governor Mills and federal funding is further impacted.
- The world-class **UMaine Advanced Structures and Composites Center** (ASCC) has laid off nine employees effective June 6 due to disruptions in federal funding, including the suspension of three U.S. Department of Energy awards. More than 85% of ASCC's funding comes from the federal government. Since 1996, the center has supported hands-on paid research learning for 2,900 student workers and cutting-edge research and development to improve the nation's economic competitiveness, energy independence, advanced manufacturing, civil infrastructure, and defense.
- Effective April 28, [funding has been restored](#) by the Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for **Maine Sea Grant** to continue its critical science and outreach to benefit Maine's working waterfronts and marine economy. The restoration resulted from U.S. Sen. Susan Collins' intervention and the support of thousands of Mainers, including fishermen and sea farmers who have benefited from the partnership program since its founding in 1971 and who directly shape its activities.
- UMaine will honor all **financial offers made to graduate students for the next academic year**, yet amid increasing funding uncertainty, is [limiting new offers for teaching and research assistantships](#). While other public and private universities nationwide have rescinded financial offers and even admission for graduate students, UMaine is maintaining access and opportunity because of its careful fiscal management and commitment to being a learner-centered R1 that prioritizes student engagement.

University of Maine System Federal Funding Overview

In FY24, UMS received \$226.1 million in federal funds. This included \$137.8 million in federal student financial aid, including federal Pell Grants (\$35.8 million), federal student loan funding (\$92.2 million), and federal work-study (\$3.3 million); \$87.9 million in federal grants, contracts, and appropriations; and \$355,000 in pandemic-related relief. Please note that the grants and contracts figure reflects actual federal revenues recognized in the System's FY24 financial statements and not all awards issued or pass-through funds.

For More Information

UMS provides ongoing federal updates relevant to faculty, staff, and students at maine.edu/federal-transition-information/. Members of the media with requests for additional information related to federal impacts on the System should contact Chief External & Governmental Affairs Officer Sam Warren at samantha.warren@maine.edu.