



Federal Impact Survey Results



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North American Association
for Environmental Education

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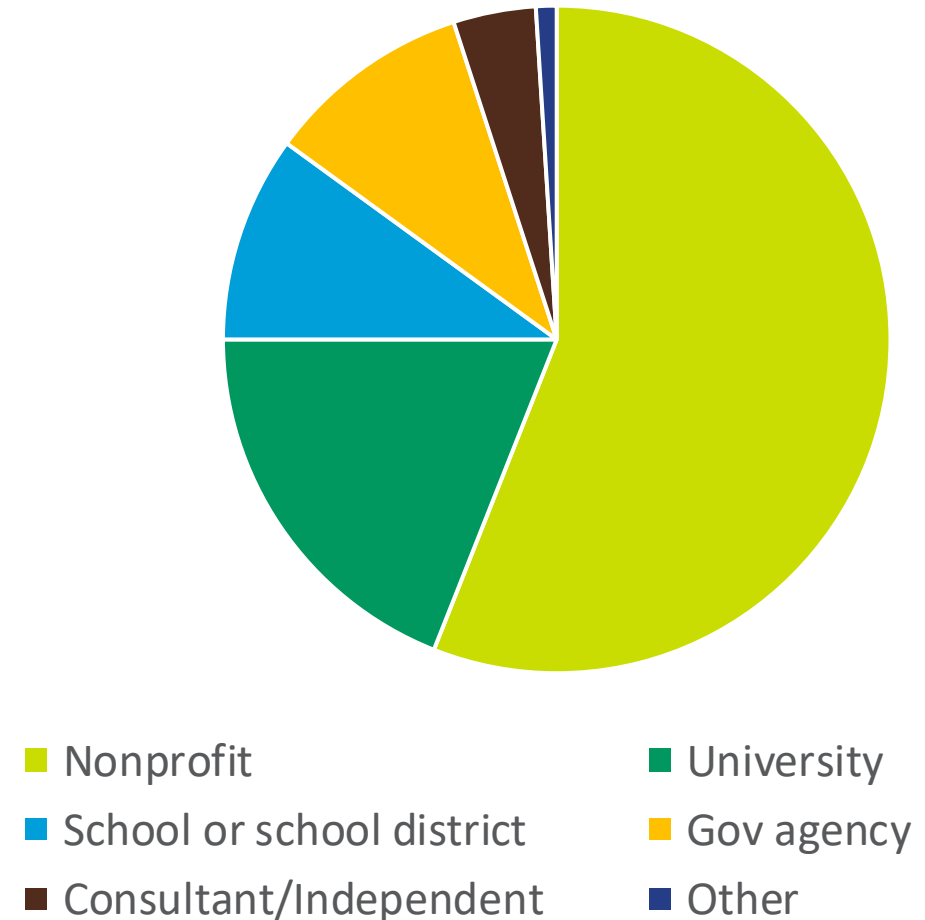
February 10—March 13, 2025

We heard from **208 respondents** representing individuals and organizations based in 38 states.

Program service areas mentioned include

- **all 50 U.S. states and District of Columbia**
- **national and regional organizations**
- **organizations in Canada and Puerto Rico**

Responses by Sector



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Types of U.S. Government Support Received by Respondents



86% Grants

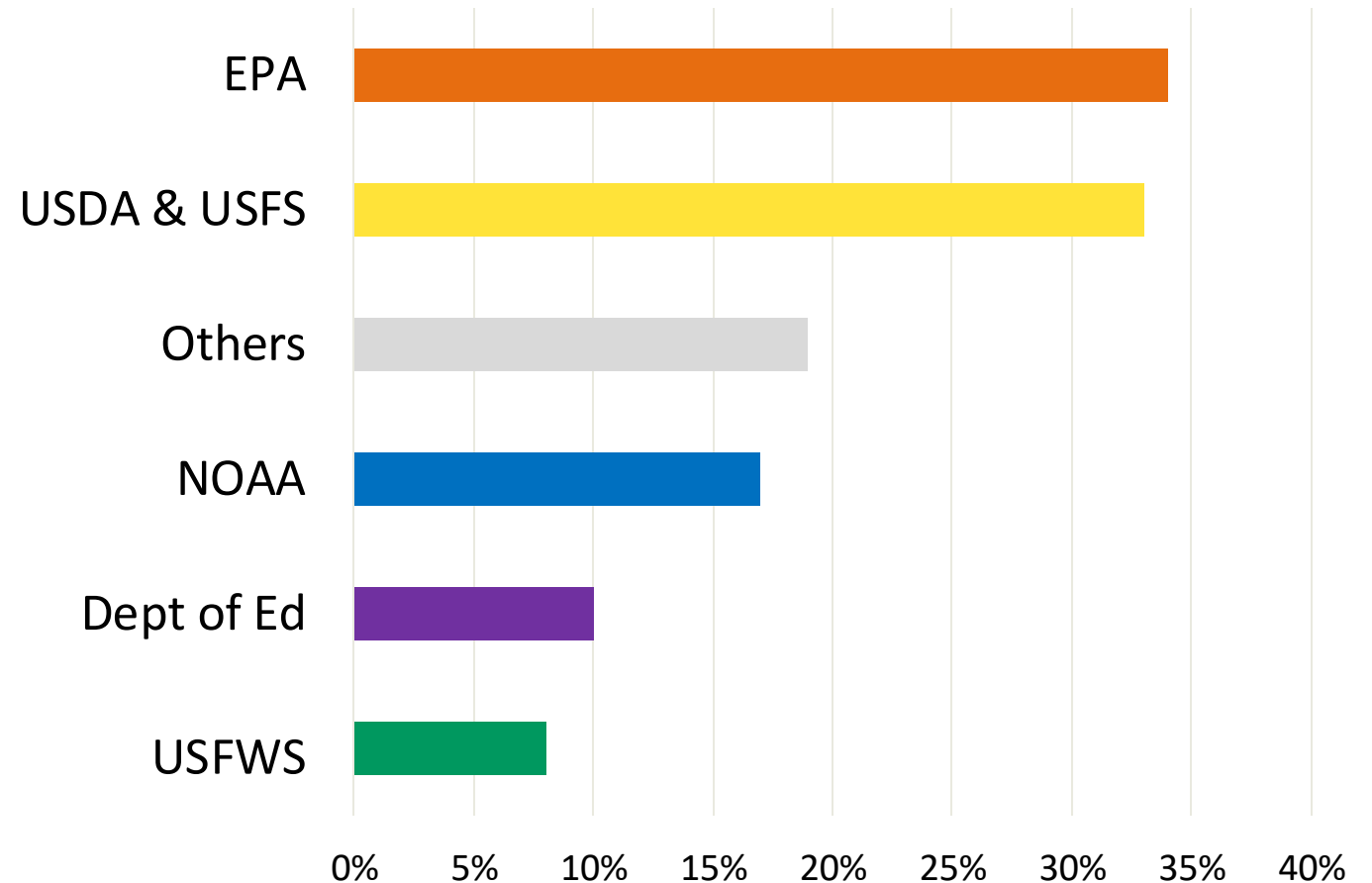


27% Cooperative Agreements



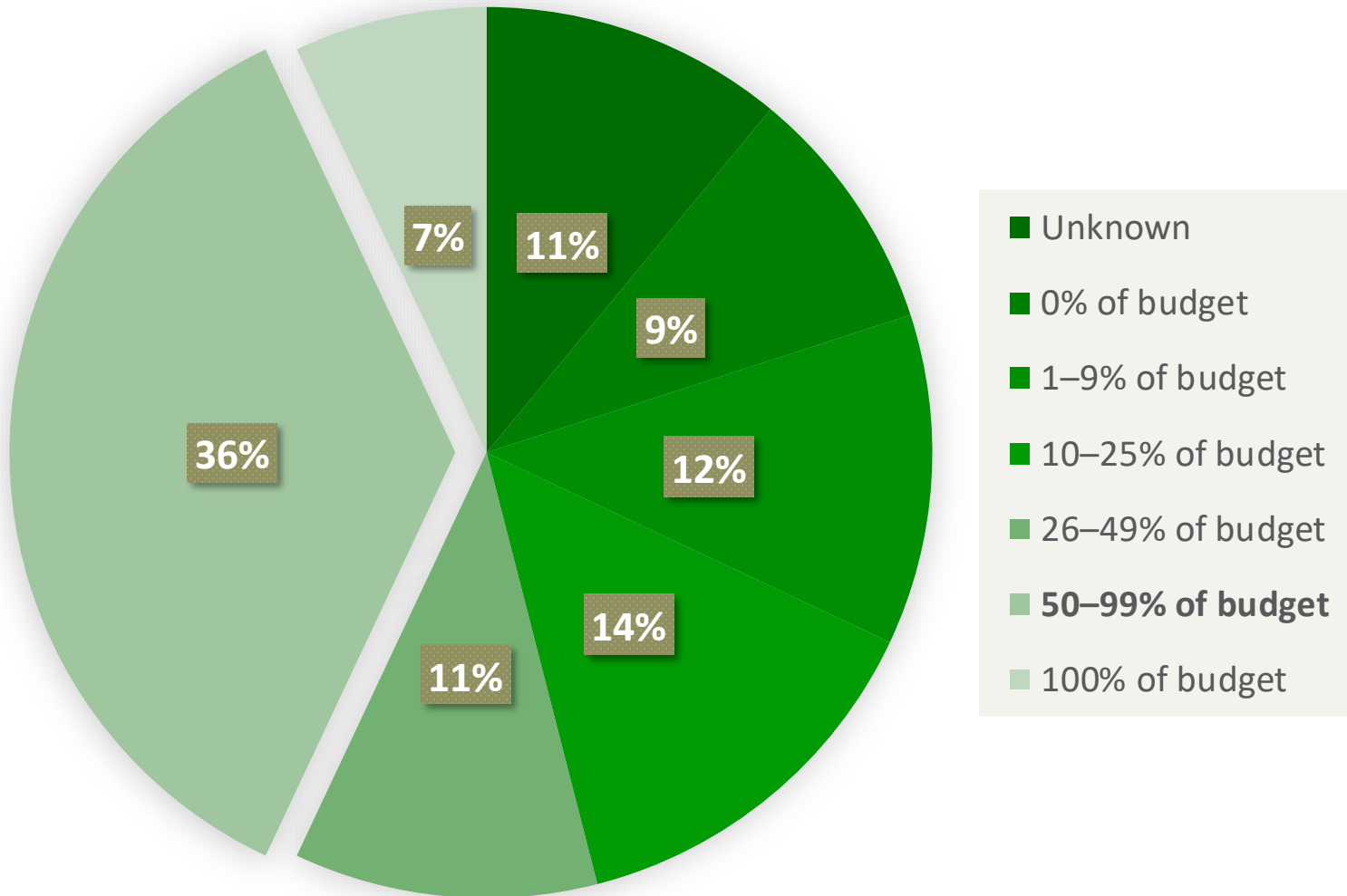
26% Contracts

Agency as Funding Source



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Percent of Budget Affected by Federal Cuts



Financial Challenges

- Only **13%** of organizations have more than a year of reserves.
- **19%** have three months or less.
- More than **42% estimate they could lose 50–100%** of their funding, with 13% identifying 75–100% at risk.

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Immediate Consequences

- More than **60%** of respondents are deeply concerned about the future of their programs and organizations.
- **42%** have already faced staff reductions or expect them soon.
- **40%** have had to pause or cancel programs.
- **46%** are concerned about cuts' disproportionate impact on vulnerable communities
- **9%** have been told to avoid using terms like *climate change*, *intercultural*, *social equity*, *empowering students*, and *multiculturalism*.



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Primary Issues of Concern

Funding and Resource Uncertainty

- Difficulty recruiting and maintaining human resources
- Cuts to grants and federal aid threaten staffing, program delivery and expansion and continuity
- Impacts long-term planning and ongoing projects

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Efforts

- Challenges related to civil rights, equity, inclusivity, particularly for marginalized communities (e.g. BIPOC, LGBTQIA+, students with disabilities)
- Limitations on DEI language and initiatives affect funding, programs
- DEI-focused educational efforts (incl. STEM and climate change education) under threat

Climate Change and Environmental Issues

- Funding and operational uncertainties for education, research, and outreach efforts on climate change, conservation, and environmental sustainability
- Impacts on renewable energy projects, habitat restoration, and coastal resilience programs

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Primary Issues of Concern

Education and Outreach

- Reduced access to professional development for educators and resources for students
- Threats to special education, Title 1 programs, and hands-on, science-based learning opportunities
- Challenges to engaging with urban, underserved, and low-income communities through outreach efforts

Operational and Programmatic Impacts

- Programs may be scaled back or suspended due to funding freezes or reallocations
- Reduced capacity to address food security, workforce development, and public health issues tied to environmental projects
- Concerns over maintaining organizational commitments and partnerships

General Uncertainty and Anxiety

- Pervasive sense of instability and hesitancy around current and future program planning
- Impact on morale for staff, volunteers, and communities served by these initiatives

What's at Risk:

- Initiatives that protect civil rights and support equitable solutions to environmental and social issues
- Programs providing access for low-income families, people of color, youth, and underserved communities
- Climate change education and conservation education efforts
- PreK–12 programming in agriculture, nutrition, and outdoor learning
- Research and evaluation to help support effective practice throughout
- Civic engagement and democracy work



Staffing Impacts

"We may have to lay off our hourly and temporary grant employees or even more. This would significantly reduce our ability to conduct our programs which usually reach over 5000 students each year. **We are fully booked with field trips this spring but would have to cancel those trips if we lose half of our staff.**"

"Grants fund about 40 positions with direct contact with students in a variety of situations. **The loss of federal funds would be devastating.**"

"The freeze on grant funding has effectively eradicated three positions..."

"Consultants who work with the government have been laid off. Our group has **lost 65% of its staff.**"

Programmatic Impacts

"So little clarity, and what appears to be little thought, is generating at least half of the chaos being experienced. A lack of clarity with regard to the status of funds, programs, etc., within one's own organization and among all those one works with is **paralyzing and costly** to the say the least."

"One of our grants is a **reimbursement grant**, so do we outlay the funds not knowing if we will get them back?"

"Multiples of our programs have received **stop-work orders** and staff have already been furloughed or laid off."

"I have multiple, high-quality grants that were **denied based on using the words *climate* or *education*.**"

Programmatic Impacts

“The elimination of federal funding sources, such as Title I grants for high-poverty schools, could result in **reduced resources for essential programs, including reading specialist initiatives**. Schools will not be able to fund the necessary resources and PD that will assist students in targeted intervention and programs.”

“If there is a federal funding freeze, we will **lose a \$100k EPA grant supporting training teachers to implement watershed education into their classrooms.**”

“Many of our **low incoming families and students would be severely impacted**. Students with special needs would have fewer resources and support. This would clearly be a situation where those in the most need would be the most hurt.”

"We are no longer allowed to mention anything about **diversity, equity, inclusion, previously underserved communities, climate change, evidence based, rural, trans, LGBTQ+, Indigenous peoples, minorities, urban, women.**"