

# It's Hurricane Season, Politically and Otherwise

October 30, 2025

[www.massnonprofitnet.org](http://www.massnonprofitnet.org)



# Attribution

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- President Kennedy news conference, August 1962
- Question – “How is your aching back?”
- Answer – “Well, it depends on the weather, political and otherwise.”

# Quick Background on MNN

- Over 700 member organizations – 550 nonprofit members and 150 affiliate members
- Services – advocacy, networking, events, information, communications
- Advocacy at all levels of government
- Statewide conference Oct 22 in Worcester – Atty General Campbell, keynote panel, honorees
- Always welcoming new members

# NCN Newsletter for MNN Members

- NCN's Nonprofit Champion Newsletter



**Nonprofit Champion**  
August 25, 2025

**N** National Council of Nonprofits

**MNN** Massachusetts Nonprofit Network

This bi-weekly newsletter on public policy issues affecting nonprofits is provided as a benefit of membership in the [Massachusetts Nonprofit Network](#), part of the nationwide network of the [National Council of Nonprofits](#).

**Federal News**

## Submit Public Comments by September 17 to Oppose Proposed Overhaul of Public Service Loan Forgiveness

The U.S. Department of Education proposed a new rule on August 18 to unlawfully limit which charitable nonprofits qualify as eligible employers under the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program. Nonprofits and the public now have until September 17 to submit public comments opposing the proposed rule and making it more difficult for nonprofits to attract the most effective workforce needed to serve their communities. For more information on the proposed rule, read the National Council of Nonprofits' (NCN) analysis. NCN's comment guide includes clear directions on how to submit your comments, points to raise, and background information on the proposed rule.

[\[Read more\]](#)



## Nonprofits Participate in National Nonprofit Day on August 17

On August 17 — National Nonprofit Day — nonprofit organizations and their champions nationwide came together to celebrate the local organizations, employees, and volunteers who strengthen our communities every day. From the peaks of Idaho to the shores of Delaware, the National Council of Nonprofits Network mobilized through our [Nonprofits Get It Done](#) campaign to spotlight and honor the essential role of local nonprofits in improving lives across America.

While the holiday has passed, it is still not too late to join us in amplifying the essential work of nonprofits. You can participate by posting on social media with our hashtag [#NonprofitsGetItDone](#), using our [tools and graphics](#) to continue to spread the message, and by [telling Congress to stand with nonprofits](#).

[\[Read more\]](#)

## In Focus: Federal Rulemaking and Public Comments

Recently, access to a federal data link used by the public to submit comments to federal agencies on proposed rules and regulations was cut off, making it harder to submit online comments and decreasing transparency and accountability.

[\[Read more\]](#)

# Agenda Today

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- A) What's happening – policy, politics, courts
- B) What nonprofits say and are going through
- C) How you can help
- D) Conclusion

# First – Our Strengths

- The nonprofit sector is large, and prominent, in every part of Massachusetts
- The sector is innovative and resilient
- We have great lessons, examples, and inspiration from those who came before us

# A) What's Happening - Hurricanes

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- Cat 3: Funding cuts and changes
- Cat 4: Issue-specific policy changes
- Cat 5: Government operations changes
- Cat 6: Possible responses to court cases

# Cat 3: Funding Cuts

- First move in January – executive order to freeze all federal grants and contracts
- Legal opposition quickly from NCN/Democracy Forward and coalition of Attorneys General
- Additional waves – cuts tied to policy, impoundment battle, pocket rescissions
- Latest battle – FY 2026 federal budget

# Cat 4: Policy Issues

- Many issues, many agencies, many changes
- Administration top focus areas include:
  - Racial equity and DEI work
  - Clean energy
  - Immigration
  - Public benefits
- Mostly via executive orders; Congressional action limited by Senate filibuster threat

# Cat 5: Govt Operations

- Many issues here as well – large and structural
- Extent of presidential powers
- Large threats to nonprofits – attempts to revoke tax-exempt status, investigations, threats, payment and practice demands
- The last three threats are being applied to other sectors too – law, media, and large corporations

# Cat 6: Court cases

- Above the question of cases' final outcomes – the question of compliance
- So far a lot of “working the lines” – just inbounds vs. just out of bounds
- Largest question - will there be full compliance with Supreme Court rulings
- And then the question of response

# Pause for Questions/ Comments

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# B) What Nonprofits Say - Survey

- Event with The Boston Foundation and MassINC Polling Group on May 5 - 1200 registered
- Presentation of survey results
- Panel discussion with Shanique Rodriguez of Massachusetts Voter Table, Mary Skelton Roberts of Philanthropy Massachusetts, and Diane Yentel of the National Council of Nonprofits





# The Shifting Federal Landscape: Massachusetts Nonprofits Raise the Alarm

Results from a survey of nonprofits in Massachusetts

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May 5, 2025

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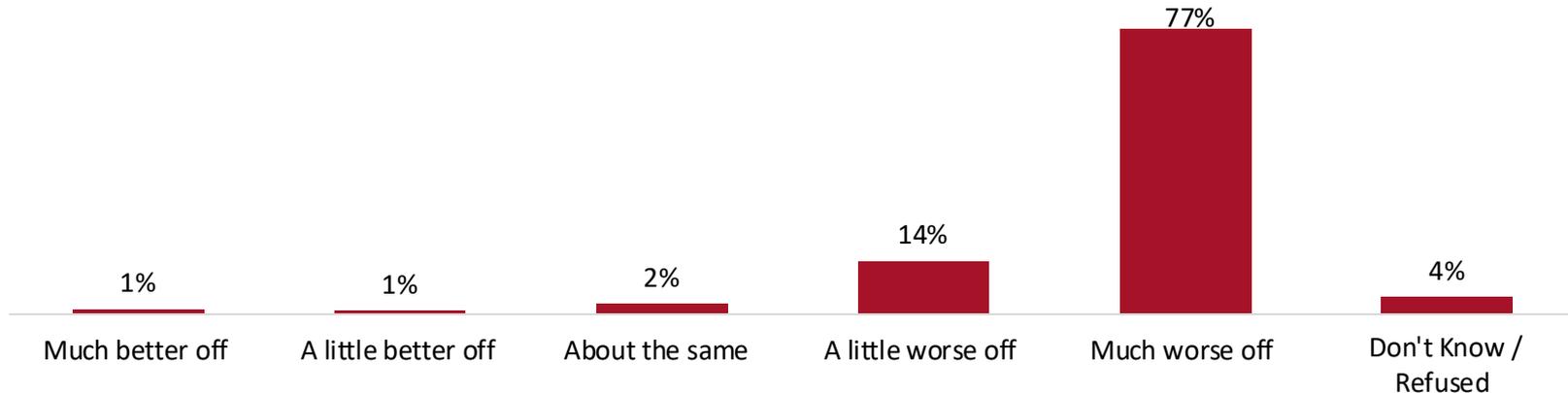


# How will Massachusetts fare under Trump?

- A large majority say the state will be “much worse off” under the new administration, with just 2% saying the state will be better off.

**Nearly all think Massachusetts will be worse off, most say “much worse”**

*% who say Massachusetts will be \_\_\_\_\_ under the new administration*



# Loss of funding is top of mind for nonprofits

- A majority (58%) of respondents anticipate funding cuts under the new administration; 8% have already lost funding.
- This is a very high level of agreement for an open-ended question, demonstrating consistent concern.

## Most orgs anticipate funding cuts, impact on populations served

*% of open-ended comments that cite each impact*



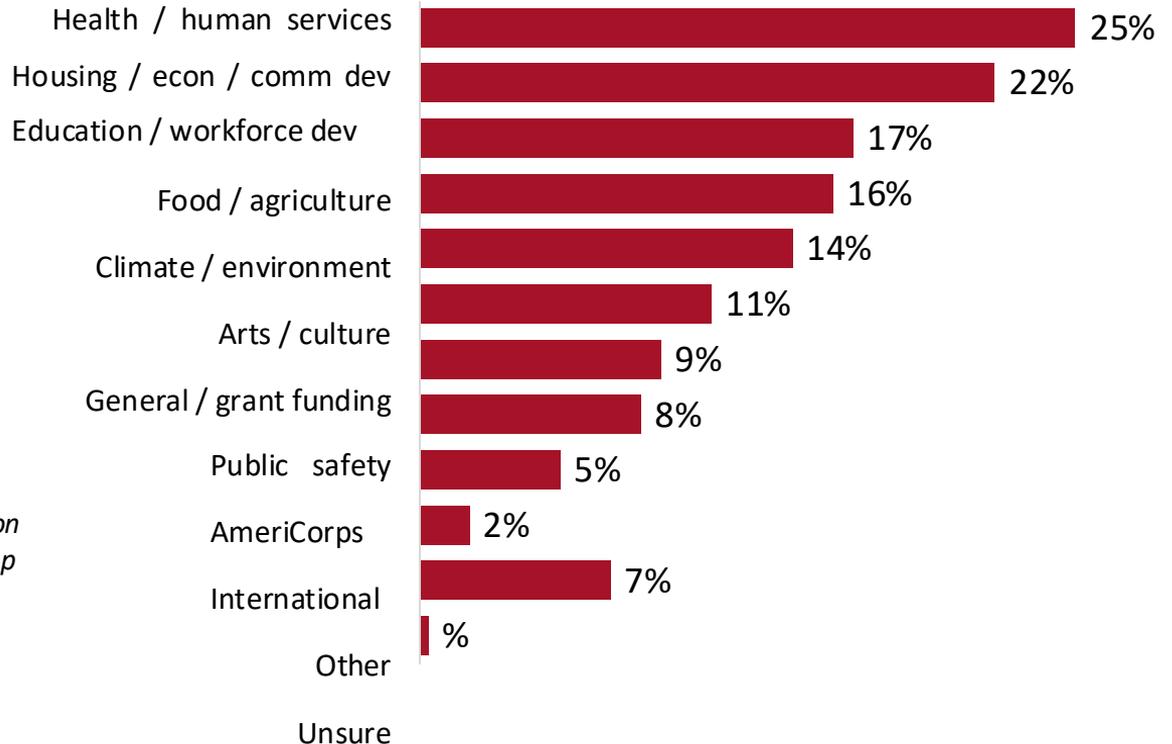
*Q: ... In a few words, how do you think the work of your organization will be affected by the new administration? **Open-ended question***

# Types of funding expected to be cut

- Most expect cuts to funds for health services (25%), housing (22%), and education (17%).
- Respondents also anticipate reductions in food (16%), climate (14%), and arts funding (11%).

*Q: Asked of those who receive federal funding: What specific types of federal funding that your organization receives do you think might decrease under the Trump administration? **Open-ended question***

## Health, housing, education among top anticipated funding to decrease *% of open-ended response that mention each type of funding*

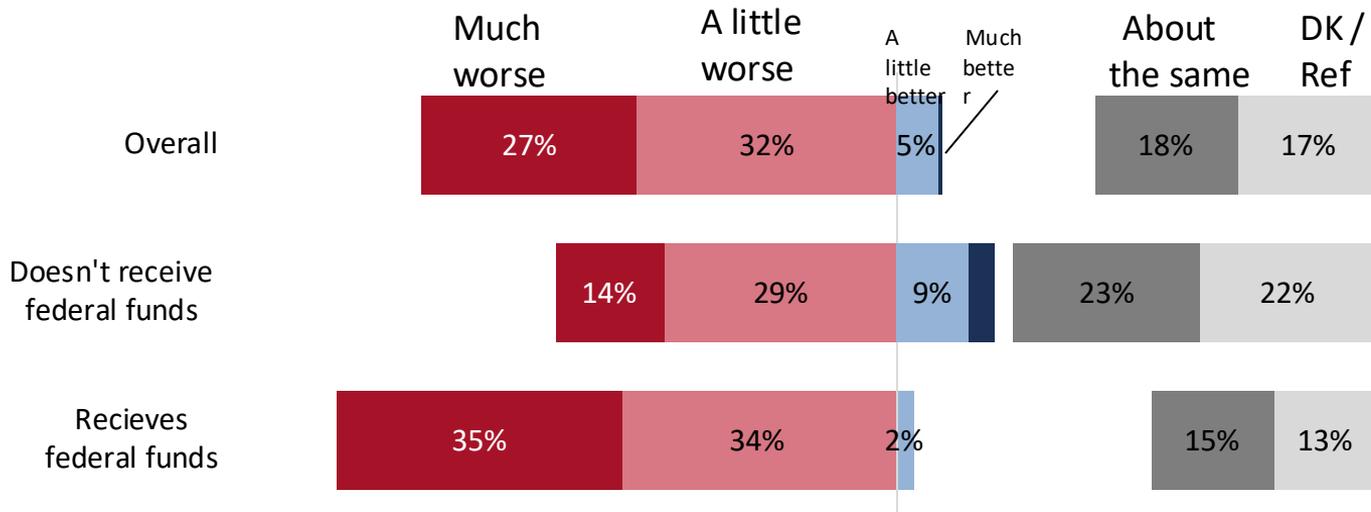


# Most anticipate a financial decline in the next year

- A majority (59%) believe their org's financial condition will be worse off in a year from now, with orgs that receive federal funding more pessimistic. Many are also uncertain.

## Most anticipate worsening financial condition, particularly those receiving fed funds

*% who say their organization's financial condition will be \_\_\_ in a year from now*



# Pause for Questions/ Comments

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# C) How You Can Help

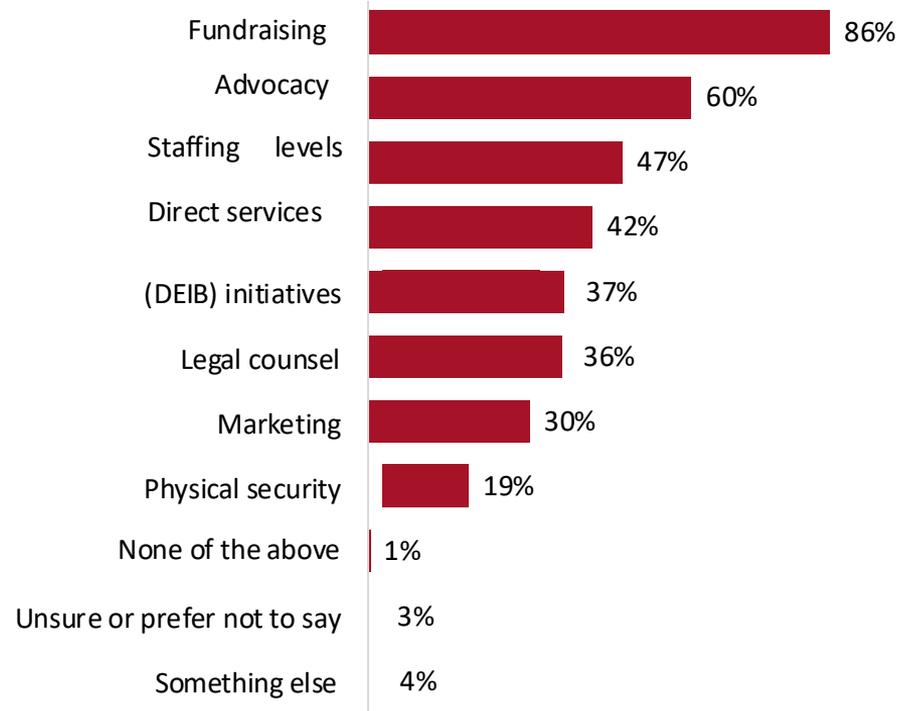
- Your substantive work is as important as ever
- Different today – the scale of the federal threat and the unlikelihood of federal relief (vs pandemic)
- Uniquely valuable today – your emotional support for colleagues, and your strategic work to navigate high uncertainty and existential threats

# Fundraising tops nonprofits list of future needs

- Fundraising is the clear top need nonprofits currently anticipate, cited by 86% of respondents.
- Organizations also anticipate increased needs in advocacy (60%), staffing (47%), direct services (42%).

## Nonprofits see increased need for fundraising, advocacy

*% who anticipate increased need in each aspect of their work*



# D) Conclusion

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- Remember that our predecessors experienced
  - Wars
  - Pandemics
  - Civil rights battles
  - Horribly long struggles to raise, advance and win issues
  - Oppression, ridicule, violence and death
- And they triumphed

# The Rest of the Quote

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- Part 1 of the answer – “Well, it depends on the weather, political and otherwise”

# The Rest of the Quote

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- Part 1 of the answer – “Well, it depends on the weather, political and otherwise.”
- Part 2 – “It is very good, though, today.”

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