

Trump Administration Cuts \$400M in Federal Funding to Columbia University

The Trump administration has announced the cancellation of \$400 million in federal funding for Columbia University, citing the school's insufficient efforts to address antisemitism on campus. Multiple federal agencies made the announcement on Friday, stating that grants and contracts would be revoked due to the university's handling of the issue.

Five days ago, federal agencies revealed they were considering halting \$51 million in contracts with the New York City institution and reassessing its eligibility for more than \$5 billion in future federal funding.

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The decision follows Columbia's recent steps to establish a new disciplinary committee and increase investigations into students who have been critical of Israel. Despite these actions, U.S. Education Secretary Linda McMahon stated that the university has "abandoned" its responsibility to protect Jewish students.

"Universities must comply with all federal antidiscrimination laws if they are going to receive federal funding. For too long, Columbia has abandoned that obligation to Jewish students studying on its campus," McMahon said in a statement on Friday.

Columbia is pledging to cooperate with the government in an effort to restore the lost funding.

"We take Columbia's legal obligations seriously and understand how serious this announcement is and are committed to combatting antisemitism and ensuring the safety and well-being of our students, faculty, and staff," the university said in a statement.

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It's unclear which specific research projects or programs at Columbia will be impacted by the funding cuts. The university said it is reviewing the decision. The Education Department, along with the Health and Justice Departments and the General Services Administration, issued the announcement, but further details were not available at the time of publication.

Columbia is the first university targeted in President Trump's broader initiative to crack down on colleges accused of allowing antisemitism to take root in the wake of the gruesome Hamas massacre and kidnappings of Israelis on October 7, 2023.

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