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Trump administration pauses work on annual federal worker charity drive

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2025/08/29/trump-administration-pauses-charity-campaign/>

The Combined Federal Campaign offers federal employees an opportunity to contribute part of their paycheck to causes they want to support.

[Meryl Kornfield](#) August 29, 2025

The Trump administration has paused work on an upcoming federal workers' charity drive, the largest of its kind in the country, as the Office of Personnel Management considers whether the initiative should proceed.

The Combined Federal Campaign, which has since the 1960s given nearly \$9 billion to charities, offers federal workers an opportunity to contribute part of their paycheck to causes they want to support. But progress on organizing the drive has stopped, according to a note shared through the CFC website, which says that OPM "issued a 'Stop Work Order' on Aug. 26, 2025, affecting all 2025 CFC activities, including the scheduled website launch set for Sept. 2, 2025."

OPM spokeswoman McLaurine Pinover said no decision has been made on whether the agency will proceed with the charity drive this year.

OPM has not provided more information about what led to the pause, but it has surprised many in the nonprofit world who have long counted on the CFC for fundraising through administrations of both parties. The charities for this year's drive have paid application and listing fees to be included and are now wondering what will happen.

"Frankly, I don't understand or know why the government wouldn't run the campaign," said Jim Starr, president and CEO of America's Charities, which is supporting about 100 charities in the campaign. "No taxpayer dollars are used to fund it, all the costs of the campaign are absorbed by the participating charities, and it's a great way for government employees to support charitable causes that they care about in their community and across the country."

Starr said charities have learned about the news from their networks but have not heard from OPM about the fate of the campaign.

Help us report on the Trump administration

The causes that the CFC supports range broadly and include food banks, charities supporting veterans and disaster relief organizations. Its largest charities include St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, the Red Cross and Doctors Without Borders.

Last year, the drive raised \$66 million, down slightly from \$68 million the previous year.

Nearly half of the funds raised last year went to support charities in the mid-Atlantic region, according to an analysis by [Charity Choices](#), an organization that collects the drive's annual data from OPM.

Some of the nonprofits, such as Planned Parenthood, have already faced grant and funding cuts through the Trump administration's crackdown on government spending.

"This will essentially be throwing salt in the wounds for these types of organizations," Starr said.

Trump team debates ending federal employees' fundraising arm that has given \$9 billion to charities

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/us-politics/trump-charity-federal-campaign-paused-b2816792.html>

Combined Federal Campaign allows federal employees to donate a portion of their paycheck to charitable organizations

[Ariana Baio](#) 30 August 2025



A charity drive that falls under the Office of Personnel Management has been paused, right before it was supposed to kick off (*Getty Images*) A charity drive that falls under the Office of Personnel Management has been paused, right before it was supposed to kick off (*Getty Images*)

From reproductive rights to climate change to Big Tech, The Independent is on the ground when the story is developing. Whether it's investigating the financials of Elon Musk's pro-Trump PAC or producing our latest documentary, 'The A Word', which shines a light on the American women

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The Trump administration has paused work on a decades-old charitable arm of the government which allows federal workers to donate part of their paycheck to a cause, while officials decide whether to keep the program going, according to a recent report.

The Combined Federal Campaign, which falls under the Office of Personnel Management, has raised more than \$9 billion for charitable organizations since the early 1960s, including St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Doctors Without Borders USA, Feeding America, the Wounded Warrior Project, and more.

But ahead of its 2025 solicitation period, when federal employees can pledge their time and money to [charities](#), it has paused work, the [Washington Post reported](#) on Friday.

A note, which the *Post* reported was on the Combined Federal Campaign website, says that the Office of Personnel Management issued a "Stop Work Order" on August 26, affecting the organization's upcoming website launch which was set for September.

The Independent has asked the Office of Personnel Management for comment.

A charity drive that falls under the Office of Personnel Management has been paused, right before it was supposed to kick off (*Getty Images*)

It's unclear what exactly led the administration to pause the Combined Federal Campaign recently.

A spokesperson for the Office of Personnel Management told the *Post* that the administration has not made a decision on whether or not they will continue with the charity drive this year.

However, the administration has taken a harsh stance on the government supporting organizations that do not align with President [Donald Trump](#)'s policies – including by charitable means.

This past year, administration officials revoked funding from the U.S. Agency for International Development and essentially gutted the federal agency for supporting charitable endeavors that it did not agree with.

Some of the major charities that federal workers have donated the most to include Planned Parenthood Federation of America, which has [had Medicaid funding revoked as part of Trump's signature legislation](#); National Public Radio Inc., which Trump has railed against and [signed an executive order to revoke funding for](#); and the American Civil Liberties Union Foundation, the charitable arm of the organization that has filed countless lawsuits against the administration.

“Frankly, I don’t understand or know why the government wouldn’t run the campaign,” Jim Starr, the president and CEO of America’s Charities, which supports charities in the Combined Federal Campaign, told the Post.

“No taxpayer dollars are used to fund it, all the costs of the campaign are absorbed by the participating charities, and it’s a great way for government employees to support charitable causes that they care about in their community and across the country,” Starr added.

Starr said several charities learned about the paused charity drive from their networks, rather than directly from the Office of Personnel Management.

Some of those charities have already paid application and listing fees to be included in the charity drive for this year.

Combined Federal Campaign Expected To Be Shelved At Last Minute

https://thenonprofittimes.com/npt_articles/combined-federal-campaign-expected-to-be-shelved-at-last-minute/

[Paul Clolery](#) August 31, 2025

Work on the annual Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) has been halted by the federal Office of Personnel Management (OPM) just weeks prior to the annual workplace giving program for federal workers was to launch.

While the OPM has not acknowledged the work stoppage nor commented, numerous news accounts starting with *The Washington Post* reported that the OPM issued a stop work order on August 26, which will impact the campaign's website construction and launch.

A nonprofit executive told *The NonProfit Times* that "contractors who work on CFC were given verbal stop work orders last week, but not in writing. Supposedly it's being publicly announced on September 1 — which is the holiday. The reason being given is that it was decided government shouldn't be involved in campaigning."

The CFC has raised nearly \$8.7 billion for charities since its formal inception in 1961, although some type of federal employee giving has been in place since the 1940s. The CFC raised more than \$66 million during 2024, with the average pledge increasing to nearly \$1,000.

The CFC sends money monthly to more than 4,400 charities designated by federal employees, retirees, and contractors with donations made through payroll deductions. The number of designated charities declined from 7,515 in 2017 to 4,400 in 2023. The value of volunteer hours from 2017 to 2023 ranged from \$1.9 million to \$3.04 million, which is added to the reported donation figure.

"A pause in CFC giving will be devastating for hundreds of area nonprofits that rely on this essential funding each year. Many of United Way of the National Capital Area's partners receive between \$100,000 and \$700,000 yearly," Rosie Allen-Herring, president and CEO of United Way of the Capital Area, told *The NonProfit Times* in exclusive comments. The nonprofits "rely on this steady stream of support for critical programs that provide food, shelter, healthcare, and essential services to thousands of residents each day. Organizations in the National Capital Area that will be impacted by this federal change include the Capital Area Food Bank, So Others Might Eat, Arlington Food Assistance Center, and Martha's Table, among hundreds of others," she said.

United Way of the National Capital Area has raised more than \$225 million through the CFC since 2004 for hundreds of nonprofits in the Washington, D.C. The United Way of the National Capital Area CFC campaign in 2024 garnered \$5.7 million to support nonprofits in the region, Allen-Herring said.

“With the many reductions in force that have occurred this year, many federal workers who were once some of our most avid donors could become United Way of the National Capital Area clients themselves. Monies from the CFC are needed now more than ever,” she said.

“At a time when federal budget cuts are already straining nonprofits, any disruption to CFC funding will directly affect thousands of families living below the poverty line, as well as those who are ALICE — Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed,” said Allen-Herring. ALICE families are working households above the federal poverty income level, but are still struggling to afford basic necessities such as housing, childcare, food, transportation, and health care.

A coalition of nonprofits sent action alerts to organizations around the nation asking local nonprofit leaders to pressure their local federal representatives to support the CFC, which was created via executive order during the administration of President John F. Kennedy. The action alert includes [suggested text for a letter](#) to Scott Kupor director of the OPM.

Nonprofits will not only lose the revenue from donation stoppage, but also be out of pocket for cash spent on preparation. “Nonprofit organizations participating in the CFC have already spent millions of dollars in application fees and marketing materials for the new campaign year. Finding out that the program may be shut down just as it is about to begin would be yet one more financial blow to the sector,” said Shannon McCracken, president and CEO of The Nonprofit Alliance in Washington, D.C.

Charities Push Feds To Keep Combined Federal Campaign

[Charities Push Feds To Keep Combined Federal Campaign - The NonProfit Times](#)

Paul Clolery

September 4, 2025

Executives from just fewer of 400 nonprofits have signed their organizations onto a letter asking the federal Office of Personnel Management to not cancel the annual Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) which has raised nearly \$8.7 billion since its inception.

The letter from 390 organizations was sent to Scott Kupor, director of the U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM). “On behalf of The Nonprofit Alliance and 389 other co-signers that represent a broader coalition of charitable organizations participating in the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC), we write with urgent concern regarding reports that OPM is considering eliminating the Combined Federal Campaign entirely for 2025, with the campaign scheduled to begin in October.” The letter was signed by The NonProfit Alliance and a coalition of CFC participant charities.

A separate letter stressing the need for the CFC was sent to Kupor by the National Council of Nonprofits and United Way Worldwide.

As previously reported in *The NonProfit Times*, OPM said via a statement to media that federal agencies are being asked to pause all CFC support activities while the administration decides whether to continue the program. *The Washington Post* reported that the OPM issued a stop work order on August 26, which will impact the campaign’s website construction and launch.

A nonprofit executive told *The NonProfit Times* that “contractors who work on CFC were given verbal stop work orders last week, but not in writing.” The coalition has submitted “an emergency meeting request on behalf of coalition partners to discuss this urgent matter with you. We respectfully request your commitment to suspend any action to eliminate the CFC for 2025 and to engage with stakeholder organizations to ensure the program’s continued success.”

The CFC has raised nearly \$8.7 billion for charities since its formal inception in 1961, although some type of federal employee giving has been in place since the 1940s. The CFC raised more than \$66 million during 2024, with the average pledge increasing to nearly \$1,000, CFC data shows. The CFC was created via executive order during the administration of President John F. Kennedy.

The CFC sends money monthly to more than 4,400 charities designated by federal employees, retirees, and contractors with donations made through payroll deductions. The number of designated charities declined from 7,515 in 2017 to 4,400 in 2023. The value of volunteer hours

from 2017 to 2023 ranged from \$1.9 million to \$3.04 million, which is added to the reported donation figure.

Nonprofits will not only lose the revenue from donation stoppage, but also be out of pocket for cash spent on preparation. “Nonprofit organizations participating in the CFC have already spent millions of dollars in application fees and marketing materials for the new campaign year. Finding out that the program may be shut down just as it is about to begin would be yet one more financial blow to the sector,” said Shannon McCracken, president and CEO of The Nonprofit Alliance in Washington, D.C.

The charities thanked “the White House, the Office of Personnel Management, and Congress for their collective decision not to pursue the harmful 10% administrative fee on federal employee payroll deductions during Budget Reconciliation proceedings. This decision demonstrated clear recognition of the CFC’s vital role in supporting our nation’s most vulnerable communities and preserving the integrity of federal employee charitable giving.”

The signers reminded officials of the federal government’s previous support. “The elimination of the CFC would also represent a significant departure from the federal government’s longstanding commitment to fostering a culture of service and civic engagement among its workforce. Federal employees have consistently demonstrated their dedication to supporting charitable causes through voluntary contributions, and the CFC provides an efficient, transparent, and administratively streamlined mechanism for channeling this generosity where it is most needed. The program serves as a tangible expression of federal employees’ commitment to public service that extends beyond their official duties.”

Eliminating the CFC would do tangible damage to nonprofits, particularly in the Washington, D.C, and surrounding communities. “A pause in CFC giving will be devastating for hundreds of area nonprofits that rely on this essential funding each year. Many of United Way of the National Capital Area’s partners receive between \$100,000 and \$700,000 yearly,” Rosie Allen-Herring, president and CEO of United Way of the Capital Area, told *The NonProfit Times* in exclusive comments.

The nonprofits “rely on this steady stream of support for critical programs that provide food, shelter, healthcare, and essential services to thousands of residents each day. Organizations in the National Capital Area that will be impacted by this federal change include the Capital Area Food Bank, So Others Might Eat, Arlington Food Assistance Center, and Martha’s Table, among hundreds of others,” she said.

United Way of the National Capital Area has raised more than \$225 million through the CFC since 2004 for hundreds of nonprofits in the Washington, D.C. The United Way of the National Capital Area CFC campaign in 2024 garnered \$5.7 million to support nonprofits in the region, Allen-Herring said.

“With the many reductions in force that have occurred this year, many federal workers who were once some of our most avid donors could become United Way of the National Capital Area clients themselves. Monies from the CFC are needed now more than ever,” she said.

The text of the letter is slightly more than two pages but runs for 11 pages when adding all of the organizations from around the nation, including the American Diabetes Association, America’s Best Charities, CASA of Central Texas, Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Arlington, Christian Military Fellowship, DAV Charitable Service Trust, DC Central Kitchen, Earthjustice, Jewish Council for the Aging of Greater Washington, Marine Corps-Law Enforcement Foundation, Meals on Wheels America, Prostate Cancer Research Institute, Ronald McDonald House Charities of Northeast Ohio, United Way of the National Capital Area and Wounded Warrior Project.

“The Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) is a decades-long program that deserves to continue. Facilitating much-needed charitable giving by federal civilian, military, and postal workers is a proud tradition. The possible ending of the CFC would translate into a significant loss for nonprofit funding at a critical time,” said Ann Hollingsworth, vice president, government affairs at The Nonprofit Alliance.

Maryland charities concerned over funding, as OPM pauses Combined Federal Campaign

[Maryland charities concerned over funding, as OPM pauses Combined Federal Campaign - Maryland Matters](#)

Trump administration gives no reason for pause, no estimate on when a decision might be made on future of charity campaign

By: [Nicole Pilsbury](#)-September 5, 2025

Mary Helfrich said that St. Vincent de Paul of Baltimore is “grateful for every dollar that we get” to support its charitable work — which is why the federal government’s decision to put the annual Combined Federal Campaign on hold is concerning.

Like officials at a number of charities around the state, Helfrich said a pause in the CFC won’t be catastrophic for her organization. But it’s not good news either, and she said it could be particularly hard on smaller charities.

“We’re grateful for every dollar that we get, but there’s other organizations that work with all volunteers,” said Helfrich, St. Vincent de Paul’s chief advancement officer. “If they’re working with very limited resources, it [the CFC pause] will affect them ... It hurts all organizations, but it’s particularly going to hurt small organizations that depend on those dollars to operate completely.”

The Combined Federal Campaign facilitates donations by federal workers around the nation to [thousands of charities](#), through regular payroll deductions or volunteer hours. Workers choose the charity they want their money to support: In Maryland, hundreds of charities receive funding from the CFC, supporting causes that include education, health, museums, the environment and more.

The CFC solicitation period, when employees can make pledges and donations to charities, typically begins in early September. But this year, the Office of Personnel Management asked agencies to pause all support to the CFC while it decides whether or not to continue the 64-year-old program.

No reason was given for the pause, and OPM said in a statement that “no final decision has been made on the program.”

The CFC has raised more than [\\$9 billion](#) since it was established in 1961, and more than [\\$70 million in 2023](#) alone, according to the program’s website.

St. Vincent de Paul, which supports people facing poverty in Baltimore and surrounding counties, gets about \$20,000 a year toward its \$32 million budget, so the pause is not fatal, Helfrich said. But it does make for an “uncertain future” for some of their programs, and comes at a time when federal funding cuts, firings and forced retirements will affect the number of donors, she said.

Laura Osuri, the executive director of Homes Not Borders, described the CFC pause as a “death by 1,000 cuts,” as it comes on top of recent federal funding and grant cuts.

Homes Not Borders helps refugees and forced migrants in the Washington, D.C., area navigate life in the U.S. by assisting them with home set-ups, income opportunities and career training. The organization operates on about \$800,000 per year, with about \$15,000 of that coming from the CFC, Osuri said.

“I don’t think we’re going to be cutting programs or staff because of it [the CFC pause], but it’s just another burden to try and raise more funds for us,” she said. “Even though it [the CFC check] is not much, it is steady, and we know it’s coming.”

That was echoed by Elise Krikau, chief philanthropy officer at the Maryland Food Bank, who said it has seen struggles with its “diversity of funding.”

The organization recently faced cuts to its funding from two government programs: The Emergency Food Assistance Program and the Local Food Purchase Agreement. Krikau said the food bank typically gets about \$225,000 per year from the CFC, which she called a small part of its budget, but a large amount of money when thinking about overall funding cuts.

“This is one piece — but it’s a piece in a big puzzle,” Krikau said. “If everything gets stilted and there’s impacts from every direction, that can cumulatively impact our bottom line.”

The Arc Maryland, which supports people with developmental disabilities, gets a couple thousand dollars a year from the CFC, said Ande Kolp, the organization’s executive director. It’s not a large sum of money compared to the overall budget, but it is yet another source of funding that has “dried up,” she said.

Historically, The Arc Maryland has been able to rely on grants, she said, but it has recently faced struggles.

“There might have been 100 people going after the same grant before — now there’s 1,000 people going after the same grant,” Kolp said. “I think the competition has certainly grown and made it very difficult to access sources of funding we didn’t have difficulty accessing in the past.”

The organization will have to cut back on specific assistance programs, like transportation assistance and informative classes for parents on IEPs — individualized educational plans for students — if they continue to lose funding, she said.

“There’s so much uncertainty out there, and it’s really impacting our ability to function as a business,” Kolp said.

Federal government's charity drive doing far worse under Trump

Donations are down by more than 40 percent after a year when federal workers faced major agency downsizing and a lengthy government shutdown.

[Meryl Kornfield](#) December 25, 2025



The federal workers' charity drive, the largest of its kind in the

country, is facing a steep decline in donations and other challenges just months after the Trump administration weighed canceling it altogether.

The annual Combined Federal Campaign — which since the 1960s has raised more than \$9 billion from federal government employees donating their pay and time — started later than expected because the Office of Personnel Management had [paused planning in late August and for a time considered ending the initiative](#).

OPM announced last week that it would extend the campaign through January, but charities are worried that the drive won't be as effective, especially because the agency told its contracted organizers this week that their agreements would not be extended, according to two people familiar with the decision who spoke on the condition of anonymity to share private discussions.

The campaign is faring far worse than in previous years, buffeted not only by the loss of nearly [300,000 federal employees](#) — part of the administration's government downsizing — but also by this year's 43-day government shutdown. As of Saturday, workers had contributed only \$23 million. In each of the past three years, fundraising had topped \$40.5 million by the same time, according to data obtained by The Washington Post.



Follow Trump's second term

Thousands of charities participate in the drive annually, and a significant amount of the donations support causes in the Washington area and the Mid-Atlantic. Charities that have been stretched thin with other funding cuts amid increased need have sought support from Congress and tried to raise awareness about the campaign's plight this year. Now, as they plan for 2026, they worry whether they can count on receiving their allotment of funds raised without the contractors that manage pledges.

"If the contractors in the final four weeks in January are not allowed to do their work, it's a question of how successful can we make the CFC campaign after we've already been hit with a delay because of the shutdown and are dealing with other constraints in the nonprofit community," said Ann Hollingsworth, vice president of government affairs at the Nonprofit Alliance, which has rallied charities on the issue.

OPM spokeswoman McLaurine Pinover said Tuesday that the agency is working on developing "more cost-effective ways for federal employees to donate to charities than the current CFC," citing the decline in fundraising in recent years and the costs of the

contracts that set up and run the campaign. Pinover initially said organizers could participate after their current agreements expire, then later specified that OPM was not seeking such involvement.

“We are not paying them additional monies for the extension period because we do not believe that is a good use of donor dollars,” she said.

The contracts are fixed-price, however, so the agency would not pay more for any work extensions.

The campaign’s delayed start this year coincided with the record-long government shutdown — when most federal workers were not paid.

OPM decided that the campaign could proceed in part because charities had already paid the fees to participate, OPM Director Scott Kupor said. But he [estimated that the drive would cost \\$22 million to run](#), and he wrote in an agency blog post that he was “evaluating changes to the CFC for 2026 (including whether to continue the program).”

Though donations have been down since the campaign began in early October, the pace has increased this month, catching up with last year’s numbers for December.

Jennifer Ward, a government retiree, an Air Force veteran, and a local and national organizer for the campaign, said federal employees showed greater interest in donating as the holidays approached. She noted that one donor on Cannon Air Force Base in New Mexico pledged \$1,776 just two days after President Donald

Trump announced “warrior dividend” bonuses of that same amount.

“The main concern that I have is that, come January, we can start off and have this great campaign for the next 31 days, but there’s no outreach coordinator to ramp us up again,” Ward said. “There’s no charity events that we can have. The resources are extremely limited, and if there’s no contracts, it’s like we’re being blindsided ... and the charities can’t do anything about it.”

Trump's uncharitable attack on federal workers puts a dent in donations

Demonstrators rally in support of federal workers outside of the Department of Health and Human Services on Feb. 14 in Washington.

The Trump administration's comprehensive assault on the federal workforce has a new victim: charitable giving.

The Washington Post is [reporting](#) that the federal workers' charity drive, the Combined Federal Campaign, has seen a 40% drop in donations this year. The Office of Personnel Management has magnanimously announced it will extend the drive [into January](#), but it's looking bleak.

While the drive itself has been extended, OPM is refusing to extend work agreements with the contractors who organize the drive. Here's a smug OPM spokesperson on why: "We are not paying them additional monies for the extension period because we do not believe that is a good use of donor dollars." Sure, except the contracts with those organizers have a fixed price, so it doesn't actually cost the agency any more money to keep them on.

So far in 2025, federal workers have contributed \$23.5 million to the Combined Federal Campaign, down from over \$40.5 million by this time in the past three years. Over [4,500 charities](#) are participating in this year's CFC, including several hundred in the

[Mid-Atlantic zone](#), which covers Washington, D.C., and the surrounding areas—basically, where the bulk of federal workers live.

Related | [Federal workers toil in hellish conditions while Trump golfs](#)

There's no doubt some of that drop in giving is due to the administration getting rid of [317,000 federal employees](#) via [DOGE-directed firing](#), retirements, or just [making life so miserable that people quit](#). OPM was pretty hyped to announce that it had exceeded its goal of eliminating 300,000 federal employees. So cool to see the government run like a giant rapacious business, with CEOs setting arbitrary targets for how many people to fire.

Charities across the country have been hit hard by the administration's cuts. Roughly one-third of nonprofits [faced disruptions](#) and funding decreases due to lost grants and funding freezes. Nonprofit organizations that support [international efforts](#) have been hit particularly hard, of course, thanks to the administration's [dismantling of foreign aid](#).



The administration has been telegraphing for months that it plans to kill the CFC entirely. In August, it issued a [stop-work order](#) that barred all work on CFC activities. Especially cool: the administration didn't bother to tell the charities directly.

But hey, OPM is working on “more cost-effective ways for federal employees to donate to charities than the current CFC.” Given that OPM [did not open](#) the charity application system for 2026 on Dec. 1, 2025, as it normally would, nor is it even providing an application or fee schedule, it's pretty clear that the “more cost-effective way” is just going to be nothing.

It's neat how “Christian” types like Project 2025 architect/Office of Management and Budget chief [Russell Vought](#) seem to hate when

the government takes care of people, and also hate it when charitable organizations take care of people. But this makes sense when you remember that the Trump administration is chock-full of white power [eugenicists](#) who say [things like](#), “Higher quality humans are subsidizing the fertility of lower quality humans.”

That hatred for anyone who might need help is at the core of the administration’s policies toward disabled people. An administration [committed to](#) removing disabled people from public life and killing any efforts to make life easier was never going to like it if charities picked up the slack.

The Trump administration committed itself to making life miserable for federal employees while at the same time making life miserable for anyone it perceives as lesser. Taking care of people is [forbidden](#) [“wokeness,”](#) whether through government or private efforts. Wrecking the federal workers’ charity drive is just a way to kick both groups in the teeth.

Well, at least that’s efficient, right?

(<https://thenonproffitimes.com>)

Combined Federal Campaign Again Under Threat

Paul Clolery (<https://thenonproffitimes.com/author/paul-clolery/>)

□ February 22, 2026



The Combined Federal Campaign (CFC), which has raised more than \$8.7 billion for charity via federal workplace giving campaigns since its inception in 1961, is again under threat of being shut down. An orchestrated effort by nonprofits this past September was able to save it for the 2025 campaign.

A message was sent this past Friday to the roughly 4,000 charities participating in the CFC campaign, which is run by the federal Office of Personnel Management (OPM), stating: "We are writing to inform you that the CFC Charity Portal is scheduled to be decommissioned and will go offline as soon as Wednesday, March 4."

Historical data not downloaded by March 4 might no longer be accessible to the charities, according to the memo. "We highly recommend retrieving your data as soon as possible to avoid any last-minute technical delays," according to the memo. The challenge is that the 2025 campaign ended January 31 and organizations are still waiting for final data and disbursements.

'The Nonprofit Alliance was disappointed to learn that the Combined Federal Campaign Charity Portal will be decommissioned as soon as March 4, 2026. This portal needs to remain open until all 2025 campaign contributions are dispersed according to the donors' intent," said Ann Hollingsworth, vice president, Government Affairs, of the Nonprofit Alliance.

"Furthermore, the portal is funded with the nonprofit organizations' campaign participation fees. Today's abrupt notification should raise questions for charities who participate and federal workers who have contributed," said Hollingsworth.

The amount raised via the 2025 CFC campaign was not immediately available. The CFC had raised nearly \$8.7 billion for charities since its formal inception during the administration of President John F. Kennedy, although some type of federal employee giving has been in place since the 1940s. The CFC raised more than \$66 million during 2024, with the average pledge increasing to nearly \$1,000, CFC data shows.

The CFC sends money monthly to charities designated by federal employees, retirees, and contractors with donations made through payroll deductions. The number of designated charities declined from 7,515 in 2017 to 4,400 in 2023. The value of volunteer hours from 2017 to 2023 ranged from \$1.9 million to \$3.04 million, which is added to the reported donation figure.

The OPM issued a Stop Work Order on the portal in late August 2025 but lifted it in early September, well after charities had paid fees and spent to prepare for the 2025 launch. The Nonprofit Alliance, the National Council of Nonprofits, and United Way Worldwide led the pressure campaign.

'The attempts by OPM to dismantle the Combined Federal Campaign are concerning and put vulnerable communities at risk," said Diane Yentel, president and CEO of the National Council of Nonprofits. "The CFC is an important source of funding for many smaller and rural nonprofits

that depend on this campaign to support essential services - from food banks and housing support to disaster relief. With more than 4,400 charitable organizations counting on these contributions, preserving the CFC is important. Federal employees' long-standing commitment to giving back strengthens communities across the nation, and we must ensure that this vital source of funding endures."

Eliminating the CFC would have done tangible damage to nonprofits, particularly in Washington, D.C., and surrounding communities. "A pause in CFC giving will be devastating for hundreds of area nonprofits that rely on this essential funding each year. Many of United Way of the National Capital Area's partners receive between \$100,000 and \$700,000 yearly," Rosie Allen-Herring, then the president and CEO of United Way of the Capital Area, told *The NonProfit Times* this past September. She is now interim president and CEO of United Way Worldwide.

The message from the OPM was unsigned. It pointed charities to the CFC Charities Help Center website. A spokesperson from OPM was not immediately available. This story will be continuously updated.

(<https://shopthenonproffitimes.com/discount/2025S&BPost?redirect=%2Fproducts%2F2025-nonprofit-organizations-salary-and-benefits-report>)

AFP Statement on the Decommissioning of the Combined Federal Campaign Charity Portal

February 24, 2026

<https://afpglobal.org/news/afp-statement-decommissioning-combined-federal-campaign-charity-portal>



The Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) is deeply concerned by the announcement that the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) Charity Portal will be decommissioned on March 4, while the 2025 campaign is still in the process of final reporting and disbursement.

This decision will directly affect thousands of charitable organizations and fundraisers who rely on the CFC not only for financial support, but for transparency, reporting, and stewardship of donor intent. The Charity Portal is a core service funded by participation fees paid by charities, and it was clearly understood that the system would remain accessible until all 2025 campaign funds had been fully disbursed. Shutting down the portal before that process is complete creates unnecessary risk and administrative burden for organizations already operating under significant strain.

“The Combined Federal Campaign continues to be a critical, low-cost means for federal workers to give to their favorite nonprofits,” **said Art Taylor, president and CEO of the Association of Fundraising Professionals.** “Eliminating the CFC will create a massive hole in our nation’s charitable giving infrastructure. I urge Congress and the Administration to reconsider this decision.”

The impact of this action extends far beyond data access. For many nonprofits—particularly small and community based organizations—CFC contributions support essential services. Any disruption in reporting, reconciliation, or disbursement threatens their ability to deliver programs that communities depend on, including services for veterans, families, seniors, and vulnerable populations.

It is also important to recognize what is at stake historically. For more than six decades,

the Combined Federal Campaign has been one of the most successful and trusted workplace giving programs in the world, raising billions of dollars for charitable causes and embodying the spirit of public service and generosity among federal employees. Its legacy represents a durable partnership between government, civil society, and the nonprofit sector that has strengthened communities across the country.

AFP urges the Office of Personnel Management to ensure that the CFC Charity Portal remains operational until all 2025 campaign funds are fully disbursed and participating organizations have secure access to their records. We also call for clear communication and collaboration with the nonprofit sector to avoid further disruption to a program that has long served both donors and communities with integrity.

The potential loss or erosion of the CFC has real consequences for nonprofits and the people they serve. Preserving the functionality, transparency, and continuity of the Combined Federal Campaign is essential to honoring donor intent, protecting charitable organizations, and safeguarding a proud tradition of American generosity.

AFP encourages its members to stay informed and to share their concerns with policymakers and stakeholders about the importance of maintaining the Combined Federal Campaign for the nonprofit sector and the communities it serves. Use this [quick and easy form linked here](#) and embedded below, to send an email to your representatives urging them to take action on the Combined Federal Campaign.