



City of Alexandria, Virginia
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Alyia Gaskins
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The Honorable David L. Bulova
Chair, Emergency Committee on the Impacts of Federal Workforce and Funding Reductions
Virginia House of Delegates

The Honorable Robert S. Bloxom, Jr.
Vice Chair, Emergency Committee on the Impacts of Federal Workforce and Funding Reductions
Virginia House of Delegates

Dear Chairman Bulova and Vice Chair Bloxom:

On behalf of the City of Alexandria, I write to express urgent and mounting concerns over federal workforce reductions and federal funding cuts. Thank you for your leadership in convening the Emergency Committee on the Impacts of Federal Workforce and Funding Reductions. In February, I wrote a letter to Speaker Don Scott, thanking him for his leadership in launching this Emergency Committee. In that letter I expressed the City's concerns about workforce reductions and shifts in federal contracting.¹ Since then, the effects of federal policy changes and funding cuts have only worsened, and we feel that it is important to keep the Emergency Committee apprised of our status and find partnerships in building solutions.

Funding Freeze

Programs that ensure families can eat, that shelters can keep their doors open, and that emergency services can meet rising demand are struggling or have been starved of critical resources. The Local Food Purchase Assistance (LFPA) Cooperative Agreement Program and the Local Food for Schools Cooperative Agreement Program—together worth over \$1.1 billion—have been halted, cutting off a vital link between local farmers, schools, and food banks.² The freeze also blocks The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) from delivering hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of surplus commodities to food pantries and community kitchens, immediately shrinking the food supply for millions of low-income Americans.³

The Administration's 2026 budget proposal slashes \$532 million from the Homeless Assistance Grants account compared to the previous fiscal year and reduces U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development funding for homelessness programs by 12% at a time when homelessness is increasing. Together, these measures strip communities of the federal resources essential to housing-first solutions, harm-reduction services, and nonpunitive supports that reduce homelessness—not exacerbate it.⁴



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Federal Workforce Reductions

Virginia's communities are already feeling the effects of federal cuts and layoffs. Virginia's number of employed residents decreased by 14,141 in June, while the number of unemployed increased by 4,025. Regional analysis shows that the WashingtonArlingtonAlexandria metropolitan statistical area (MSA) accounted for the highest number of affected workers—10,442—in reductions across the DMV (District of Columbia, Maryland, Virginia).⁵

According to federal data, more than 140,000 federal civilian employees lived in Virginia in 2024 and more than 13,000 live in the City of Alexandria.⁶ These workers are central to ensuring effective public service nationwide and to promoting regional economic vitality. Recent actions—including directives to reduce agency workforces by up to 10%, a 70% cut mandate for federal agencies, and the impending deadline of the deferred resignation program—threaten to destabilize our local economy. Federal officials stated that federal workforce reductions will rise above 300,000 in forthcoming days.⁷ The situation is particularly concerning amid a softening national job market.⁸

Effects of H.R. 1

The recent enactment of H.R. 1 includes provisions that will cut funding and support for essential and lifesaving programs for our communities. In Alexandria, for example, more than 12,000 residents rely on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Under provisions in H.R. 1, localities like Alexandria will see SNAP administrative costsharing percentage rise and additional 25%—and if the Commonwealth cannot dramatically reduce its SNAP payment error rate by 2027, families who rely on SNAP to put food on the table stand to lose even more resources.⁹

Moreover, H.R. 1 promises to significantly constrain local agencies and threaten health care for the more than 30,000 City residents who rely on Medicaid. The Center for Budget and Policy Priorities estimates the H.R. 1 places up to 400,000 Virginians at risk of losing Medicaid coverage.¹⁰

Given these threats, I offer the following recommendations to bolster resilience in Alexandria and across Virginia:

- 1. Replace Lost and Reduced Federal Funding**
Provide immediate state resources to offset federal cuts, particularly for food aid, homelessness services, and health care.
- 2. Establish a State Safety Net**
Create a reserve to anticipate and cushion future federal cuts, ensuring continuity of essential programs.



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3. Invest in Technology Updates

Invest now in upgrades to legacy, outdated information technology (IT) systems for SNAP and Medicaid to reduce error rates and ensure that systems errors do not errantly remove eligible families from services they qualify for because of bad technology.

4. Conduct RootCause Analyses

Study procedural and technical drivers of the state's error rate to craft targeted remedies to safeguard program access for needy residents.

5. Support Workforce Transition

Expand programs offering reskilling, upskilling, and registered apprenticeships to displaced federal workers in sectors like technology, healthcare, and clean energy.

Alexandria stands ready to collaborate by sharing local data, piloting innovative responses, and contributing grassroots insights to your Committee's critical work. Thank you for your steadfast commitment to safeguarding Virginia's economic and social future. I look forward to the opportunity to partner with you and your colleagues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alyia Gaskins".

Alyia Gaskins
Mayor
City of Alexandria

Cc: The Honorable Adam Ebbin, Senator
The Honorable Charniele Herring, Majority Leader
The Honorable Elizabeth Bennett-Parker, Delegate
The Honorable Alfonso Lopez, Delegate