

# STOPPING PEPFAR'S DEADLY FUNDING SLOWDOWN

*Impounded Global HIV Funding Expands  
While Congressional Scrutiny Shrinks*



**Introduction:** One year after the Trump Administration launched unprecedented attacks on foreign aid, data reveal new attempts by the Administration to weaken and undermine the PEPFAR program, despite widespread support by the Republican-controlled Congress and the American public for strengthening the global HIV response and achieving the global goal of defeating HIV as a public health threat by 2030.

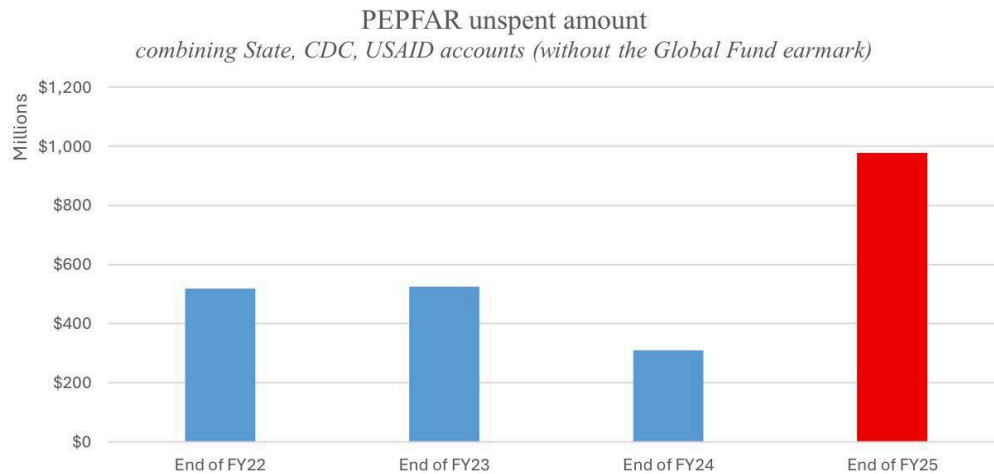
HIV treatment and prevention gaps are expanding as a result of [major service disruptions](#) beginning in 2025, caused by the [January 24 foreign aid “stop-work order”](#) and terminations of more than [80% of USAID awards](#), which was ordered by Russell Vought, Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Director and Secretary of State Marco Rubio, and championed by Elon Musk. The growing crisis globally is also mirrored by cruel cuts in the U.S. [to essential HIV programs for people with HIV and people at greatest risk of HIV infection](#), alongside [devastating ideological attacks on global and domestic HIV research](#) when vital new HIV prevention and treatment tools are emerging, such as long-acting lenacapavir for HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), which is virtually 100% effective in stopping new HIV infections.

**Defying Congress:** However Congressional funding levels have been a rebuke to the Administration’s proposals to drastically shrink and dismantle PEPFAR, [with 2025 and 2026 fiscal year \(FY\) PEPFAR appropriations continuing essentially unchanged](#). The Administration has enacted multiple strategies to skirt the will and scrutiny of Congress in response.

First Russell Vought fought for a \$400 million rescission of FY25 PEPFAR funding in June 2025. Activists challenged this move, and won—[PEPFAR was protected from rescission](#). However, [in response, Vought for months withheld billions in PEPFAR funding from “apportionment,”](#) or the release of funding from Treasury to the State Department. [Under pressure, PEPFAR funds were eventually apportioned](#) by Vought.

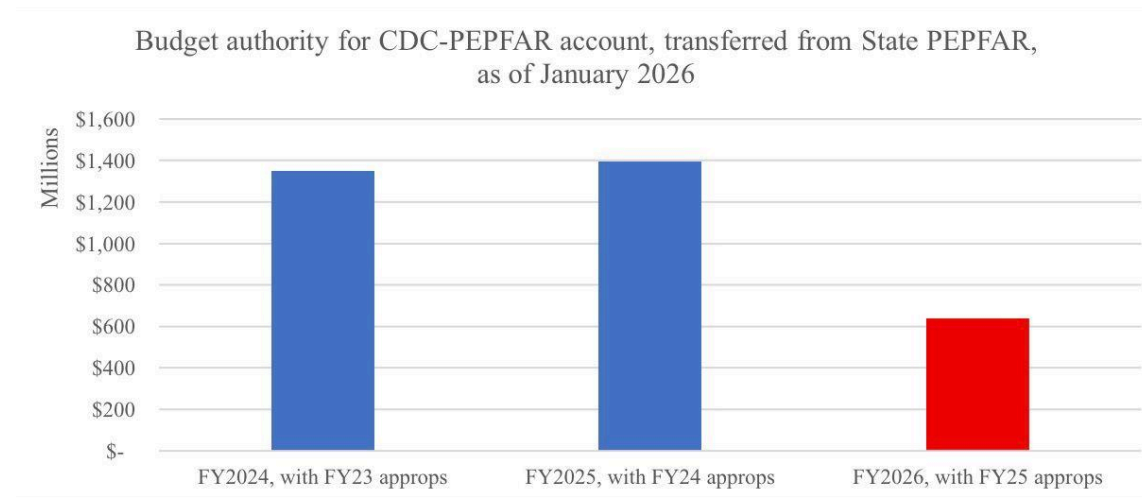
**Now, the State Department is choking off the spending of PEPFAR’s apportioned funding, by refusing to fully obligate it. State Department FY25 spending data show \$977 million in PEPFAR funding is currently idle, or “unobligated”—meaning it has not been awarded to PEPFAR implementers. This is approximately triple the amount of unobligated PEPFAR funds at the same time in FY24. (Note: source data are available [here](#); analysis was completed by [Partners in Health](#).)**

## PEPFAR spending slowdown in FY2025



Equivalent analysis is not yet available for FY26. PEPFAR funding does not expire for 5 years, however unprecedented buildup of unobligated funds are a clear indication the Administration is creating a pretext for shrinking PEPFAR further, despite Congressional directives to the contrary. Faced with shrinking budgets caused by this lawless impoundment of lifesaving PEPFAR funds, PEPFAR’s vast network of clinics and service providers continue to slash their testing, treatment and prevention programs, resulting in mounting infections, disease progression and death.

**CDC's Deadly Funding Cliff:** Additional alarming trends are emerging, compounding the crisis caused by 977 million in unspent State Department funding. **In only three weeks, the CDC will have no remaining funds to implement its PEPFAR programs.** The CDC, PEPFAR's primary implementing agency (after USAID), typically receives a transfer of approximately \$1.4 billion via the State Department at the start of each fiscal year. CDC received only \$637 million, or 45% of their budget share, in FY26, covering only the period up to April 1, 2026. (Source data available [here](#); analysis was completed by [Partners in Health](#).)



Without continuous funding to CDC, PEPFAR cannot achieve its ambitious clinical service delivery goals—implementers cannot do their lifesaving work if their very existence is uncertain after April 1. Additional efforts to weaken PEPFAR include an unprecedented blackout of its performance data, designed to withhold vital information from the public about what PEPFAR has been doing with taxpayer funding.

**Restoring PEPFAR:** The [America First Global Health Strategy](#), released in September 2025 by the State Department, lauds PEPFAR's successes but ironically describes an intention to abruptly reduce and handover the program to governments—regardless of their preparedness, and regardless of the will of Congress, which has sole appropriations authority. The lawless impoundment of lifesaving PEPFAR funding relentlessly pursued by Vought must serve as a wake up call to Congress to stop abdicating their oversight authority, and prevent the Administration from achieving their dangerous goal of a chaotic and deadly dissolving of PEPFAR. This can be stopped if Congress:

- Demands complete obligation of \$977 million in unspent funds, and the transfer CDC's remaining share of its 1.4 billion in FY26 funding;
- Fully restores PEPFAR's programming, directing PEPFAR to expand budget envelopes for countries, consistent with Congressional appropriations and prior year spending; and
- Breaks the blackout on PEPFAR data, so Congress and people with HIV know how funding is being spent.