

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Temporary Halt on Federal Grant Funds**

KEARNEY- The recent directive from the Trump administration to temporarily halt federal grants and loans has significant implications for local public health departments, including the Two Rivers Public Health Department (TRPHD). On January 27, the federal Office of Management and Budget issued a memo instructing federal agencies pause all “federal funding assistance.”

As a locally governed agency, TRPHD relies on federal funding to deliver essential services. A prolonged freeze could disrupt crucial public health programs including immunizations, maternal and child health services, emergency preparedness, and initiatives supporting low-income families, seniors, and individuals with chronic illnesses. Without these funds, TRPHD’s capacity to protect and promote community health is at risk. Additionally, the lack of clarity regarding which programs are affected makes it challenging to plan and deliver services effectively.

TRPHD operates under Nebraska’s Interlocal Agreement Act and is governed by a local Board of Health. While it maintains a degree of independence from federal entities, its operations are also influenced by state law. As of today, the funding freeze has prompted immediate legal challenges from various states and organizations, citing constitutional concerns and the potential for widespread harm. A federal judge has temporarily blocked the freeze, but the situation remains fluid.

Despite these uncertainties, TRPHD continues to operate and provide services with existing funds. However, we urge community members and policymakers to advocate for the reinstatement of federal funds to ensure essential public health programs remain uninterrupted.

For further updates, please visit [www.trphd.ne.gov](http://www.trphd.ne.gov)

### **ABOUT TWO RIVERS PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

Two Rivers Public Health Department engages collaborative partners, community leaders and the public to promote healthy lifestyles, provide preventative education, assure environmental quality, and create more healthy and safe communities for all who live within the district. Follow TRPHD on Facebook and Twitter @2RPHD