Sequestration Spending Cuts by Category

The United States Congress enacted the Budget Control Act of 2011 (BCA) to resolve a standoff regarding the federal debt ceiling. In exchange for raising the debt ceiling, BCA required Congress to develop a plan to reduce the federal deficit. This law created a Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction (informally known as the “Supercommittee”) to explore further cuts that could lower the deficit and reduce federal spending levels.

In the event that the Supercommittee was unable to reach an agreement (which is exactly what happened in November 2011), BCA required that a series of across-the-board spending cuts take place during the 2013 fiscal year. Besides certain cuts to mandatory spending, BCA required $1.2 trillion worth of cuts divided equally between defense and non-defense discretionary spending. These cuts are scheduled to go into effect in 2013 should Congress fail to develop an alternative plan that reduces the deficit by at least a trillion dollars.

In September 2012, a White House report detailed how every federal agency would be affected if sequestration takes place. Listed below are selected sequestration cuts separated by subject. Based on an initial review of the report, these cuts appear to affect federal programs that fund federal grants and contracts for nonprofits. Also, this list includes federal programs that likely help the same clients that nonprofits serve. Please note that this list is not comprehensive; it reflects Colorado Nonprofit Association’s take on which cuts likely impact nonprofits directly.

**Health (-$16.6B)**
- Federal Hospital Insurance Trust Fund -$5.8B ($179M discretionary; $5.646B mandatory)
- Federal Supplementary Medical Insurance Fund -$5.2B ($281M discretionary; $4.911B mandatory)
- National Institutes of Health -$2.5B ($2.581B discretionary; $11M mandatory)
- Medicare Prescription Drug Account, Federal Supplementary Insurance Trust Fund -$519M ($32M discretionary; $559M mandatory)
- Health Resources and Services Administration: Health resources and services -$575M ($509M discretionary; $66M mandatory)
- Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children [WIC] -$543M (discretionary)
- Centers for Disease Control, activities and program support -$464M (discretionary)
- Indian Health Services -$320M ($317M discretionary; $3M mandatory)
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration -$275M (discretionary)
- Prevention and Public Health Fund -$76M (mandatory)
- Affordable (Medicare/Medicaid) Insurance Exchange grants -$66M (mandatory)
- State Medicare/Medicaid grants -$40M (mandatory)
- Indian Health Facilities -$36M (discretionary)
- Maternal, infant and early childhood home visiting programs -$30M (mandatory)
- Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Trust Fund -$30M (mandatory)
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program -$8M (mandatory)
- Pregnancy Assistance Fund -$2M (mandatory)
International programs (-$4B)

- Diplomatic and consular programs -$1B ($1.084B discretionary; $3M mandatory)
- Global health programs -$670M (discretionary)
- Agency for International Development: Development Assistance Program -$207M (discretionary)
- Citizenship and immigration services -$205M ($8M discretionary; $197M mandatory)
- Migration and refugee assistance -$154M (discretionary)
- Contributions for international peacekeeping activities -$150M (discretionary)
- Contributions to international organizations -$127M (discretionary)
- Contribution to the International Development Association -$122M (discretionary)
- Food for Peace grants -$120M (discretionary)
- Agency for International Development, operating expenses -$110M (discretionary)
- International disaster assistance -$80M (discretionary)
- Millennium Challenge Corporation -$74M (discretionary)
- Refugee and entrant assistance -$63M (discretionary)
- International Broadcasting Operations -$61M (discretionary)
- Non-proliferation, anti-terrorism, demining, and related programs -$58M (discretionary)
- Assistance for Europe, Eurasia and Central Asia -$51M (discretionary)
- Department of State: Educational and cultural exchange programs -$49M (discretionary)
- Peacekeeping operations (International Security Assistance) -$31M (discretionary)
- Peace Corps -$31M (discretionary)
- Multilateral Assistance: International organizations and programs -$29M (discretionary)
- Contribution to the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development -$17M (discretionary)
- Contribution to the Asian Development Bank -$17M (discretionary)
- Contribution to the African Development Fund -$17M (discretionary)
- Overseas humanitarian, disaster, civic aid -$13M (discretionary)
- Global Food Security Fund -$11M (discretionary)
- Contribution to the Inter-American Development Bank -$7M (discretionary)
- Inter-American Foundation -$2M (discretionary)
- African Development Foundation -$2M (discretionary)
- Department of State: Conflict stabilization operations -$1M (discretionary)

Housing (-$3.4B)

- Tenant based rental insurance -$1.5B (discretionary)
- Project-based rental assistance -$772M (discretionary)
- Public housing operating fund -$325M (discretionary)
- Community development fund -$279M (discretionary)
- Homeless assistance grants -$156M (discretionary)
- Public Housing Capital Fund -$154M (discretionary)
Rural rental assistance program -$74M (discretionary)
Native American housing block grant -$53M (discretionary)
Housing for the elderly -$31M (discretionary)
Housing opportunities for persons with AIDS -$27M (discretionary)
Payment to Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation -$18M (discretionary)
Affordable Housing Program -$15M (mandatory)
Housing for persons with disabilities -$14M (discretionary)
Lead hazard reduction -$10M (discretionary)
Fair housing activities -$6M (discretionary)
Housing counseling assistance -$4M (discretionary)
Rural housing assistance grants -$3M (discretionary)

Corrections and law enforcement (-$3.1B)
Customs and border protection -$823M ($712M discretionary; $111M mandatory)
Federal prison system buildings, facilities, salaries and expenses -$541M (discretionary)
Immigration and customs enforcement -$477M ($453M discretionary; $24M mandatory)
Aviation security -$448M ($429M discretionary; $19M mandatory)
FBI salaries and expenses -$271M (discretionary)
Drug Enforcement Administration, salaries and expenses -$166M (discretionary)
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, salaries and expenses -$94M (discretionary)
State and local law enforcement assistance -$92M (discretionary)
Crime victims fund -$54M (mandatory)
Interagency crime and drug enforcement -$43M (discretionary)
Violence against women prevention and prosecution programs -$33M (discretionary)
Juvenile justice programs -$21M (discretionary)
High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas Program -$20M (discretionary)
Community-Oriented Policing Services -$13M (discretionary)
Other federal drug control programs -$8M (discretionary)
Cyber security initiatives -$1M (discretionary)

Education (-$2.6 B)
Special education -$1B (discretionary)
Education improvement programs -$373M (discretionary)
Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services: Rehabilitation and disability research -$278M ($32M discretionary; $246M mandatory)
Training and employment services -$272M ($262M discretionary; $10M mandatory)
Higher education -$186M ($153M discretionary; $33M mandatory)
Career, technical and adult education -$142M (discretionary)
Federal student aid -$140M (discretionary)
Federal direct student loan program -$91M (discretionary)
English learner education -$60M (discretionary)
Trade Adjustment Assistance: Community College and Career Training Grant Fund -$38M (mandatory)
• Corporation for Public Broadcasting -$36M (discretionary)
• Supporting Student Success -$21M (discretionary)
• Rural distance learning, telemedicine and broadband program -$3M (discretionary)

**Economic development (-$2.1B)**

• Unemployment Trust Fund -$1.4B ($356M discretionary; $1.018B mandatory)
• Federal Aviation Administration operations -$377M (discretionary)
• Office of Job Corps -$140M (discretionary)
• Federal unemployment benefits and allowances -$99M (mandatory)
• Community Services Employment for Older Americans -$37M (discretionary)
• Economic development assistance programs -$34M (discretionary)
• Business loans program account -$29M (discretionary)
• Disaster loans program account -$10M (discretionary)
• Veterans employment and training -$4M (discretionary)
• Rural cooperative development grants -$2M (discretionary)
• Minority business development -$2M (discretionary)
• Small business lending fund program account -$2M (mandatory)

**Scientific and medical research (-$1.9B)**

• National Science Foundation: Research and related activities -$463M (discretionary)
• [NASA] Science -$417M (discretionary)
• Space operations -$346M (discretionary)
• [NASA] Exploration -$309M (discretionary)
• US geological survey research -$88M (discretionary)
• [National Science Foundation] Education and Human Resources -$76M ($68M discretionary; $8M mandatory)
• Census programs -$54M (discretionary)
• [NASA] Aeronautics -$47M (discretionary)
• Space technology -$47M (discretionary)
• Bureau of Labor Statistics, salaries and expenses -$44M (discretionary)
• Financial Research Fund -$12M (mandatory)
• [NASA] Education -$11M (discretionary)
• National Highway, Traffic and Safety Administration, operations and research -$11M (discretionary)
• Children’s research and technical assistance -$5M (mandatory)
• Oil spill research -$1M (discretionary)

**Human services (-$1.8 B)**

• Children and families services programs -$812M (discretionary)
• Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund -$241M (discretionary)
- Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund -$224M (discretionary)
- Payments to states for the child care and development block grant -$187M (discretionary)
- Social services block grant -$136M (mandatory)
- Aging services programs -$122M ($121M discretionary; $1M mandatory)
- Corporation for National and Community Service, operating expenses -$79M (discretionary)

**Environmental programs ($1.7 B)**
- [EPA] State and tribal assistance grants -$293M (discretionary)
- National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration operations, research & facilities -$257M (discretionary)
- Environmental programs and management -$220M (discretionary)
- Operation of national park system -$183M (discretionary)
- [Forest Service] Wildland fire management -$172M (discretionary)
- National forest system -$129M (discretionary)
- Fish and wildlife resource management -$105M (discretionary)
- Management of lands and resources -$85M (discretionary)
- [Department-Wide Programs] Wildland fire management -$46M (discretionary)
- Sport fish restoration -$34M (mandatory)
- Federal aid in wildlife restoration -$31M (mandatory)
- Forest and rangeland research -$24M (discretionary)
- Clean Technology Fund -$15M (discretionary)
- Ocean energy management -$13M (discretionary)
- Emergency conservation -$10M (discretionary)
- Wildfire Suppression Reserve Fund -$7M (discretionary)
- Forest service trust funds -$6M (mandatory)
- Historic Preservation Fund -$5M (discretionary)
- Pacific coastal salmon recovery -$5M (discretionary)
- Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund -$4M (discretionary)
- Strategic Climate Fund -$4M (discretionary)
- Wetlands Conservation Fund -$3M (discretionary)
- Inland oil spill programs -$1M (discretionary)
- Watershed rehabilitation -$1M (discretionary)
- Reforestation Pilot Program <$1M (discretionary)

**Emergency response ($973M)**
- Disaster relief -$580M (discretionary)
- FEMA state and local programs -$183M (discretionary)
- Federal Highway Administration emergency relief program -$136M (discretionary)
- Flood control and coastal emergencies -$34M (discretionary)

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- Watershed and flood prevention operations -$18M (discretionary)
- Emergency food and shelter -$10M (discretionary)
- Flood hazard mapping and risk analysis program -$8M (discretionary)
- Fire administration and training -$4M (discretionary)

Energy (-$717M)
- Low-income home energy assistance -$285M (discretionary)
- Grants for specified energy property in lieu of tax credits, recovery act -$279M (mandatory)
- Energy efficiency and renewable energy -$148M (discretionary)
- Rural energy assistance payments -$5M (mandatory)

Agricultural programs (-$407M)
- Farm security and rural investment programs -$220M (mandatory)
- Agricultural Disaster Relief Fund -$104M (mandatory)
- Funds for strengthening markets, income and supply -$82M (mandatory)
- Farm service agency state mediation grants <$1M (discretionary)

Public safety and consumer protections (-$300M)
- Food safety and Inspection Service, salaries and expenses -$86M (discretionary)
- Occupational Safety and Health Administration, salaries and expenses -$46M (discretionary)
- Department of Transportation: National infrastructure investments -$41M (discretionary)
- Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection Fund -$34M (mandatory)
- Mine Safety and Health Administration, salaries and expenses -$31M (discretionary)
- Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, salaries and expenses -$30M (discretionary)
- Federal Communications Commission, salaries and expenses -$28M (discretionary)
- Hazardous materials safety -$3M (discretionary)
- Grassroots Source Water Protection Program <$1M (discretionary)

Arts and culture (-$74M)
- National Archives and Records Administration, operating expenses -$31M (discretionary)
- Institute of Museum and Library Services grants -$19M (discretionary)
- National Endowment for the Arts grants -$12M (discretionary)
- National Endowment for the Humanities grants -$12M (discretionary)