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# **The Heritage Foundation's Project 2025: Implications for Federal Grants based on the City of Milwaukee's 2025 Adopted Budget**

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# Overview of Project 2025

***Heritage Foundation:*** A conservative think tank that has published the *Mandate for Leadership* every four years since 1980, offering recommendations for presidential transition teams with respect to political strategy, public policy, and public administration.

***Project 2025 Presidential Transition Project:*** A pre-election effort to provide the next conservative administration with political, strategic, and managerial guidance, a personnel database, an online education system, and a federal agency-level transformation plan.

***Mandate for Leadership: The Conservative Promise:*** A 922-page document with political, strategic, and managerial guidance for the next conservative administration, organized by federal agency.

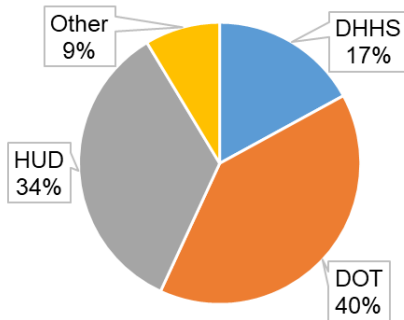
***This LRB presentation:*** A summary, with direct quotes where possible, of what *Mandate for Leadership* recommends for the three federal agencies that combine to provide 91% of planned federal grants in the City of Milwaukee's 2025 Adopted Budget.

# Planned Federal Grants in 2025 Adopted Budget

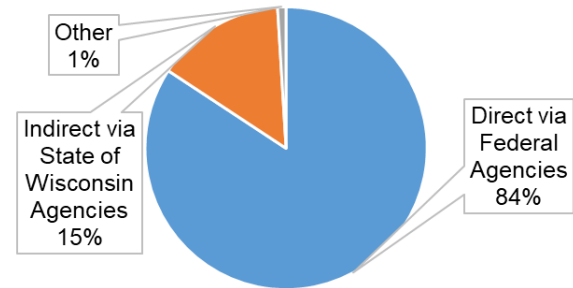
**Total = \$71,525,098**

**Share of 2025 Adopted Budget: 4%**

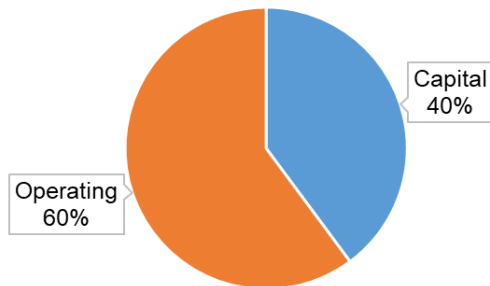
### By Federal Agency



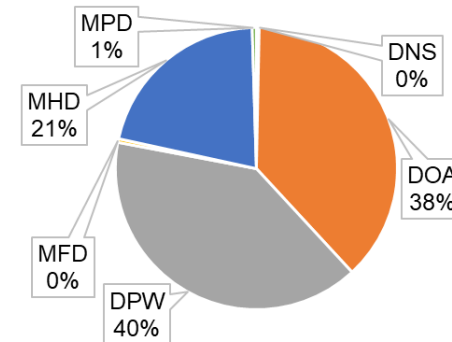
### By Delivery Mechanism



### By Grant Type

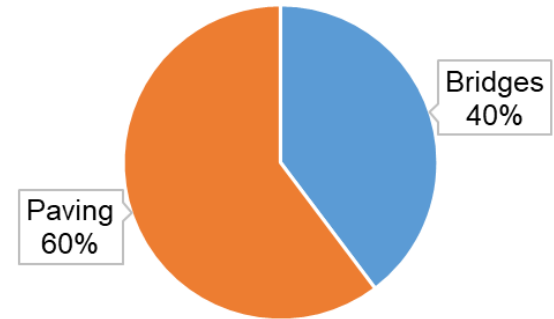


### By City Department



# U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT)

Federal Grants in 2025 Adopted Budget by Capital Area (\$28,507,732)



**Grant-making:** “DOT’s discretionary grant-making processes should be abolished, and funding should be focused on formulaic distributions to the states, which know best their transportation needs and are incentivized to think of the long-term maintenance costs. At a bare minimum, the number of grants should be consolidated” (p. 621).

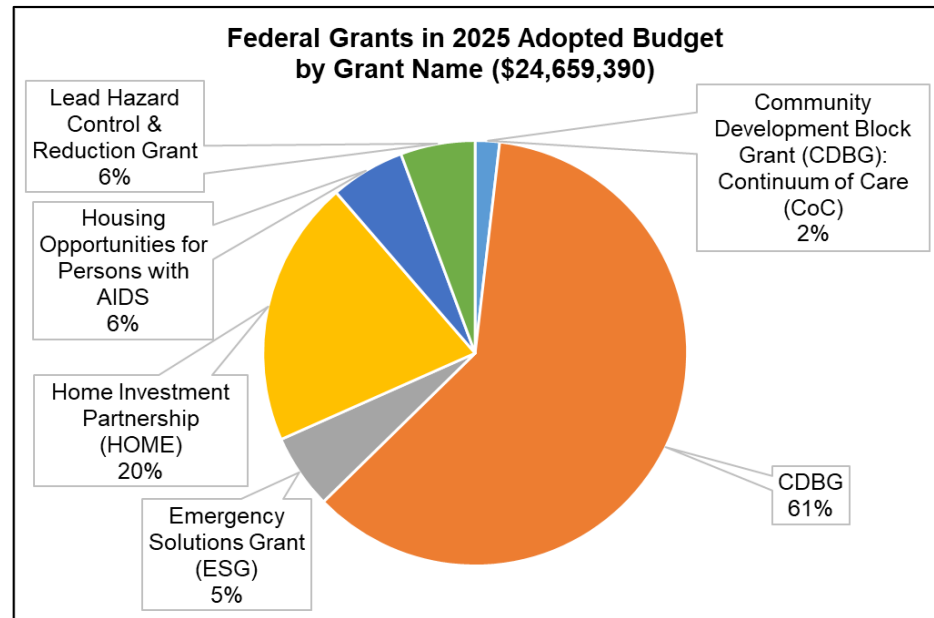
**Public & mass transit:** “[T]he best course of action would be to remove federal subsidies for transit spending, allowing states and localities to decide whether mass transit is a good investment for them” (pp. 634-635).

**Federal Highway Administration (FHWA):** “The variety of infrastructure projects now eligible for funding through [...] FHWA include ferryboat terminals, hiking trails, bicycle lanes, and local sidewalks. In many cases, [these] should be the sole responsibility of local or state governments. [...] The Biden Administration has broadened the FHWA’s scope by emphasizing the priorities of progressive activists [like racial equity and climate change. T]he Biden Administration’s embrace of the “Vision Zero” approach to safety often means actively seeking congestion for automobiles to reduce speeds. [...] The next Administration should [...] r]efocus [...] on maintaining and improving the highway system; [and r]educ[e] the amount of federal involvement in local infrastructure decisions” (p. 629).

# U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

**Homeownership:** Project 2025 recommendations that especially could affect CDBG and HOME grants include:

- “[I]ncrease the mortgage premium (MIP) for all products above 20-year terms and maintain MIP for all products below 20-year terms and all refinances” in order to “encourage wealth-building homeownership opportunities” (p. 510).
- Advocate for “[s]tatutorily restricting eligibility for first-time homebuyers and abandoning the affirmative obligation authorities erected for the single-family housing programs” (p. 510).
- Advance “a fundamental revision of [the] statutory restriction of single-family housing mortgage insurance to first-time homebuyers (p. 510).



**Rent:** “[S]trengthen work requirements, limit the period during which households are eligible for housing benefits, and add flexibility to rent payment terms to facilitate the movement of households toward self-sufficiency” (p. 511), possibly affecting all grants.

**Immigration:** “[R]ecommerce proposed regulation put forward under the Trump Administration that would prohibit noncitizens, including all mixed-status families, from living in all federally assisted housing” (p. 509), possibly affecting all grants.

**Homelessness:** “[E]nd Housing First policies [in order to prioritize] mental health and substance abuse issues before [...] homelessness” (p. 509), possibly affecting the CoC and ESG grants in particular.

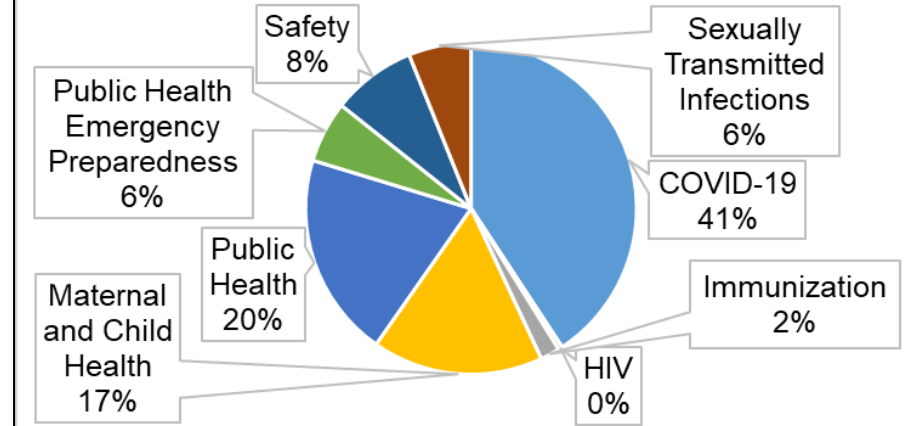
# U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)

**Centers for Disease Control (CDC):** The following Project 2025 recommendations could affect CDC, which accounts for 65% of DHHS grants in the 2025 Adopted Budget:

- “COVID-19 exposed [CDC] as perhaps the most incompetent and arrogant [federal] agency [...] CDC should be split into two separate entities [...] Congress should ensure that CDC’s legal authorities are [...] limited to prevent a recurrence of any such arbitrary and vacillating exercise of power” (p. 452).
- Vaccine safety programs “should be transferred to the [Food and Drug Administration], while “CDC should eliminate programs [...] that do not respect human life and conscience rights and that undermine family formation” (p. 454).

**Doulas:** “[S]ince most Doulas’ services are not covered by traditional insurance programs, the Maternal and Child Health program should work to provide funding for low-income mothers” (p. 487), possibly affecting Maternal and Child Health grants.

## Federal Grants in 2025 Adopted Budget by Program Area\* (\$12,185,858)



\* Program Areas provided by DOA / Budget and Management Division.

**COVID-19:** Project 2025 recommendations concerning DHHS’ pandemic response could affect DHHS’ grant-making under COVID-19 and future public health emergencies:

- COVID-19 revealed “how catastrophic a micromanaging, misinformed, centralized, and politicized federal government can be. [...] Before the next [...] public health emergency, [DHHS] must be fundamentally restructured to ensure a [...] more nimble, efficient, transparent, and targeted response that respects the unique needs and input of patient populations and providers” (p. 451).
- Further federal action is unnecessary because COVID-19 is “endemic and constantly mutating”, “more recent COVID strains pose fewer health risks than the earlier strains, and the pandemic has been declared to be at an end” (p. 475).

## Appendix: Federal Grants in 2025 Adopted Budget by Grantor and Grantee

<i><b>Grantor (federal agency)</b></i>	<i><b>Grantee (City department)</b></i>						
	DNS	DOA	DPW	MFD	MHD	MPD	Total
Agriculture	\$0	\$175,000	\$0	\$0	\$1,720,000	\$0	\$1,895,000
DHHS	\$0	\$1,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$11,185,858	\$0	\$12,185,858
DHS	\$228,750	\$0	5	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$228,750
DOE	\$0	\$377,962	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$377,962
DOJ	\$0	\$95,715	\$0	\$0	\$793,859	\$180,264	\$1,069,838
DOT	\$0	\$0	\$28,507,732	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$28,507,732
EPA	\$0	\$458,358	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$458,358
Executive Office of POTUS	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$161,910	\$161,910
HUD	\$0	\$23,256,690	\$0	\$0	\$1,402,700	\$0	\$24,659,390
Treasury	\$0	\$1,680,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,680,000
Various	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$300,300	\$0	\$0	\$300,300
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$228,750</b>	<b>\$27,043,725</b>	<b>\$28,507,732</b>	<b>\$300,300</b>	<b>\$15,102,417</b>	<b>\$342,174</b>	<b>\$71,525,098</b>