



**United States  
Environmental Protection Agency  
Fiscal Year 2026**

**Justification of Appropriation  
Estimates for the  
Committee on Appropriations**

**Tab 06: Superfund**

EPA-190R25002

June 2025  
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**Environmental Protection Agency  
FY 2026 Annual Performance Plan and Congressional Justification**

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**Environmental Protection Agency  
FY 2026 Annual Performance Plan and Congressional Justification**

**APPROPRIATION: Hazardous Substance Superfund  
Resource Summary Table  
(Dollars in Thousands)**

	<b>FY 2024 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
<b>Hazardous Substance Superfund</b>				
Budget Authority	\$1,478,962	\$537,700	\$282,749	-\$254,951
Total Workyears	2,726.2	2,492.2	2,610.0	117.8

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

\*For ease of comparison, Superfund transfer resources for the audit and research functions are shown in the Superfund account.

**Bill Language: Hazardous Substance Superfund**

*(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)*

*For necessary expenses to carry out the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA), including sections 111(c)(3), (c)(5), (c)(6), and (e)(4) (42 U.S.C. 9611), and hire, maintenance, and operation of aircraft, \$282,749,000, to remain available until expended, consisting of such sums as are available in the Trust Fund on September 30, 2025, and not otherwise ap- propriated from the Trust Fund, as authorized by section 517(a) of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (SARA) and up to \$282,749,000 as a payment from general revenues to the Hazardous Substance Superfund for purposes as authorized by section 517(b) of SARA: Provided, That funds appropriated-under this heading may be allocated to other Federal agencies in accordance with section 111(a) of CERCLA: Provided further, that for fiscal year 2026, section 122(b)(3) of CERCLA (42 U.S. C. 9622(b)(3)) shall be applied by inserting before the period at the end: “, including for the hire, maintenance, and operation of aircraft”; Provided further, that for fiscal year 2026, the matter preceding the first proviso in section 443(b) of title IV of division G of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (Public Law 117-328) shall be applied by inserting before the semicolon “, including for the hire, maintenance, and operation of aircraft”; Provided further, that amounts in the preceding proviso shall continue to be treated as amounts specified in section 103(b) of division A of Public Law 118-5; Provided further, That of the funds appropriated under this heading, \$11,328,000 shall be paid to the "Office of Inspector General" appropriation to remain available until September 30, 2027, and \$17,607,000 shall be paid to the "Science and Technology" appropriation to remain available until September 30, 2027.*

**Program Projects in Superfund  
(Dollars in Thousands)**

<b>Program Project</b>	<b>FY 2024 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
Audits, Evaluations, and Investigations				

<b>Program Project</b>	<b>FY 2024 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
Audits, Evaluations, and Investigations	\$12,470	\$11,328	\$11,328	\$0
Compliance				
Compliance Monitoring	\$863	\$1,017	\$817	-\$200
Enforcement				
Criminal Enforcement	\$9,890	\$7,944	\$3,999	-\$3,945
Environmental Justice	\$7,283	\$5,876	\$0	-\$5,876
Forensics Support	\$1,474	\$1,286	\$1,040	-\$246
Superfund: Enforcement	\$185,418	\$0	\$0	\$0
Superfund: Federal Facilities Enforcement	\$8,463	\$1,793	\$1,784	-\$9
Subtotal, Enforcement	\$212,528	\$16,899	\$6,823	-\$10,076
Homeland Security				
Homeland Security: Preparedness, Response, and Recovery	\$35,472	\$34,588	\$35,192	\$604
Homeland Security: Protection of EPA Personnel and Infrastructure	\$1,257	\$1,102	\$915	-\$187
Subtotal, Homeland Security	\$36,729	\$35,690	\$36,107	\$417
Indoor Air and Radiation				
Radiation: Protection	\$3,823	\$2,472	\$2,122	-\$350
Information Exchange / Outreach				
Exchange Network	\$1,037	\$1,328	\$0	-\$1,328
IT / Data Management / Security				
Information Security	\$2,123	\$1,040	\$5,082	\$4,042
IT / Data Management	\$19,372	\$19,786	\$13,874	-\$5,912
Subtotal, IT / Data Management / Security	\$21,495	\$20,826	\$18,956	-\$1,870
Legal / Science / Regulatory / Economic Review				
Alternative Dispute Resolution	\$1,006	\$644	\$0	-\$644
Legal Advice: Environmental Program	\$1,804	\$713	\$608	-\$105
Subtotal, Legal / Science / Regulatory / Economic Review	\$2,810	\$1,357	\$608	-\$749
Operations and Administration				
Acquisition Management	\$23,620	\$25,588	\$23,752	-\$1,836
Central Planning, Budgeting, and Finance	\$35,335	\$31,378	\$22,462	-\$8,916
Facilities Infrastructure and Operations	\$74,984	\$67,080	\$57,373	-\$9,707
Financial Assistance Grants / IAG Management	\$5,012	\$4,170	\$2,903	-\$1,267

<b>Program Project</b>	<b>FY 2024 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
Human Resources Management	\$10,904	\$7,424	\$5,704	-\$1,720
Subtotal, Operations and Administration	\$149,854	\$135,640	\$112,194	-\$23,446
Research: Chemical Safety for Sustainability				
Health and Environmental Risk Assessment	\$5,208	\$5,238	\$5,714	\$476
Research: Chemical Safety for Sustainability	\$8,457	\$7,723	\$0	-\$7,723
Subtotal, Research: Chemical Safety for Sustainability	\$13,665	\$12,961	\$5,714	-\$7,247
Research: Sustainable Communities				
Research: Sustainable and Healthy Communities	\$20,147	\$16,937	\$11,448	-\$5,489
Superfund Cleanup				
Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Superfund: Emergency Response and Removal	\$277,004	\$59,181	\$47,311	-\$11,870
Superfund: EPA Emergency Preparedness	\$7,782	\$8,056	\$7,700	-\$356
Superfund: Federal Facilities	\$32,149	\$26,189	\$21,621	-\$4,568
Superfund: Remedial	\$686,559	\$187,819	\$0	-\$187,819
Subtotal, Superfund Cleanup	\$1,003,495	\$281,245	\$76,632	-\$204,613
<b>TOTAL Superfund</b>	<b>\$1,478,917</b>	<b>\$537,700</b>	<b>\$282,749</b>	<b>-\$254,951</b>

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

\*For ease of comparison, Superfund transfer resources for the audit and research functions are shown in the Superfund account.

## **Audits, Evaluations, and Investigations**

## **Audits, Evaluations, and Investigations**

Program Area: Audits, Evaluations, and Investigations

(Dollars in Thousands)

	<b>FY 2024 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
Inspector General	\$40,042	\$43,250	\$43,250	\$0
<b><i>Hazardous Substance Superfund</i></b>	<b><i>\$12,470</i></b>	<b><i>\$11,328</i></b>	<b><i>\$11,328</i></b>	<b><i>\$0</i></b>
Total Budget Authority	\$52,513	\$54,578	\$54,578	\$0
Total Workyears	224.8	270.0	270.0	0.0

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

### **Program Project Description:**

Created pursuant to the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Office of Inspector General (OIG) is an independent office within the Agency, receiving a separate appropriation within the Agency's budget. The mission of the OIG is to promote economy and efficiency in, and detect fraud, waste, and abuse related to programs and operations of EPA and the U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board (CSB), as well as to help ensure ethical conduct and program integrity. To this end, the OIG conducts and supervises independent audits, evaluations, and investigations while reviewing existing and proposed legislation and regulations relating to the programs and operations of the Agency; provides leadership and coordination; makes evidence-based policy recommendations; and works to prevent and detect waste, fraud, and abuse in Agency, grantee, and contractor operations of the Agency's Superfund Program. These services are directly supported through the OIG's management and administrative functions of information technology, human resources, human capital, budget, planning and performance, legal advice and counseling, report publishing and communications, and congressional outreach.

The OIG's activities add value and enhance public trust and safety by keeping the head of the Agency and Congress fully and immediately informed of problems and deficiencies, and the necessity for and progress of corrective actions. The OIG consistently provides a significant positive return on investment to the public in the form of recommendations for improvements in the delivery of EPA's mission, reduction in operational and environmental risks, costs savings and recoveries, and improvements in program efficiencies and integrity.

### **Audits**

The Office of Audit (OA) is responsible for conducting financial and performance audits of EPA's and CSB's programs and operations. Utilizing a cadre of auditors with specialized training and experience in environmental, financial, and information technology programs, the OA conducts its projects in compliance with generally accepted government auditing standards, as applicable based upon the work performed. The OA conducts performance audits to assess the economy, efficiency, internal control, and compliance of EPA programs and EPA business operations. In



addition, the OA conducts ten or more mandated audits each year, including financial audits of EPA's and CSB's financial statements as required by the Chief Financial Officers Act of 1990 and audits of EPA's and the CSB's information security practices as required by the Federal Information Security Modernization Act of 2014.

Impact is measured both in terms of recommendations and in potential monetary benefits. In the first half of FY 2025, the OA issued nine reports and two letters to the Office of Management and Budget with over 30 recommendations for operations and program improvements. These reports have focused on, among other things, numerous barriers to implementing effective resource management and program improvements in EPA's Superfund Program.

### **Investigations**

The OIG Office of Investigations (OI) is the oversight component responsible for investigating allegations of fraud, waste, and abuse related to EPA and CSB programs and operations including EPA's Superfund Program, the American Rescue Plan Act, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, and the Inflation Reduction Act. Consisting of Special Agents with statutory authority under the IG Act to carry firearms, make arrests, execute search and seizure warrants, and perform other law enforcement duties, the OI's Special Agents are authorized to conduct criminal, civil, and administrative investigations. With a geographical area of responsibility spanning from Saipan to Maine and Alaska to the U.S. Virgin Islands, the OI prioritizes work based on return on investment, as well as the impact of the alleged fraud or misconduct on EPA's programs and operations. The OI leverages a data- and intelligence-driven framework to identify high-impact investigations.

The OI's criminal and civil investigations are often done in coordination with the U.S. Department of Justice and with various other federal and state law enforcement organizations. In FY 2024, the OI's investigations led to criminal charges against 29 subjects, representing a 383 percent increase over FY 2023 and a 190 percent increase over FY 2022. Additional investigative results included \$1,361,041 in criminal fines/recoveries and \$508,429 in civil recoveries. The OI works with EPA's Suspension and Debarment Program, "whose actions protect the government from doing business with entities that pose a business risk to the government." In FY 2024, the OI initiated 138 OIG investigations on fraud, waste, and abuse within the OI's investigative priorities to include grant and contract fraud, laboratory fraud, and employee and program integrity. The OI published five Management Implication Reports, highlighting weaknesses and deficiencies in EPA programs, including EPA's failure to implement laws designed to protect federally funded research and EPA's failure to report fraud. The OI published "Fraud Alerts" and participated in "Fraudcasts," highlighting fraud schemes and changes to the Uniform Guidance for Federal Awards.

### **Evaluations**

The OIG Office of Special Review and Evaluation (OSRE) is responsible for evaluating the effectiveness of EPA's and the CSB's programs. Its oversight projects focus on the efficiency and effectiveness of program operations, such as program performance from implementation to outcome. A cadre of engineers, scientists, social scientists, and other environmental and public health professionals conduct projects in compliance with the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency's *Quality Standards for Inspection and Evaluation*. Evaluations span

every EPA program office and EPA's ten regional offices, EPA's state, local, and tribal partners, as well as EPA Superfund programs, and activities that support clean air, clean water, safer chemicals, cleaner communities, scientific research and integrity, and effective oversight and enforcement.

The OIG's evaluations identify waste and areas for improvements in EPA programs and operations. These result in waste avoidance, policy changes, improvements to Agency guidance documents and other written materials, increased transparency on regulatory and other decision-making, and process changes to eliminate barriers and improve program outcomes. These evaluations also provide EPA and Congress with information that is useful in policymaking. An example of OSRE's Superfund-related work is an evaluation of community engagement related to the Findett Corp. Superfund Site. The site has a history of soil and groundwater contamination. OSRE initiated the evaluation after reports of contamination of the drinking water source in St. Charles, Missouri. The FY 2024 report details improvements that EPA's Region 7 can make in the areas of dispute resolution, technical assistance, and community involvement, among others.

### **Administrative Investigations**

The Administrative Investigations Directorate (AID), located in OSRE, conducts statutorily mandated civil and administrative investigations into allegations of misconduct by senior employees and complaints of whistleblower reprisal by Agency or Board employees, contractors, subcontractors, grantees, subgrantees, or personal services contractors. The AID performs special reviews of significant events and emergent issues of concern that involve a suspected or alleged violation of law, regulation, or policy, as well as allegations of serious mismanagement. Along with select evaluation staff, this directorate regularly meets with EPA's scientific integrity official, updates coordination procedures between the OIG and EPA's Scientific Integrity Office, and reviews documents to make EPA aware of all identified allegations of violations of its Scientific Integrity Policy.

Since its creation in 2021, the AID has made an immediate impact in helping promote ethical conduct in EPA and the CSB, particularly in the areas of senior employee misconduct and scientific misconduct. The AID consistently carries a large docket of complex and highly sensitive civil and administrative investigations. It also has issued significant reports related to ethical misconduct and whistleblower protection, among other matters. In August 2024, the AID issued a report of investigation that found multiple ethics lapses concerning financial conflicts of interest by the Assistant Administrator of EPA's Office of Air and Radiation. In September 2024, the AID issued a series of reports of investigation addressing allegations from five Agency scientists who reported retaliation for expressing differing scientific opinions in chemical assessments.

The AID also manages the OIG Hotline, which is statutorily required under the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, and the OIG's primary method of receiving complaints of fraud, waste, and abuse in EPA and the CSB. Hotline operations include triaging each complaint, tracking referrals, monitoring the progress of referrals, and communicating with complainants. In FY 2024, the OIG Hotline received over 9,500 contacts through the OIG website, email account, and telephone number, a 54 percent increase from FY 2023. The number of hotline referrals increased

in FY 2024 by 101 percent. Furthermore, the OIG employs authorities under 5 U.S.C. § 4512 to incentivize the disclosure of fraud, waste, or mismanagement through cash awards.

### **Data Analytics**

The Data Analytics Directorate (DAD) supports OIG wide oversight planning and execution by leveraging advance analytics to identify and highlight key risk areas to EPA or CSB program integrity. Specifically, the DAD uses programming languages and database software to automate the acquisition, transformation, and analysis of large and disparate data sets that support audits, evaluations, and investigations. It also provides statistical sampling and survey creation support for audits and evaluations. The DAD's oversight products, created by a team of data analysts and data scientists, allow the OIG and the public to visualize the extent of EPA programs and operations.

The DAD has been leading the OIG's efforts to use data analytics for proactive oversight. In FY 2024, the DAD created an Artificial Intelligence Working Group for the purpose of developing and adopting artificial intelligence solutions to increase efficiencies across the OIG. The DAD is in the process of developing machine learning applications to improve its data analytical detection and prevention capabilities in areas such as purchase card fraud.

### **OIG Support**

The OIG and its oversight programs are supported by the Office of Counsel, the Office of Congressional and Public Affairs, the Office of Information Technology, the Office of Mission Support, and the Office of Strategic Analysis and Results. These offices provide legal, professional, and technical support to the oversight programs, as well as support the recruitment, retention, and training of the OIG's employees, manage public outreach efforts and congressional and public engagements, and engage traditional and social media and the internet.

### **FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:**

The OIG takes a rigorous approach to the planning and execution of its oversight work, starting with the statutory mandate to prepare an annual statement summarizing "the most serious management and performance challenges facing the agency" and to assess the Agency's progress in addressing those challenges. To identify these top management challenges, the OIG reviews the work and recommendations of the OIG and the U.S. Government Accountability Office, solicits input from senior EPA leadership and program offices, and considers the public statements of EPA, administration, and congressional leaders, as well as EPA planning documents. The OIG also maintains its responsibility to statutory or regulatory mandates, such as the oversight of the financial and operation audits of the over 100 state revolving funds, as well as work requested by Congress or resulting from an OIG Hotline contact. In FY 2026, the OIG will continue to target initiatives addressing EPA's and the CSB's top management challenges and stated priorities. The OIG also will continue to expand upon its oversight of EPA's implementation of the IJA to assess whether the approximately \$60 billion in IJA funding.

## **Audits**

The Office of Audit (OA) is responsible for nearly all the OIG's mandates, which routinely comprise over a third of the office's oversight work. However, the OIG will need to continue its oversight of EPA spending, to include funding received through the IIJA. To support this need in a constrained budget environment, the OA is developing a process to enhance its utilization of EPA spending data related to programs under review and to support audit planning. The OA will continue to conduct oversight work in response to congressional requests or hotline contacts, which routinely comprise 10-15 percent of the OA's work. Based on OIG funding trends, the OIG estimates that by FY 2026 more than half of the OA's work will be non-discretionary work. Additional resources to complete mandatory, requested, and discretionary oversight projects in FY 2026 will greatly support the OA's ability to conduct oversight work.

## **Investigations**

The Office of Investigations (OI) will prioritize its investigations based on the impact of the fraud or misconduct on EPA's programs and operations. The OI continually seeks to demonstrate return on investment while creating value for Agency leadership and fulfilling congressional expectations. The OI assists EPA with maintaining a culture of integrity within its employees, programs, and operations. The OI also must consider the U.S. Department of Justice's prosecutorial priorities and the U.S. Attorney Offices' prosecutorial guidelines. The OI uses technology, engages stakeholders, and shares information with and works alongside other federal, state, local, and tribal governments, and law enforcement agencies. An enduring priority will be the prevention and detection of fraud and public corruption of EPA funding, including cybercrime investigations.

## **Evaluations**

The Office of Special Review and Evaluation (OSRE) will continue to conduct oversight projects in response to congressionally requested work, emerging environmental emergencies, and hotline contacts. Its discretionary oversight will continue to focus on promoting economy, efficiency, and effectiveness in the administration of the EPA's Superfund programs.

## **Administrative Investigations and Special Reviews**

The Administrative Investigations Directorate (AID) generally initiates investigations in response to allegations of misconduct and special reviews in reaction to unique circumstances. However, over the last two years, the number of investigations on the AID's docket has significantly outnumbered the AID's ability to complete those investigations in a timely fashion. Many of these matters, particularly those involving allegations of ethical misconduct and financial conflicts of interest, are particularly complex, requiring rigorous and highly technical investigations. The AID saw a 200 percent increase in the number of Agency contractor and grantee reprisal complaints under 41 U.S.C. § 4712 in FY 2024. Under this statute, the AID must conduct mandatory investigations of these reprisal complaints within 180 days after receipt. Recent staff departures will constrain the AID's abilities to consistently meet the statutory deadline for these investigations in FY 2026.

The OIG Hotline continues to experience a notable increase in contacts. As of March 31, 2025, the FY 2025 midpoint, the hotline received 8,062 contacts, a 48 percent increase over the FY 2024 midpoint. The AID expects hotline contacts will continue to increase for the remainder of FY 2025 and into FY 2026 resulting in increased allegations of fraud, ethical misconduct, and whistleblower retaliation that will need to be investigated.

### **Data Analytics**

The Data Analytics Directorate (DAD) supports the OIG's oversight by obtaining Agency data and conducting data or statistical analysis. The result is often a dashboard or other visualization of data, providing easy identification of complex problems or otherwise hidden relationships. The DAD's efforts to automate data acquisition and analysis processes creates time and cost efficiencies for audits, investigations, and evaluations. The DAD also provides oversight products to the public through the OIG website, including a geographical dashboard showing EPA IJA spending by program, region, and district. Sustaining this work will require continued investment in both personnel and analytic tools, such as computer hardware and database software. In FY 2026, the DAD will continue to develop and provide better analytic support for our audits, investigations, and evaluations and oversight products for the public.

### **Performance Measure Targets:**

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

### **FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):**

- There is no change in program funding.

### **Statutory Authority:**

The Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, 5 U.S.C. §§ 401-424.

### **Budget Requests:**

The OIG requests the following, provided pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 406(g):

- The aggregate President's Budget request from the Inspector General for the operations of the OIG is \$54.6 million (\$43.3 million OIG; \$11.3 million Superfund Transfer)
- The portion of the aggregate President's Budget needed to support the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency is estimated at \$218 thousand (\$173 thousand OIG; \$45 thousand Superfund Transfer).

"I certify as the Inspector General of the Environmental Protection Agency that the amount I have requested for training satisfies all OIG training needs for FY 2026."

## **Compliance**

## **Compliance Monitoring**

Program Area: Compliance

(Dollars in Thousands)

	<b>FY 2024 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
Environmental Programs & Management	\$106,372	\$107,078	\$69,078	-\$38,000
Inland Oil Spill Programs	\$750	\$605	\$605	\$0
<b><i>Hazardous Substance Superfund</i></b>	<b><i>\$863</i></b>	<b><i>\$1,017</i></b>	<b><i>\$817</i></b>	<b><i>-\$200</i></b>
Total Budget Authority	\$107,986	\$108,700	\$70,500	-\$38,200
Total Workyears	456.5	460.9	385.7	-75.2

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

### **Program Project Description:**

This program is proposed for reduction to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and reduce duplicative, voluntary, and unnecessary work. This change focuses resources on EPA's core mission and advances federal responsibilities in the most cost-efficient manner. The Superfund Compliance Monitoring program promotes compliance with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) or "Superfund" law. The states and EPA use compliance monitoring tools and activities to identify whether regulated entities are in compliance with environmental laws enacted by Congress, as well as applicable regulations and permit conditions.

### **FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:**

In FY 2026, the Program will directly support *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* and *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative in Superfund compliance work. The Program will support a variety of tools and activities for states and EPA to conduct cooperative federalism in identifying compliance status of regulated entities with environmental laws enacted by Congress. Specifically, the Program will streamline and support tracking efforts of CERCLA enforcement activities in SEMS, ICIS, and ECHO.

### **Performance Measure Targets:**

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

### **FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):**

- (-\$291.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base payroll costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.

- (+\$91.0 / +0.1 FTE) This program change aligns resources with core statutory requirements and five pillar work, recognizes needed efficiencies, and returns to core compliance assistance work.

**Statutory Authority:**

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA); Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1970, 84 Stat. 2086, as amended by Pub. L. 98-80, 97 Stat. 485 (codified at Title 5, App.).



## **Enforcement**

**Criminal Enforcement**  
Program Area: Enforcement

(Dollars in Thousands)

	<b>FY 2024 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
Environmental Programs & Management	\$65,595	\$60,041	\$30,472	-\$29,569
<b><i>Hazardous Substance Superfund</i></b>	<b><i>\$9,890</i></b>	<b><i>\$7,944</i></b>	<b><i>\$3,999</i></b>	<b><i>-\$3,945</i></b>
Total Budget Authority	\$75,485	\$67,985	\$34,471	-\$33,514
Total Workyears	276.0	262.8	190.8	-72.0

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

**Program Project Description:**

This program is proposed for reduction to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and reduce duplicative, voluntary, and unnecessary work. This change focuses resources on EPA's core mission and advances federal responsibilities in the most cost-efficient manner. The Criminal Enforcement program investigates and helps prosecute criminal violations of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) and associated violations of Title 18 of the United States Code such as fraud, conspiracy, false statements, and obstruction of justice. EPA's criminal enforcement agents (Special Agents) do this through targeted investigation of criminal conduct, committed by individual and corporate defendants, that threatens human health and the environment.

**FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:**

In FY 2026, the Program will directly support EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiatives *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership*.

The Program will work closely with the Superfund Program across all ten EPA regions to identify and investigate environmental crimes where a response action is triggered by a release or substantial threat of release of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant that presents an imminent and substantial danger to human health or the environment. Investigations will be conducted to ensure responsible parties are identified and that cost recovery for Superfund expenses are considered if the investigation results in a successful prosecution. The Program will focus the resources on the most egregious cases (*e.g.*, significant human health, environmental, and deterrent impacts), while balancing its overall case load.

**Performance Measure Targets:**

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

**FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):**

- (-\$1,770.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base payroll costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.
- (-\$2,175.0 / -8.5 FTE) This program change aligns resources with the Administration's policies to refocus enforcement efforts and realize efficiencies. Resources in this program are proposed for reduction to decrease unnecessary burden on EPA partners and the regulated community, unleash American energy and economic growth, and refocus EPA on its mission.

**Statutory Authority:**

Title 18 of the U.S.C.; 18 U.S.C. § 3063; Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1970, 84 Stat. 2086, as amended by Pub. L. 98–80, 97 Stat. 485 (codified at Title 5, App.) (EPA's organic statute); Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA).

**Environmental Justice**  
Program Area: Enforcement

(Dollars in Thousands)

	<b>FY 2024 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
Environmental Programs & Management	\$109,912	\$94,124	\$0	-\$94,124
<b><i>Hazardous Substance Superfund</i></b>	<b>\$7,283</b>	<b>\$5,876</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>-\$5,876</b>
Total Budget Authority	\$117,196	\$100,000	\$0	-\$100,000
Total Workyears	173.6	79.3	0.0	-79.3

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

**Program Project Description:**

The Environmental Justice (EJ) program is proposed for elimination in FY 2026 to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and focuses resources on EPA's core mission. This change supports the *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative and advances Presidential Executive Order 14151 *Ending Radical and Wasteful Government DEI Programs and Preferencing* and Executive Order 14173, *Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity*. All statutory work will be accomplished in Enforcement programs or other applicable programs.

**FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:**

In FY 2026, the EJ Program is proposed for elimination as the Agency returns to its core statutory requirements and *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American*.

**Performance Measure Targets:**

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

**FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):**

- (-\$5,876.0 / -3.0 FTE) The Environmental Justice Program is proposed for elimination to align with Administration priorities in order to unleash American energy and economic growth and refocus EPA on its core mission. These adjustments are necessary to enable EPA to fulfill its responsibilities in the most cost-effective and efficient manner.

**Statutory Authority:**

Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1970, 84 Stat. 2086, as amended by Pub. L. 98-80, 97 Stat. 485 (codified at Title 5, App.) (EPA's organic statute); and Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA).

**Forensics Support**  
Program Area: Enforcement

(Dollars in Thousands)

	<b>FY 2024 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
Science & Technology	\$14,668	\$14,895	\$10,095	-\$4,800
<b><i>Hazardous Substance Superfund</i></b>	<b><i>\$1,474</i></b>	<b><i>\$1,286</i></b>	<b><i>\$1,040</i></b>	<b><i>-\$246</i></b>
Total Budget Authority	\$16,142	\$16,181	\$11,135	-\$5,046
Total Workyears	60.7	69.0	61.0	-8.0

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

**Program Project Description:**

This program is proposed for reduction to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and reduce duplicative, voluntary, and unnecessary work. This change focuses resources on EPA's core mission and advances federal responsibilities in the most cost-efficient manner. The Forensics Support program provides expert scientific and technical support for criminal and civil environmental enforcement cases, as well as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's compliance efforts. EPA's National Enforcement Investigations Center (NEIC) is an environmental forensic center accredited for both laboratory and field sampling operations that generate environmental data for the Agency.

**FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:**

In FY 2026, the Program will directly support *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative. The Forensics Support program provides expert scientific and technical support for EPA's criminal and civil enforcement efforts. The NEIC will streamline forensics work and identify enhancements to sampling and analytical methods by leveraging emerging technologies. The NEIC will provide critical support to enforcement of the Safe Drinking Water Act and other regulations, including developing and conducting cutting-edge laboratory techniques for lead and per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances.

The program maximizes the efficiency and effectiveness of its operations, produce timely and high-quality work products, identify and implement further efficiencies in laboratory operations, and develop new capabilities. The Program will enhance operations that align with the Administrator's *Pillar 2: Restore Energy Dominance*, *Pillar 4: Make the United States the Artificial Intelligence Capital of the World*, and *Pillar 5: Protecting and Bringing Back American Auto Jobs*.

The NEIC supports *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership* by continuing to provide field and laboratory services to state and federal partners, including: on-the-job training on how to conduct process-based inspections, effectively review environmental regulations, and conduct an engineering review of a permit. NEIC also will continue

to support civil and criminal programs through laboratory analysis and method development such as toxicology (*i.e.*, expert reports) and statistical support (*i.e.*, site sampling plan development).

**Performance Measure Targets:**

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

**FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):**

- (-\$127.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base payroll costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.
- (-\$119.0 / +0.1 FTE) This net program change aligns resources with core statutory requirements, five pillar work, and recognizes needed efficiencies. Resources in this program are proposed for reduction to decrease unnecessary burden on EPA partners and the regulated community, unleash American energy and economic growth, and refocus EPA on its mission.

**Statutory Authority:**

Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1970, 84 Stat. 2086, as amended by Pub. L. 98–80, 97 Stat. 485 (codified at Title 5, App.) (EPA’s organic statute); Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships (MARPOL Annex VI); Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act; Clean Air Act; Clean Water Act; Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act; Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act; Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act; Mercury-Containing and Rechargeable Battery Management Act; Noise Control Act; Oil Pollution Act; Resource Conservation and Recovery Act; Rivers and Harbors Act; Safe Drinking Water Act; Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act; Toxic Substances Control Act; American Innovation and Manufacturing Act.

**Superfund: Enforcement**  
Program Area: Enforcement

(Dollars in Thousands)

	<b>FY 2024 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
<b><i>Hazardous Substance Superfund</i></b>	<b><i>\$185,418</i></b>	<b><i>\$0</i></b>	<b><i>\$0</i></b>	<b><i>\$0</i></b>
Total Budget Authority	\$185,418	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Workyears	801.8	743.5	745.3	1.8

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

**Program Project Description:**

Starting in FY 2024, the Superfund Enforcement program was solely transferred from the annual Superfund appropriation to the Superfund tax receipts. The Program's FTE are built into the Agency's FTE ceiling. The Superfund Enforcement Program advances the five pillars of EPA's *Powering Great American Comeback* initiative, and protects communities by ensuring prompt site cleanup using an "enforcement first" approach to maximize the participation of responsible parties in performing cleanups, which preserves federal dollars for sites where there are no viable contributing parties. The Superfund Enforcement Program obtains potentially responsible parties' (PRP) commitments to perform and pay for cleanups through civil judicial and administrative site actions. The Superfund Enforcement Program works closely with the EPA's Office of Land and Emergency Management (OLEM) and the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) to combine litigation, legal, and technical skills to bring enforcement actions and address emerging issues. Superfund enforcement efforts ensure that Superfund sites with responsible parties or interested third parties are cleaned up in a timely manner and result in more site cleanups than would be possible using only government funds, which in turn supports reuse of those sites.

**The Superfund Enforcement Program:**

- Secures cleanups through orders and settlements from responsible parties and third parties, thereby providing clean air, land, and water for every American and making contaminated properties available for reuse.
- Takes enforcement actions, including negotiating agreements to recover costs from responsible parties, thereby preserving American taxpayer dollars for sites where there are no viable responsible parties.
- Develops cleanup enforcement policies, model documents, and trainings.
- Issues guidance and tools to clarify potential cleanup liability to support cleanup, reuse, and revitalization of contaminated properties.

In FY 2024, the Superfund Enforcement Program secured private-party commitments for cleanup and cost recovery and billed for oversight amounts totaling approximately \$1.25 billion. The use of Superfund enforcement tools resulted in cleanup and redevelopment at 97 private party sites in FY 2024.



## **FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:**

The Superfund Enforcement Program directly supports *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every America* and *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership*. Many of these sites may be profitably reused, including mining sites that may provide critical minerals. In FY 2026, the Agency will strengthen EPA's Superfund Enforcement Program by complementing work in the Superfund Remedial and Superfund Emergency Response and Removal Programs, providing financial support for DOJ to pursue judicial actions to compel PRP cleanup, and supporting actions in response to lead and per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) releases. EPA will continue its work to achieve prompt site cleanups, maximize the participation by PRPs, and secure third-party funding of cleanups. In addition, the Agency will prioritize its efforts on the most significant sites in terms of human health and environmental impact. EPA also will pursue prospective purchaser agreements and liability protections to return sites to profitable use, particularly at mining sites.

EPA can deposit payments received pursuant to settlement agreements with PRPs into site-specific special accounts established for use consistent with settlement agreements for specific sites. These accounts can include both reimbursed payments for past response costs as well as cashout payments received from parties for future site cleanup. Site-specific special accounts provide needed cleanup dollars at many sites that otherwise may not have received funding. In FY 2024, EPA created 12 special accounts and collected \$237.8 million for response work. The Agency disbursed or obligated \$278.4 million from special accounts for response work (including reclassifications).

DOJ's participation in Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) cases is statutorily mandated for settlements related to remedial action cleanups, most cost recovery settlements, and all judicial enforcement matters. DOJ's support will be sought to negotiate and enter into consent decrees with PRPs to perform remedial actions, to pursue judicial actions to compel PRP cleanup, and to pursue judicial actions to recover monies spent in cleaning up contaminated sites. EPA provides financial support to DOJ for these activities through an interagency agreement.

### *Cost Recovery Support*

The Agency will continue to pursue an "enforcement first" and "polluter pays" approach that maximizes PRP participation at Superfund sites by performing enforcement activities such as conducting PRP searches, negotiating site-specific settlements, pursuing insurance and bankruptcy recoveries, and recovering costs through appropriate cashout settlements. These activities ensure that responsible parties conduct or pay for cleanups and preserve federal dollars for sites where there are no viable contributing parties.

## **Performance Measure Targets:**

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

**FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):**

- (+1.8 FTE) This program change aligns resources with Administration priorities and core statutory requirements.

**Statutory Authority:**

Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1970, 84 Stat. 2086, as amended by Pub. L. 98–80, 97 Stat. 485 (codified at Title 5, App.) (EPA’s organic statute); Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA).

## **Superfund: Federal Facilities Enforcement**

Program Area: Enforcement

(Dollars in Thousands)

	<b>FY 2024 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
<b><i>Hazardous Substance Superfund</i></b>	<b>\$8,463</b>	<b>\$1,793</b>	<b>\$1,784</b>	<b>-\$9</b>
Total Budget Authority	\$8,463	\$1,793	\$1,784	-\$9
Total Workyears	40.8	35.6	40.9	5.3

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

### **Program Project Description:**

In FY 2024, the Superfund Federal Facilities Enforcement Program was partially transitioned from the annual Superfund appropriation to the Superfund tax receipts. The Program's FTE are built into the Agency's FTE ceiling. The Superfund Federal Facilities Enforcement Program supports the five pillars of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative through close compliance monitoring and enforcement at sites where there is federal ownership or a federal operator, whether full or partial, and the federal owner conducts or is involved in cleanup under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA or "Superfund"). After years of service and operation, many federal facilities are contaminated with, among other things, hazardous substances, pollutants, per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), solvents, munitions, and radioactive wastes. Enforcement actions and facilitating cleanup promote potential redevelopment of these sites in the future. The Program enforcement against federal facilities ensures that the U.S. government complies with environmental laws and requirements in the same manner and to the same extent as any other regulated entity, as required by law.

Consistent with *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership*, and pursuant to CERCLA Section 120, EPA must enter into Interagency Agreements, commonly referred to as Federal Facility Agreements (FFAs), with responsible federal agencies to ensure that the cleanups at their National Priorities List (NPL) sites are protective of public health and the environment. The Program provides enforceable oversight of the investigation and cleanup processes. These FFAs govern cleanups at 176 federal facility Superfund sites, including many of the Nation's largest and most complex cleanup projects. While only 10 percent of the NPL sites are federal facility sites, over 41 percent of the total operable units in the Superfund Program are at federal facilities.<sup>1</sup> In the Federal Facilities Enforcement Program, EPA assesses the compliance of federal facilities with environmental statutes and regulations that works in partnership with federal, state, tribal, and local agencies. The Program encourages compliance, compels regulated entities to correct and/or mitigate violations, and assess appropriate penalties for violations.

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<sup>1</sup> Operable units often comprise discrete areas of a cleanup site, depending on the complexity of the problems associated with the site. These operable units may address geographic areas of a site, specific site problems, or areas where a specific action is required. An example of a typical operable unit could include removal of drums and tanks from the surface of a site.

## **FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:**

In FY 2026, the Program will continue to act in response to significant contamination from federal facilities. EPA will focus its resources on the highest priority sites, particularly those that may present an imminent and/or substantial endangerment, have human exposure not yet under control, or have the potential for beneficial redevelopment. EPA also will negotiate and amend, as appropriate, FFAs for federal facility sites on the NPL and continue to monitor FFAs for compliance. EPA will expedite cleanup and redevelopment of federal facility sites and will use dispute resolution processes and other approaches to timely resolve formal and informal cleanup disputes. The Agency will continue to seek ways to improve its engagement with other federal agencies and state, tribal, and local governments, emphasizing protective, timely cleanups that address communities' needs.

In FY 2026, the Agency also will work to address PFAS contamination by developing information and, where needed, initiating investigations to support possible actions under multiple statutory authorities, consistent with the Addressing Exposure to PFAS National Enforcement and Compliance Initiative.<sup>2</sup> Federal facilities (e.g., Department of Defense military installations and Department of Energy sites) are starting to address PFAS contamination at their NPL sites. As federal agencies conduct this work at their federal facility NPL sites, CERCLA requires EPA to oversee the work.

## **Performance Measure Targets:**

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

## **FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):**

- (-\$9.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base payroll costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.

## **Statutory Authority:**

Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1970, 84 Stat. 2086, as amended by Pub. L. 98–80, 97 Stat. 485 (codified at Title 5, App.) (EPA's organic statute); Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) § 120.

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<sup>2</sup> For more information, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/enforcement/national-enforcement-and-compliance-initiative-addressing-exposure-pfas>.

## **Homeland Security**

## Homeland Security: Preparedness, Response, and Recovery

Program Area: Homeland Security

(Dollars in Thousands)

	<b>FY 2024 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
Science & Technology	\$25,348	\$23,598	\$25,542	\$1,944
<b><i>Hazardous Substance Superfund</i></b>	<b><i>\$35,472</i></b>	<b><i>\$34,588</i></b>	<b><i>\$35,192</i></b>	<b><i>\$604</i></b>
Total Budget Authority	\$60,820	\$58,186	\$60,734	\$2,548
Total Workyears	120.9	112.4	128.8	16.4

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

### Program Project Description:

The Homeland Security Preparedness, Response, and Recovery Program is critical to protecting the Nation from the devastating effects of an attack with a chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) threat agent. The Program deploys the Portable High-Throughput Integrated Identification System (PHILIS), a suite of mobile analytical “all hazards” confirmatory laboratories, with specific performance capabilities, to assess the presence of chemical warfare agents in samples during an emergency response. PHILIS deploys rapidly and transmits on-scene, high-throughput analysis of air, soil, and water samples in areas that have experienced a release or require site mitigation from contamination, ensuring prompt laboratory analysis in the event of an incident. The Program also utilizes the Airborne Spectral Photometric Environmental Collection Technology (ASPECT) aircraft, which aids first responders by detecting chemical and radiological vapors, plumes, and clouds with real-time data delivery.

Cooperative federalism and cross-agency partnerships are essential to keeping the American people safe from hazardous agents. This Program conducts inter-agency workgroups with dedicated training initiatives and exercise opportunities on CBRN preparedness and other response related content. These efforts expand training and exercises to include multi-media refinement for efficiency and effectiveness, tactical assistance for prompt identification of agent breaches and incidents, and dedicated mechanisms to enhance communication and safeguard databases storing sensitive data and legacy information. Further, it broadens operational engagement and support when using the Emergency Management Portal (EMP) and WebEOC response systems.

Cultivation of highly skilled, well-trained, and well-equipped personnel is vital to supporting multiple incidents and threats involving CBRN substances. Engaging with federal partners (e.g., DHS) enables knowledge sharing to determine the best approaches to address large-scale incidents and results in highly specialized expertise that advances responsiveness and builds incident response awareness for federal, state, local partners, and industry. Overall, the Program is critical in not only deciphering and understanding vulnerabilities and threats, but also in addressing current and future incidents that pose harm to the American people.

## **FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:**

In FY 2026, the Program will support the Administration's focus on *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* and *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative through the following activities:

- Develop site characterization, decontamination, waste management, clearance methods, and strategies for priority chemical, biological, and radiological threats to protect the human health and environment of the American people. This enables site remediation while reducing time and cost and promotes site reoccupation to ensure clean air, land, and water for every American.
- Advance cleanup of hazardous waste sites, support reduced toxic emissions in the air, and foster economic growth and restoration to impacted families across the country while remaining good stewards of tax dollars and ensuring resources continue to advance the mission.
- Develop partnerships, at state and federal levels, to ensure projects are approved by external entities that support continuity in the development of sample collection protocols and analysis methods for infusion of the Environmental Sampling & Analytical Methods (ESAM)<sup>3</sup> on-line tool. The ESAM detection and sampling and analysis tool helps external incident response partners and those working in an emergency response field capacity to respond more efficiently to incidents, enabling smooth site to laboratory transition of data and knowledge. This will streamline business operations performed to safeguard the environment.
- Conduct research, through the Homeland Security Research Program (HSRP), to enhance response capabilities by developing methods, tools, and information for site characterization, decontamination, waste management, and clearance for priority chemical, biological, and radiological threats, all while reducing time and cost and ensuring safety. This research includes testing commercially available technologies to support response and site cleanup capabilities. The HSRP showcases many efforts that highlight the commitment to advancing emergency response capabilities for every American by leveraging cooperative federalism and cross-Agency partnerships and pioneering AI innovation in environmental protection.
- HSRP, in collaboration with Program and Regional Office partners and other federal, state, local, territorial, and tribal stakeholders, will generate resources, tools, and training to advance capabilities to respond to environmental emergencies.
- HSRP will advance environmental remediation capabilities through updating sampling and analyses procedures, adapting augmented reality tools for training, evaluating drones for

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<sup>3</sup> For more information, please see: <https://www.epa.gov/esam>.

application in decontamination, and continuously assessing emerging technologies for environmental clean-up.

- Operate, enhance, and continue to overhaul the aging PHILIS capability. PHILIS units provide the Nation with mobile analytical “all hazards” confirmatory labs (qualitative and quantitative) with unique capability to analyze chemical threat agents. EPA is modernizing PHILIS (PHILIS 2.0); this modernization will upgrade the platform (mobility) and the laboratory (analytical equipment). The platform replacements will provide greatly improved long-distance mobility, reliability, maintenance and operating costs, and operational uniformity.
- Utilize the ASPECT aircraft. ASPECT aids first responders by providing aerial surveillance screening for wide-area chemical, radiological, and nuclear detection, as well as infrared and advanced imagery products with real-time data delivery.
- Participate in trainings and exercises on CBRN preparedness and response topics with key federal response partners on select inter-agency workgroups. Maintain a highly skilled, well-trained, and well-equipped response workforce (*i.e.*, On-Scene Coordinators) that has the capacity to respond to simultaneous incidents as well as threats involving CBRN substances. Provide knowledge products for and expertise on detection, environmental characterization, decontamination, and waste disposal methods following the release of a CBRN agent.
- Maintain Environmental Response Laboratory Network, a network of accredited public and private laboratories with capabilities to analyze environmental samples for chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear contaminants, providing EPA emergency responders with access to vetted laboratories with a broad spectrum of analytical laboratory services.

#### **Performance Measure Targets:**

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

#### **FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):**

- (-\$818.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.
- (+\$1,431.0 / +12.2 FTE) This program change is an increase in resources and FTEs to support modernization of PHILIS.
- (-\$9.0) This program change reduces homeland security research resources.



**Statutory Authority:**

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, §§ 104, 105, and 106;  
Homeland Security Act of 2002.

## **Homeland Security: Protection of EPA Personnel and Infrastructure**

Program Area: Homeland Security

(Dollars in Thousands)

	<b>FY 2024 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
Environmental Programs & Management	\$4,973	\$4,665	\$4,986	\$321
Science & Technology	\$625	\$625	\$500	-\$125
Building and Facilities	\$6,225	\$6,676	\$6,176	-\$500
<b><i>Hazardous Substance Superfund</i></b>	<b><i>\$1,257</i></b>	<b><i>\$1,102</i></b>	<b><i>\$915</i></b>	<b><i>-\$187</i></b>
Total Budget Authority	\$13,081	\$13,068	\$12,577	-\$491
Total Workyears	14.0	13.3	13.3	0.0

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities. Total workyears in FY 2026 include 13.3 FTE to support Homeland Security working capital fund (WCF) services.

### **Program Project Description:**

The Homeland Security: Protection of EPA Personnel and Infrastructure Program is proposed for reduction to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and reduce duplicative, voluntary, and unnecessary work. This change focuses resources on EPA's core mission and advances core statutory work. This program plays an integral role in preparing essential personnel and establishing an effective blueprint for the Agency's Continuity of Operations (COOP) plans and procedures. Cooperative federalism and cross-agency partnerships are incorporated into the process to promote efficiency and streamline performance for Mission Essential Functions (MEFs) and Primary Mission Essential Functions (PMEFs) administered during an emergency response incident. COOP follows the National Continuity Policy Implementation Plan (NCPIC) and the National Security Presidential Directive-51/Homeland Security Presidential Directive-20 (NSPD-51/HSPD-20), and other authorities and references which include, but are not limited to, the National Security Act of 1947, 50 U.S.C. § 3042 and the Presidential Policy Directive (PPD)-21, Critical Infrastructure Security and Resilience. These partnerships result in a strong and efficient succession of critical duties in the event of an incident to protect human health and the environment and ensure clean air, land, and water for every American.

To remain in a posture of continuity and effective readiness, the Program follows and incorporates FEMA's Federal Mission Resiliency (FMR) directives and incident response recommendations and practices to complement current National Continuity Policy, enhance training and exercise supplies for FMR concept integration, and strengthen evaluation mechanisms. Aligning internal processes with FEMA's National Continuity Policy actions ensures essential functions and resources are in place and pinpoints COOP program challenges and solutions.

To measure sustainability of current COOP plans and procedures, conscientious assessments and inspections will occur to identify areas of improvement and streamline efficiency throughout the process. This will safeguard the Nation from unexpected vulnerabilities, threats, and attacks while pursuing approaches that will benefit the American people. Cooperative federalism and cross-agency partnerships will be introduced with the invitation of in-person FEMA personnel performing semiannual assessments of the Program's COOP processes. Monthly reviews of the headquarters' COOP Program also will occur to attest essential functions are in place, risk management initiatives have been considered, and multiple program plans and techniques have been proposed, tested, and implemented to cover a variety of conditions that could occur.

This Program supports the Administration's goal to protect human health and the environment. This Program also ensures continuity of critical operations to protect the American people when faced with disasters that threaten the Nation.

#### **FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:**

In FY 2026, the Program will support the Administration's focus on *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* and *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative through the following activities:

- Reinforce COOP plans and procedures to protect the human health and environment of the American people.
- Implement advanced conservation to clean up hazardous sites, support reduced toxic emissions in the air and foster economic growth and restoration to impacted families during COOP activation efforts all while remaining good stewards of tax dollars and ensuring resources continue to advance the mission.
- Develop partnerships, at state and federal levels, to ensure projects are approved that external entities can support to restore trust and fulfill the needs of the American people. This will incorporate monitoring continuity programs across the Agency and those external to the Agency by focusing on testing, training, and exercises to accelerate general COOP awareness and procedures. In addition, it will streamline COOP processes to safeguard the environment and boost infrastructure that will allow the nation to thrive.

#### **Performance Measure Targets:**

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

#### **FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):**

- (-\$187.0) This program change reduces funding for COOP assessments and updates and this program is proposed for reduction to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and reduce duplicative, voluntary, and unnecessary work. This change focuses resources on EPA's core mission and advances core statutory work.

**Statutory Authority:**

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, §§ 104, 105, 106; Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004; Homeland Security Act of 2002; Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1970, 84 Stat. 2086, as amended by Pub. L. 98–80, 97 Stat. 485 (codified at Title 5, App.) (EPA’s organic statute).

## **Indoor Air and Radiation**

## **Radiation: Protection**

Program Area: Indoor Air and Radiation

(Dollars in Thousands)

	<b>FY 2024 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
Environmental Programs & Management	\$8,791	\$9,520	\$2,470	-\$7,050
Science & Technology	\$2,295	\$1,740	\$1,047	-\$693
<b><i>Hazardous Substance Superfund</i></b>	<b>\$3,823</b>	<b>\$2,472</b>	<b>\$2,122</b>	<b>-\$350</b>
Total Budget Authority	\$14,909	\$13,732	\$5,639	-\$8,093
Total Workyears	53.5	50.9	25.0	-25.9

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

### **Program Project Description:**

This program is proposed for reduction to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and reduce duplicative work. This change focuses resources on EPA's core mission and advances core statutory work.

This Program provides radioanalytical laboratory services and field-based technical support for screening and identifying radiological contaminants at Superfund sites. Program activities are in direct support of *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative. EPA's National Analytical Radiation Environmental Laboratory (NAREL) in Montgomery, Alabama, is the only EPA laboratory with in-house world-class radiochemical analytical capability. It performs thousands of radiochemical analyses annually on a variety of sample matrices (soil, sediment, water, air filters) from sites contaminated with radioactive materials. The high-quality analytical data produced by NAREL informs Agency decisions at Superfund sites across the country. The National Center for Radiation Field Operations (NCRFO) in Las Vegas, Nevada, provides field deployable instrumentation and expert staff to response to radiological emergencies anywhere in the nation. They also support the Superfund Program by providing field-based technical support, specialized instrumentation, site assessment and document review, as requested by EPA regions, in support of Superfund site cleanup activities.

### **FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:**

In FY 2026, EPA's National Analytical Radiation Environmental Laboratory (NAREL) and the National Center for Radiation Field Operations (NCRFO) will continue to provide laboratory analytical and field-based technical support for the characterization and cleanup of Superfund and federal facility sites. Their mission is to provide fixed and mobile analytical capability and expertise to inform Agency actions.

Work in this Program directly supports protecting communities from hazardous waste and environmental damage, thereby protecting human health and the environment, and contributing to

the well-being of communities that may be disproportionately impacted by radioactive releases. In FY 2026, EPA's National Analytical Radiation Environmental Laboratory (NAREL) in Montgomery, Alabama, and National Center for Radiation Field Operations (NCRFO) in Las Vegas, Nevada, will continue to provide analytical and field support to manage and mitigate radioactive releases and exposures. These two organizations provide data and technical support for the characterization and cleanup of Superfund and hazardous waste sites.

NAREL and NCRFO provide data evaluation and assessment, document review, and field support through ongoing laboratory and fixed analytical capability. Thousands of radiochemical analyses are performed annually at NAREL on a variety of samples from contaminated sites. NAREL is EPA's only radiological laboratory with in-house radiochemical analytical capability. NCRFO provides field-based technical support for screening and identifying radiological contaminants at Superfund and non-Superfund sites across the country, including air sampling equipment and expert personnel.

More specifically, these organizations focus on providing technical support and high-quality data to support Agency decisions at sites across the country. They also develop guidance for cleaning up Superfund and other sites that are contaminated with radioactive materials.

#### **Performance Measure Targets:**

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

#### **FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):**

- (-\$12.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.
- (-\$151.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a reduction due to the recalculation of lab utilities.
- (-\$187.0 / +0.7 FTE) This net program change aligns program funding with core statutory requirements.

#### **Statutory Authority:**

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA).

## **Information Exchange / Outreach**



## **Exchange Network**

Program Area: Information Exchange / Outreach

(Dollars in Thousands)

	<b>FY 2024 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
Environmental Programs & Management	\$15,359	\$11,098	\$0	-\$11,098
<b><i>Hazardous Substance Superfund</i></b>	<b><i>\$1,037</i></b>	<b><i>\$1,328</i></b>	<b><i>\$0</i></b>	<b><i>-\$1,328</i></b>
Total Budget Authority	\$16,396	\$12,426	\$0	-\$12,426
Total Workyears	26.2	23.2	0.0	-23.2

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

### **Program Project Description:**

The Exchange Network (EN) Program is proposed for elimination in alignment with Administration priorities to advance cooperative federalism by returning the responsibility for funding local environmental programs to state and local entities. This change focuses resources on EPA's core mission and advances *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

### **FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:**

In FY 2026, resources and FTE for the EN Program are proposed for elimination.

### **Performance Measure Targets:**

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

### **FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):**

- (-\$1,328.0) This change eliminates this program as part of the effort to limit federal investment in activities that go beyond the EPA's core statutory requirements and to focus Agency resources on its national priorities.

### **Statutory Authority:**

Federal Information Security Management Act (FISMA); Clean Air Act (CAA); Clean Water Act (CWA); Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA); Federal Insecticide Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA); Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA); Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA); Government Management Reform Act (GMRA); Clinger-Cohen Act (CCA).

## **IT/ Data Management/ Security**

## Information Security

Program Area: IT / Data Management / Security

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Environmental Programs & Management	\$11,852	\$8,388	\$14,012	\$5,624
<b><i>Hazardous Substance Superfund</i></b>	<b><i>\$2,123</i></b>	<b><i>\$1,040</i></b>	<b><i>\$5,082</i></b>	<b><i>\$4,042</i></b>
Total Budget Authority	\$13,975	\$9,428	\$19,094	\$9,666
Total Workyears	8.0	10.1	12.8	2.7

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

### Program Project Description:

EPA's Information Security and Privacy Program protects Agency assets and personnel from cybersecurity threats. Digital information is a valuable national resource and a strategic asset that enables EPA to fulfill its mission to protect human health and the environment. Information protection is accomplished by strengthening the Agency's information security and privacy posture, elevating EPA staff knowledge of information security and privacy awareness, maintaining agency information security and privacy directives, increased adoption of information security and privacy practices, and optimizing processes to reduce the burden of compliance. This program supports *Pillar 4: Make the United States the Artificial Intelligence Capital of the World* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative by helping secure Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology development and its supporting infrastructure.

### FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

In FY 2026, the Program and Information Technology Security Governance will be maturing continuous monitoring functions which include the maturation of the Continuous Authorization to Operate (ATO) or "Ongoing Authorization," a foundational activity supporting Risk Management. The capabilities are designed to continuously monitor systems to address real-time threats. System controls are constantly evaluated and tested to identify vulnerabilities which allow the Agency to make risk-based decisions quickly and confidently and engage in remediation efforts to minimize ongoing exposures. A component of this effort includes investment in the Enterprise Governance, Risk, Compliance (GRC) tool with machine-readable authorization capabilities. The Agency will continue to strengthen Personally Identifiable Information (PII) protection via the National Privacy Program, automating workflows, and enhancing data labeling with Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI) collaboration.

In FY 2026, EPA will continue to leverage the Agency's Zero Trust Architecture (ZTA) Roadmap and implementation of zero trust capabilities, addressing identified gaps to enable the development of networks which can resist malicious actions regardless of their origin. Proper permissions for a given user's needs are a critical component of ZTA, and coding for more granular control over the network environment is an information security priority. The Agency also will remain focused on

ensuring that all devices in EPA's environment are compliant with information security requirements prior to accessing network resources. EPA will continue to leverage capabilities through the Continuous Diagnostics and Mitigation (CDM) Program. In addition to protecting EPA information assets, CDM will help the Agency identify and respond to federal-wide cybersecurity threats and incidents more quickly and efficiently.

#### *Enterprise Security Operations - Incident Response Capability*

EPA will continue to invest in providing a centralized, integrated, and coordinated cybersecurity incident response through its Computer Security Incident Response Capability, defending against unauthorized activity within Agency computer networks. This includes providing threat awareness, cyber network defense infrastructure, cybersecurity tool engineering, vulnerability and risk assessments, threat intelligence processing, threat hunting, and penetration testing capabilities. EPA will continue leveraging the Department of Homeland Security's Vulnerability Disclosure Program (VDP) and the "Bug Bounty" Program, which provides vetted cybersecurity researchers to identify vulnerabilities, and awarding bounties for high-risk findings.

#### *Artificial Intelligence*

The Agency will be making investments in securing mission activities from risks posed by leading edge technologies such as Generative AI, Robotic Process Automation (RPA) and Quantum Computing. These investments in the implementation of the necessary controls to allow use of leading-edge technologies within the environment and prevent malicious actors from leveraging these technologies to disrupt business operations, will help to ensure that Agency personnel can perform their core mission activities efficiently and securely.

#### **Performance Measure Targets:**

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

#### **FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):**

- (+\$4,042.0) This program change increases EPA's capacity to implement critical cybersecurity solutions, including the ability to ingest machine readable authorization artifacts, increasing the speed of implementing cloud solutions and minimizing burden in leveraging security capabilities related to information systems.

#### **Statutory Authority:**

Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1970, 84 Stat. 2086, as amended by Pub. L. 98-80, 97 Stat. 485 (codified at Title 5, App.) (EPA's organic statute); Cybersecurity Act of 2015; Federal Information Security Modernization Act (FISMA); Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA); Government Management Reform Act (GMRA); Clinger-Cohen Act (CCA).

## **IT / Data Management**

Program Area: IT / Data Management / Security

(Dollars in Thousands)

	<b>FY 2024 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
Environmental Programs & Management	\$89,592	\$88,112	\$79,164	-\$8,948
Science & Technology	\$2,484	\$3,079	\$2,890	-\$189
<b><i>Hazardous Substance Superfund</i></b>	<b><i>\$19,372</i></b>	<b><i>\$19,786</i></b>	<b><i>\$13,874</i></b>	<b><i>-\$5,912</i></b>
Total Budget Authority	\$111,448	\$110,977	\$95,928	-\$15,049
Total Workyears	448.1	466.7	469.9	3.2

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities. Total workyears in FY 2026 include 172.0 FTE to support IT/Data Management working capital fund (WCF) services, a decrease of 12.7 FTE.

### **Program Project Description:**

EPA's IT/Data Management (IT/DM) Program is proposed for reduction to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and reduce duplicative, voluntary, and unnecessary work. This change focuses resources on EPA's core mission and advances core statutory work. This program supports the maintenance of EPA's Information Technology (IT) and Information Management (IT/IM) services that enable citizens, regulated facilities, states, and other entities to interact with EPA electronically to access, analyze and understand, and share environmental data on-demand.

### **FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:**

This program directly supports the *Pillar 4: Making the United States the Artificial Intelligence Capital of the World* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative by supporting the development of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology and supporting infrastructure. Additionally, work performed under this program directly supports agencywide implementation of all five pillars through access to critical information technology and information management tools and solutions. This program plays an essential role in providing data sets to other federal and state agencies to enable cooperative federalism, empower permitting reform, and supporting smart regulations, which supports *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership*.

In support of Executive Order (EO) 14179: *Removing Barriers to American Leadership in Artificial Intelligence*,<sup>4</sup> EPA will continue to expand its AI capabilities and build AI capacity throughout the Agency while mitigating risks and promoting a foundation grounded in strong data practices. The EPA's Responsible AI Official and a Chief AI Officer will lead AI strategy, compliance, and governance for the Agency alongside mission and business partners, to harness AI in a manner that not only enhances EPA's operational efficacy but also aligns with EPA's mission to protect human health and the environment. These efforts will build upon continual

<sup>4</sup> For more information, see <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/01/31/2025-02172/removing-barriers-to-american-leadership-in-artificial-intelligence>.

development and refinement of AI use cases and initiatives which have high operational impact, and through AI solutions and platforms which can improve the accuracy and speed of environmental assessments, optimize resource allocation, and develop modern solutions to pressing environmental issues.

In FY 2026, EPA will further strengthen its IT acquisition review process as part of the implementation of Federal Common Baseline Controls for the Federal Information Technology Acquisition Reform Act (FITARA) and in support of Executive Order 14240: *Eliminating Waste and Saving Taxpayer Dollars by Consolidating Procurement*. FITARA ensures Agency IT plans are cost-effective, well designed, directly drive EPA long-term performance goals, and follow best practices.

The Agency also will continue implementing the 21st Century Integrated Digital Experience Act (P.L. 115-336),<sup>5</sup> which includes modernization of internal and public-facing websites and digital services, as well as digitization of paper forms and non-digital services. In FY 2026, EPA will continue to maintain and manage its core IT/DM services, including the Geospatial Information Program, Information Collection Requests, National Library Program, and EPA's Docket Center.

Key initiatives include:

- Leveraging AI and cost-effective solutions to convert internal administrative paper or analog workflows into modern digital workflows to speed up common administrative tasks and improve internal data collection and reporting, and improve cross-agency data interoperability and delivery to the public.
- Continuing to implement the agencywide records Digitization Strategy through two national digitization centers and leverage AI and machine learning capabilities to assist staff with their record responsibilities, including the appropriate scheduling of electronic records.
- Continuing to implement EPA's Controlled Unclassified Information Program, standardizing, simplifying, and improving information management and IT practices to facilitate the sharing of important sensitive data within the Agency, with key stakeholders outside of the Agency, and with the public, meeting federal standards.
- Increasing the use of registries and improving registry quality by modernizing from custom built solutions to cost-efficient commercial off-the-shelf tools with expanded capabilities. Registries are shared data services in which common data are managed centrally but shared broadly to improve data quality, enable integration and interoperability of data across program silos, and facilitate discovery of EPA information publicly and internally.
- Continuing to modernize EPA's web presence to support internal and external users with information on EPA business, supporting employees with internal information, and providing a clearinghouse for the Agency to communicate initiatives and successes. EPA also will continue to upgrade its web infrastructure to ensure that it meets statutory and security requirements.
- Continuing to support the essential capabilities of GeoPlatform, a shared enterprise technology for geospatial information and analysis. By implementing geospatial data,

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<sup>5</sup> For additional information, please see <https://www.congress.gov/115/plaws/publ336/PLAW-115publ336.pdf>.

applications, and services EPA can integrate, interpret, and visualize multiple data sets and information sources to support environmental decisions and share information with state and local partners during emergency response operations, directly supporting *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* and *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership*.

- Continuing to transform the Agency's libraries to meet the needs of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century in a cost-efficient manner. This involves reducing the physical footprint of Agency libraries; providing online services and resources at the customer's point of need; and centralizing core services.

### **Performance Measure Targets:**

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

### **FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):**

- (-\$944.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.
- (-\$4,968.0 / +2.7 FTE) This program change is a net decrease due to a reduction in contracting resources offset by an increase in federal FTE to enhance transparency, oversight and public accountability by bringing critical AI expertise, records digitization efforts, and registry quality improvement functions back in-house. These adjustments are necessary to reduce unnecessary spending, to refocus EPA on its mission, and to enable EPA to fulfill its responsibilities in the most cost-effective and efficient manner.

### **Statutory Authority:**

Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1970, 84 Stat. 2086, as amended by Pub. L. 98–80, 97 Stat. 485 (codified at Title 5, App.) (EPA's organic statute); Federal Information Technology Acquisition Reform Act; Federal Information Security Modernization Act (FISMA); Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA); Government Management Reform Act (GMRA); Clinger-Cohen Act (CCA); Rehabilitation Act of 1973 § 508; Geospatial Data Act of 2018; 21st Century Integrated Digital Experience Act (P.L. 115-336); Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018 (PL 115-435); 44 USC §3507; Open, Public, Electronic, and Necessary Government Data Act.

**Legal / Science / Regulatory / Economic Review**



## **Alternative Dispute Resolution**

Program Area: Legal / Science / Regulatory / Economic Review

(Dollars in Thousands)

	<b>FY 2024 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
Environmental Programs & Management	\$439	\$579	\$0	-\$579
<b><i>Hazardous Substance Superfund</i></b>	<b><i>\$1,006</i></b>	<b><i>\$644</i></b>	<b><i>\$0</i></b>	<b><i>-\$644</i></b>
Total Budget Authority	\$1,445	\$1,223	\$0	-\$1,223
Total Workyears	0.8	2.9	0.0	-2.9

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

### **Program Project Description:**

EPA's Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Program is proposed for elimination in FY 2026 to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and focuses resources on EPA's core mission. This change supports the EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative. The ADR Program provides facilitation, mediation, public involvement, training, and consensus building advice and support for the Agency. All statutory work will be accomplished in Legal / Science / Regulatory / Economic Review programs or other applicable programs.

### **FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:**

In FY 2026, the ADR Program is proposed for elimination as the Agency returns to its core statutory requirements and *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

### **Performance Measure Targets:**

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

### **FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):**

- (-\$644.0 / -0.6 FTE) The Alternative Dispute Resolution Program is proposed for elimination to align with Administration priorities and refocus EPA on its core mission. These adjustments are necessary to enable EPA to fulfill its responsibilities in the most cost-effective and efficient manner.

### **Statutory Authority:**

Administrative Dispute Resolution Act (ADRA) of 1996; Negotiated Rulemaking Act of 1996; Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1970, 84 Stat. 2086, as amended by Pub. L. 98-80, 97 Stat. 485

(codified at Title 5, App.) (EPA's organic statute); Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA).

## **Legal Advice: Environmental Program**

Program Area: Legal / Science / Regulatory / Economic Review

(Dollars in Thousands)

	<b>FY 2024 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
Environmental Programs & Management	\$61,776	\$58,876	\$50,263	-\$8,613
<b><i>Hazardous Substance Superfund</i></b>	<b><i>\$1,804</i></b>	<b><i>\$713</i></b>	<b><i>\$608</i></b>	<b><i>-\$105</i></b>
Total Budget Authority	\$63,580	\$59,589	\$50,871	-\$8,718
Total Workyears	269.5	266.6	263.8	-2.8

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities. Total workyears in FY 2026 include 5.5 FTE funded by TSCA fees and 22.0 FTE to support Legal Advice working capital fund (WCF) services, an increase of 1.4 FTE.

### **Program Project Description:**

The Legal Advice: Environmental Program is proposed for reduction to increase efficiency and focus on litigation support for core clean up programs. This program provides legal representation, counseling, and support for Agency activities taken pursuant to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). This funding supports legal counseling activities necessary for the Superfund Program's work to clean up contaminated sites, supporting EPA's state, tribal, and local partners.

### **FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:**

In support of *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* and *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative, the Program will play a critical role in advancing EPA's Superfund mission under CERCLA. Through sound legal counsel, the Program ensures that EPA will fulfill its statutory obligations and that environmental cleanups are lawful and focused on delivering tangible results for American communities. To this end, the Program will advise on the full lifecycle of Superfund cleanups—from emergency response efforts, identifying liable parties and recovering taxpayer dollars, to helping support remedy decisions that restore land and water to safe, productive use. This includes defending EPA's actions in court, often in coordination with the Department of Justice (DOJ). These efforts are vital to ensuring every American has access to clean air, land, and water while also relieving American taxpayers of undue financial burden. In FY 2026, the Program also will continue to support federal facility cleanups and complex site work through strategic legal guidance that facilitates interagency collaboration, respects state and tribal authorities, and ensures that site decisions withstand legal scrutiny. This work strengthens cooperative federalism and accelerates progress at some of the nation's most contaminated sites. Additionally, by reinforcing legal integrity, enabling enforcement, and promoting accountability, the Program helps EPA protect public health, revitalize communities, and return contaminated land to productive use.

In FY 2025, the Program provided legal counsel on EPA’s response authority relating to several complex challenges, including many of the Superfund matters listed in EPA’s *100 Environmental Accomplishments* in the first 100 days. For example, the Program provided key counseling on issues related to the Tijuana River sewage crisis and the California wildfires. The Program also provided legal review of CERCLA Action Memos for removal actions valued at over \$187 million. In FY 2026, the Program will continue to provide legal counsel on CERCLA responses at abandoned uranium mines. In FY 2025, the Program’s legal counsel also was instrumental in supporting numerous remedial action legal issues at high-profile sites such as the Upper Columbia River, West Lake Landfill, and St. Regis Paper Co.; in implementing the Agency’s updated guidance on the cleanup of lead in soil at residential sites; and in addressing per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) issues.

In FY 2026, the Program will continue to provide support on litigation matter. In FY 2025, the program provided support by: working with DOJ on novel and precedent-setting CERCLA litigation matters at private sites, such as *August Mack Environmental, Inc. v. EPA*, No. 1:23-cv-36 Klee (N.D.W. Va.) (claims against the Superfund by a private contractor) and *United States v. Alden Leeds Inc., et al.*, No. 25-1049 (3rd Cir.) (challenge to the entry of a CERCLA settlement). The Program also worked with DOJ and federal entities on litigation involving allegations of CERCLA violations at federal facilities, such as *Greenaction v. United States Department of the Navy, et al.*, No. 3:24-cv-03899 (N.D. Cal.) (challenging Navy’s response and EPA’s oversight activities at a federal National Priorities List “NPL” site); and *California Institute of Technology v. City of Pasadena and United States of America*, No. 2:23-cv-07681-AB-AJR (C.D. Cal.) (involving a federal facility on the NPL).

### **Performance Measure Targets:**

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

### **FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):**

- (-\$133.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.
- (+\$28.0 / +0.2 FTE) This net program change is an increase to provide legal support and advice for the Superfund Remedial, Removal, and Enforcement programs.

### **Statutory Authority:**

Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1970, 84 Stat. 2086, as amended by Pub. L. 98–80, 97 Stat. 485 (codified at Title 5, App.) (EPA’s organic statute); Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA).

## **Operations and Administration**

## Acquisition Management

Program Area: Operations and Administration

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Final Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan
Environmental Programs & Management	\$34,401	\$32,223	\$32,247	\$24
Leaking Underground Storage Tanks	\$113	\$109	\$132	\$23
<b><i>Hazardous Substance Superfund</i></b>	<b><i>\$23,620</i></b>	<b><i>\$25,588</i></b>	<b><i>\$23,752</i></b>	<b><i>-\$1,836</i></b>
Total Budget Authority	\$58,134	\$57,920	\$56,131	-\$1,789
Total Workyears	275.6	278.8	292.7	13.9

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

### Program Project Description:

This program is proposed for reduction as EPA anticipates improvements in acquisition management will allow EPA to maintain existing program services while focusing resources on core mission and statutory work. EPA's Acquisition Management Program supports the Agency's contract activities, which cover planning, awarding, and administering contracts for the Agency.

### FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:

The Acquisition Management Program plays a critical role in advancing the Agency's mission while aligning operations with Executive Orders (EO) 14240: *Eliminating Waste and Saving Taxpayer Dollars by Consolidating Procurement*<sup>6</sup> and EO 14222: *Implementing the President's Department of Government Efficiency Cost* initiative.<sup>7</sup> Operations will focus on improving the acquisition lifecycle management, promoting fiscal responsibility, and increasing operational efficiencies across all procurement activities. This program directly supports *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership*, and *Pillar 4: Make the United States the Artificial Intelligence Capital of the World* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative. Additionally, work through the Acquisition Management Program supports all five pillars of EPA's initiative through cost-efficient procurement activity to advance core Agency mission priorities.

In FY 2026, EPA will prioritize implementation of the President's Made in America agenda<sup>8</sup> and Made in America laws. EPA will use all tools available, consistent with law, to maximize the use of goods, products, and materials produced in the United States, minimize the use of waivers, and provide clear and consistent demand signals to industry on federal demand for critical items.

<sup>6</sup> For more information, see <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/03/25/2025-05197/eliminating-waste-and-saving-taxpayer-dollars-by-consolidating-procurement>.

<sup>7</sup> For more information, see <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/03/03/2025-03527/implementing-the-presidents-department-of-government-efficiency-cost-efficiency-initiative>.

<sup>8</sup> For more information, see <https://www.madeinamerica.gov/>.

## Acquisition Modernization Initiatives

In FY 2026, EPA will leverage available expanded functionalities to the Agency's contract writing system to help develop requirements, streamline solicitations, manage vendor evaluation, conduct best value assessment, promote data integrity and reporting. Additionally, EPA will explore the adoption of artificial intelligence to strengthen the following initiatives:

### Policy Reformation and Simplification

In line with EO 14275: *"Restoring Common Sense to Federal Procurement,"*<sup>9</sup> EPA will reform acquisition policies to streamline internal procedures, eliminate outdated guidance and promote plain language usage through artificial intelligence. These policy reforms will help staff and stakeholders better understand acquisition requirements, ensure compliance with evolving federal procurement directives, and support the President's call for common sense to federal procurement.

### Strengthening Acquisition Planning

EPA will enhance acquisition planning, emphasizing early engagement with program offices using modern visualization tools. In addition, EPA will ensure procurement requirements align with mission critical priorities, are cost effective and reduce redundancy. Moreover, the Program will advance acquisition planning, resulting in reduced procurement lead-times, more competitive and compliant awards, and greater support of initiatives outlined in current Executive Orders.

### Contract Closeout Unliquidated Obligation Reduction Initiative

EPA will prioritize the timely closeout of expired contracts by centralizing contract closeout to support financial stewardship of taxpayer resources. Proper closeout procedures ensure that all obligations under the contract and relevant regulations have been met, minimizing the risk of legal disputes. EPA will implement quick closeout procedures for each contract period resulting in the release of unused funds prior to funds expiration allowing redistribution for other mission critical priorities.

Obtaining resources for these initiatives will allow EPA to efficiently and effectively act by streamlining and strengthening acquisition procedures.

## Performance Measure Targets:

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

## FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):

- (-\$5,714.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.

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<sup>9</sup> For more information, see: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/04/18/2025-06839/restoring-common-sense-to-federal-procurement>.

- (+\$3,878.0 / +14.0 FTE) This program change is an increase to reflect increased workload to ensure compliance with EO 14222: *Implementing the President's "Department of Government Efficiency" Cost Efficiency Initiative*, bringing additional oversight and accountability to federal procurement actions.

**Statutory Authority:**

Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1970, 84 Stat. 2086, as amended by Pub. L. 98–80, 97 Stat. 485 (codified at Title 5, App.) (EPA's organic statute).



## Central Planning, Budgeting, and Finance

Program Area: Operations and Administration

(Dollars in Thousands)

	<b>FY 2024 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
Environmental Programs & Management	\$81,953	\$80,928	\$76,603	-\$4,325
Leaking Underground Storage Tanks	\$580	\$537	\$450	-\$87
<b><i>Hazardous Substance Superfund</i></b>	<b><i>\$35,335</i></b>	<b><i>\$31,378</i></b>	<b><i>\$22,462</i></b>	<b><i>-\$8,916</i></b>
Total Budget Authority	\$117,868	\$112,843	\$99,515	-\$13,328
Total Workyears	443.7	446.9	394.3	-52.6

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities. Total workyears in FY 2026 include 0.0 FTE in Central Planning, Budgeting, and Finance working capital fund (WCF) services, a decrease of 42.4 FTE.

### **Program Project Description:**

This program is proposed for reduction to increase efficiency of Agency operations and reduce duplicative, voluntary, and unnecessary work. This change focuses resources on EPA's core mission and statutory work. Superfund resources for the Central Planning, Budgeting, and Finance program provides a full array of financial management support services and systems necessary to pay Superfund bills, recoup cleanup and oversight costs for the Trust Fund. The Program also supports integrated planning, budget formulation and execution, financial management, performance and accountability processes, financial cost recovery, and systems to ensure effective stewardship of Superfund resources.

### **FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:**

EPA will continue to provide resource stewardship in alignment with the five pillars of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative to achieve EPA's mission of protecting human health and the environment while energizing the greatness of the American economy. EPA will ensure that all Agency programs operate with fiscal responsibility and management integrity, financial services are efficiently and consistently delivered nationwide, and programs demonstrate results. EPA will maintain key planning, budgeting, and financial management activities. The Program will ensure secure efficient maintenance operations of core Agency financial management systems: Compass, PeoplePlus (Time and Attendance), Budget Formulation System, which includes a Performance Module, and related financial reporting systems. The Agency will continue to review its financial systems for modernization and innovation opportunities to support greater effectiveness of targeting legacy systems for replacement while remaining fiscally responsible. EPA will continue to use dashboards to support payroll, FTE management, and GPRMA performance planning and systematic tracking of progress.

In FY 2026, EPA will continue to modernize and streamline business processes to promote transparency and efficiency. The Program will apply Lean principles and leverage input from

customer-focused councils, advisory groups, and technical workgroups to continue improving as a high-performance organization. In line with *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership*, EPA will continue to standardize and streamline internal business processes and additional federal and/or internal shared services to include GSA when supported by business case analysis.

In FY 2026, the Program will continue to focus on core responsibilities in the areas of strategic planning and budget preparation, financial reporting, transaction processing, and Superfund Cost Recovery. The Program will continue to implement FITARA requirements in accordance with EPA's Implementation Plan.<sup>10</sup> The Chief Information Officer will continue to be engaged throughout the budget planning process to ensure that IT needs are properly planned and resourced in accordance with FITARA.

In FY 2026, the Program will continue to conduct internal control program reviews and use the results and recommendations from the Office of Inspector General (OIG). This effort will provide evidence of the soundness of EPA's financial management program and identify areas for further improvement to align with cost savings to American taxpayers. Annually, the Program conducts internal control reviews of multiple programs to collect key operational statistical data for the financial management program to further evaluate its operations and for management decision-making.

EPA will continue to strive to strengthen programs considered susceptible to improper payment. The Agency will remain vigilant in reducing fraud, waste, and abuse, and strengthening internal controls over improper payments. In addition, as required by the Payment Integrity Information Act of 2019 (PIIA) (P.L. 116-117),<sup>11</sup> and OMB Memorandum *M-21-19 Appendix C*,<sup>12</sup> EPA conducts risk assessments of all its payment streams.

### **Performance Measure Targets:**

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

### **FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):**

- (-\$3,221.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base payroll costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.
- (-\$5,695.0 / -5.4 FTE) This program change streamlines processes and priorities to align with the Administrator's five pillars as part of the *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative resulting in anticipated efficiencies in operations. Resources in this program are

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<sup>10</sup> For more information please see: <http://www.epa.gov/open/fitara-implementation-plan-and-chief-information-officer-assignment-plan>.

<sup>11</sup> For more information, please see: <https://www.congress.gov/116/plaws/publ117/PLAW-116publ117.pdf>.

<sup>12</sup> For more information, please see: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/M-21-19.pdf>.

proposed for reduction to use taxpayer dollars responsibly and to eliminate wasteful spending.

**Statutory Authority:**

Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1970, 84 Stat. 2086, as amended by Pub. L. 98-80, 97 Stat. 485 (codified as Title 5, App.) (EPA's organic statute); Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA).

## **Facilities Infrastructure and Operations**

Program Area: Operations and Administration

(Dollars in Thousands)

	<b>FY 2024 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
Environmental Programs & Management	\$274,208	\$275,909	\$234,599	-\$41,310
Science & Technology	\$67,394	\$64,733	\$55,023	-\$9,710
Building and Facilities	\$26,604	\$34,000	\$28,900	-\$5,100
Leaking Underground Storage Tanks	\$597	\$686	\$612	-\$74
Inland Oil Spill Programs	\$625	\$637	\$541	-\$96
<b><i>Hazardous Substance Superfund</i></b>	<b><i>\$74,984</i></b>	<b><i>\$67,080</i></b>	<b><i>\$57,373</i></b>	<b><i>-\$9,707</i></b>
Total Budget Authority	\$444,412	\$443,045	\$377,048	-\$65,997
Total Workyears	328.2	300.4	319.8	19.4

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities. Total workyears in FY 2026 include 3.1 FTE in Facilities Infrastructure and Operations working capital fund (WCF) services, an increase of 0.7 FTE.

### **Program Project Description:**

This program is proposed for reduction as EPA anticipates improvements in workforce efficiency and facilities consolidation will allow EPA to reduce resources needed to maintain Agency facilities. Superfund (SF) resources in the Facilities Infrastructure and Operations Program fund the Agency's rent, utilities, and security.

### **FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:**

In FY 2026, EPA will continue to invest in the reconfiguration of EPA's workspaces, enabling the Agency to release office space and avoid long-term rent costs, consistent with HR 4465, the *Federal Assets Sale and Transfer Act of 2016*. In compliance with Executive Order (EO) 14274: *Restoring Common Sense to Federal Office Space Management*,<sup>13</sup> as well as EO 14210: *Implementing the President's "Department of Government Efficiency" Workforce Optimization Initiative*,<sup>14</sup> EPA is implementing an ambitious space consolidation plan that will reduce the number of occupied facilities, consolidate space within remaining facilities, and reduce square footage. This program directly supports *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

EPA is working to reduce office, laboratory and warehouse space. This has the potential to provide a cumulative annual rent avoidance of approximately \$28 million across all appropriations. This will help offset EPA's escalating rent and security costs and reduce taxpayer burden. By the end

<sup>13</sup> For more information, see <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/04/18/2025-06838/restoring-common-sense-to-federal-office-space-management>.

<sup>14</sup> For more information, see <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/02/14/2025-02762/implementing-the-presidents-department-of-government-efficiency-workforce-optimization-initiative>.

of FY 2025, EPA will have consolidated employees out of the Ronald Reagan Building and into existing space within the Federal Triangle buildings in Washington, D.C. The consolidation will reduce the Agency's leased-space footprint by approximately 323,000 square feet and lower annual lease costs by \$18 million. In addition to the Ronald Reagan Building, the Agency is vacating the Human Studies Facility located in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. This consolidation will reduce the Agency's leased-space footprint by approximately 155,000 square feet and lower annual lease costs by \$3.7 million. The Agency also is vacating its Houston regional laboratory and consolidating into the Ada, OK, facility for a rent savings of \$2.2 million and space reduction of 41,126 square feet. For FY 2026, the Agency is requesting \$34.2 million for rent, \$2.5 million for utilities, and \$9.7 million for security in the SF appropriation. EPA uses a standard methodology to ensure that rent charging appropriately reflects planned and enacted resources at the appropriation level.

In FY 2026, the Agency will take action to reconfigure EPA's workplaces with the goal of reducing long-term rent costs. Space consolidation and reconfiguration enables EPA to reduce its footprint to create a more efficient, collaborative, and technologically sophisticated workplace. EPA will continue to manage lease agreements with GSA and private landlords, and maintain EPA facilities, fleet, equipment, and fund costs associated with utilities and building security needs. EPA also will meet regulatory Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) obligations and provide health and safety training to field staff (e.g., inspections, monitoring, On-Scene Coordinators), and track capital equipment. In addition, the Agency will continue to utilize GSA's Managed Service Office, *USAccess*, and Enterprise Physical Access Control System (ePACS) programs. *USAccess* provides standardized HSPD-12 approved Personal Identity Verification (PIV) card enrollment and issuance and ePACS provides centralized access control of EPA facilities, including restricted and secure areas.

### **Performance Measure Targets:**

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

### **FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):**

- (-\$642.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.
- (-\$8,247.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the recalculation of transit subsidy, rent, utilities, and security.
- (-\$818.0 / +3.4 FTE) This program change is a net decrease due to a reduction in contracting resources offset by an increase in federal FTE to enhance transparency, oversight and public accountability by bringing critical facility management and operations activities back in-house. This program is proposed for reduction in alignment with Administration priorities to use taxpayer dollars efficiently and to shrink the federal real estate footprint by eliminating unused office space

**Statutory Authority:**

Federal Property and Administration Services Act (FPAS); Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1970, 84 Stat. 2086, as amended by Pub. L. 98-80, 97 Stat. 485 (codified at Title 5, App.) (EPA's organic statute).

## **Financial Assistance Grants / IAG Management**

Program Area: Operations and Administration

(Dollars in Thousands)

	<b>FY 2024 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
Environmental Programs & Management	\$28,386	\$28,202	\$27,147	-\$1,055
<b><i>Hazardous Substance Superfund</i></b>	<b><i>\$5,012</i></b>	<b><i>\$4,170</i></b>	<b><i>\$2,903</i></b>	<b><i>-\$1,267</i></b>
Total Budget Authority	\$33,397	\$32,372	\$30,050	-\$2,322
Total Workyears	132.0	141.0	151.1	10.1

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

### **Program Project Description:**

This program is proposed for reduction as EPA increases efficiencies of Agency operations while anticipating a lower need for Superfund-related grants and interagency agreements. Superfund resources in the Financial Assistance Grants and Interagency Agreement (IA) Management Program support the management of grants and IAs, and suspension and debarment activities.

### **FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:**

EPA will continue to implement activities to achieve efficiencies while enhancing quality and accountability. This program directly supports *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative by reducing bureaucratic delays and encouraging increased collaboration between our federal, state, and local partners.

In FY 2026, EPA will continue implementation of the indirect cost policy in 2 CFR 200,<sup>15</sup> also known as the "Uniform Grants Guidance," to close loopholes, decrease complexity, increase transparency, and ultimately cap recoverable costs. In addition, the Agency will prioritize implementation of the President's Made in America agenda<sup>16</sup> and Made in America laws. EPA will use all tools available, consistent with law, to maximize the use of goods, products, and materials produced in the United States, minimize the use of waivers, and provide clear and consistent demand signals to industry on federal demand for critical items.

EPA will continue to focus on reducing the administrative burden on EPA and grants recipients and on improving grants management procedures by: 1) streamlining EPA's grants management policies by creating a new comprehensive framework to guide policy development, implementation, compliance, and review; 2) developing the FY 2026-2030 Grants Management Plan that aligns with Administration priorities; and 3) using risk-based method of pre- and post-award monitoring for grants to more effectively ensure compliance with financial and administrative management requirements.

<sup>15</sup> For more information, see <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/subtitle-A/chapter-II/part-200>.

<sup>16</sup> For more information, see <https://www.madeinamerica.gov/>.

In FY 2026, EPA will continue to implement Executive Order 14240: “*Eliminating Waste and Saving Taxpayer Dollars by Consolidating Procurement*” and transitioning procurement to the General Services Administration through interagency assisted acquisition agreements. Leveraging GSA-managed assisted acquisition for common goods and services will enable the Agency to focus more effectively on core mission at a reduced cost and administrative management burden.

The Agency will continue to make use of discretionary debarments and suspensions as well as statutory debarments under the Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act to protect the government’s business interests. In FY 2026, EPA will focus suspension and debarment activity on the most egregious violations. Congress and federal courts have long recognized federal agencies’ inherent authority and obligation to exclude non-responsible parties from eligibility to receive government contracts and non-procurement awards (for example: grants, cooperative agreements, loans, and loan guarantees). Several recent federal statutes, GAO reports, and OMB directives require that federal agencies administer effective suspension and debarment programs to protect the public’s interest and the integrity of federal programs.

#### **Performance Measure Targets:**

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

#### **FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):**

- (-\$966.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.
- (-\$301.0 / -0.6 FTE) This program change is a decrease to reflect a lower need for Superfund-related grant and interagency agreements resulting from increased efficiencies and technical capabilities. This program is proposed for reduction in alignment with Administration priorities to use taxpayer dollars efficiently and to eliminate the use of wasteful spending.

#### **Statutory Authority:**

Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1970, 84 Stat. 2086, as amended by Pub. L. 98–80, 97 Stat. 485 (codified at Title 5, App.) (EPA’s organic statute); Federal Grant and Cooperative Agreement Act (FGCAA); Federal Acquisition Streamlining Act § 2455 (FASA).



## **Human Resources Management**

Program Area: Operations and Administration

(Dollars in Thousands)

	<b>FY 2024 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
Environmental Programs & Management	\$62,477	\$51,813	\$40,000	-\$11,813
<b><i>Hazardous Substance Superfund</i></b>	<b><i>\$10,904</i></b>	<b><i>\$7,424</i></b>	<b><i>\$5,704</i></b>	<b><i>-\$1,720</i></b>
Total Budget Authority	\$73,381	\$59,237	\$45,704	-\$13,533
Total Workyears	270.6	307.6	223.0	-84.6

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities. Total workyears in FY 2026 include 2.0 FTE to support Human Resources Management working capital fund (WCF) services, a decrease of 57.7 FTE.

### **Program Project Description:**

This program is proposed for reduction as EPA anticipates improvements in workforce planning, accountability, and efficiency while promoting fiscal responsibility and focusing on essential agency functions. Superfund (SF) resources for the Human Resources (HR) Management Program support human capital (HC) activities throughout EPA.

### **FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:**

The activities supported by EPA's HR Management Program contribute to effective workforce planning and management. EPA continues to ensure employees have the right skills to successfully achieve the Agency's core mission today and, in the future, as well as to ensure efficiency and accountability of the federal workforce. This program directly supports *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative by promoting government efficiency and collaboration between our federal, state, and local partners.

In FY 2026, EPA will continue implementing workforce restructuring efforts in line with Executive Order (EO) 14217: *Commencing the Reduction of the Federal Bureaucracy*<sup>17</sup> and EO 14210: *Implementing the President's Department of Government Efficiency Workforce Optimization Initiative*<sup>18</sup> by eliminating non-essential functions and implementing hiring restrictions to minimize government waste. Following on initiatives carried out in FY 2025, such as eliminating the centrally funded paid internship program, EPA will continue implementing workforce reshaping initiatives in FY 2026 to align organizational structure with the five pillars of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative. In addition, to support efforts to increase federal accountability and efficiency, EPA also will continue implementing EO 14171:

<sup>17</sup> For more information see <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/02/25/2025-03133/commencing-the-reduction-of-the-federal-bureaucracy>.

<sup>18</sup> For more information see <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/02/14/2025-02762/implementing-the-presidents-department-of-government-efficiency-workforce-optimization-initiative>.

*Restoring Accountability to Policy-Influencing Positions within the Federal Workforce*<sup>19</sup> by evaluating all of its policy-influencing positions, and revamping performance standards for the entirety of the workforce to align with the Agency's core mission. EPA also will seek to eliminate race- and sex-based preferences in federal and private sectors, reinforcing civil rights laws to promote merit-based opportunities and individual achievement while revoking previous diversity and inclusion mandates by enforcing EO 14173: *Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity*.<sup>20</sup> In addition, in order to enforce management decisions for the labor force, EPA will continue implementing EO 14251: *Exclusions from Federal Labor-Management Relations Programs*.<sup>21</sup> The Agency also will enhance the federal hiring process by focusing on merit, efficiency, and dedication to constitutional values, while eliminating factors such as race, sex, or religion in hiring decisions by implementing EO 14148: *Reforming the Federal Hiring Process and Restoring Merit to Government Service*.<sup>22</sup>

EPA will continue to maintain and operate critical HR systems and dashboards related to Mission Critical Occupations, workforce demographics, attrition, and other important human capital data. These dashboards are critical and provide data visualizations and easy-to-understand information about the current workforce, assisting EPA with workforce planning, succession management by identifying workforce gaps due to anticipated retirements and attrition trends, and the development of strategic staffing plans. This is critical considering approximately 19 percent of EPA's workforce is retirement eligible and another 14 percent of the current workforce will become retirement eligible over the next five years.

### **Performance Measure Targets:**

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

### **FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):**

- (+\$676.0) This change to fixed and other costs is an increase due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.
- (-\$2,396.0 / -2.1 FTE) This program change is a decrease to reflect a lower need for human resource management activity resulting from efficiency gains agencywide, decreased hiring initiatives, and a lower FTE ceiling for the Agency. This program is proposed for reduction in alignment with Administration priorities to use taxpayer dollars efficiently and to eliminate the use of wasteful spending.

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<sup>19</sup> For more information see <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/02/25/2025-03133/commencing-the-reduction-of-the-federal-bureaucracy>.

<sup>20</sup> For more information, see <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/01/31/2025-02097/ending-illegal-discrimination-and-restoring-merit-based-opportunity>.

<sup>21</sup> For more information, see <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/04/03/2025-05836/exclusions-from-federal-labor-management-relations-programs>.

<sup>22</sup> For more information, see <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/01/30/2025-02094/reforming-the-federal-hiring-process-and-restoring-merit-to-government-service>.

**Statutory Authority:**

Title 5 of the U.S.C.; Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1970, 84 Stat. 2086, as amended by Pub. L. 98–80, 97 Stat. 485 (codified at Title 5, App.) (EPA’s organic statute).

## **Research: Chemical Safety and Sustainability**

## **Research: Chemical Safety for Sustainability**

Program Area: Research: Chemical Safety for Sustainability

(Dollars in Thousands)

	<b>FY 2024 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
Science & Technology	\$93,399	\$88,305	\$66,952	-\$21,353
<b><i>Hazardous Substance Superfund</i></b>	<b>\$8,457</b>	<b>\$7,723</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>-\$7,723</b>
Total Budget Authority	\$101,856	\$96,028	\$66,952	-\$29,076
Total Workyears	273.6	259.0	241.4	-17.6

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

### **Program Project Description:**

The Chemical Safety for Sustainability Research Program is proposed for elimination to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and reduce duplicative, voluntary, and unnecessary work. This change focuses on EPA's core mission and advances *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative.

### **FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:**

Resources and FTE are proposed for elimination in this program in FY 2026. This budget focuses on statutorily required research in support of core mission areas that help the American people.

### **Performance Measure Targets:**

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

### **FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):**

- (-\$7,723.0) This program is proposed for elimination to deconstruct wasteful spending, reduce unnecessary burden on EPA partners and the regulated community in order to unleash American energy and economic growth, and refocus EPA on its mission. These adjustments are necessary to enable EPA to fulfill its responsibilities in the most cost-effective and efficient manner.

### **Statutory Authority:**

Clean Air Act §§ 103, 104; Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA); Children's Health Act; 21st Century Nanotechnology Research and Development Act; Clean Water Act; Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA); Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA); Pollution Prevention Act (PPA); Resource Conservation

and Recovery Act (RCRA); Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA); Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA).

## **Health and Environmental Risk Assessment**

Program Area: Research: Chemical Safety for Sustainability

(Dollars in Thousands)

	<b>FY 2024 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
Science & Technology	\$42,055	\$38,732	\$24,694	-\$14,038
<b><i>Hazardous Substance Superfund</i></b>	<b>\$5,208</b>	<b>\$5,238</b>	<b>\$5,714</b>	<b>\$476</b>
Total Budget Authority	\$47,263	\$43,970	\$30,408	-\$13,562
Total Workyears	160.9	148.9	109.9	-39.0

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

### **Program Project Description:**

EPA's Health and Environmental Risk Assessment (HERA) Research Program is focused on advancing assessment science and generating robust health assessments that provide the scientific basis for decisions made by EPA and others, including states and tribes, under an array of environmental laws, including: the Clean Air Act; the Clean Water Act; the Safe Drinking Water Act; the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA); and the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA).

There are over 1,300 Superfund sites on the National Priorities List.<sup>23</sup> Communities near Superfund sites are faced with an urgent need for coordinated assistance to assess and address environmental contamination issues. HERA supports the assessment needs of the Agency's Superfund Program and its regional risk assessors by providing Provisional Peer-Reviewed Toxicity Values (PPRTVs),<sup>24</sup> technical support, and rapid assessments to respond to emergent scenarios, supporting management decisions at contaminated Superfund and hazardous waste sites. HERA's Superfund research efforts leverage new data, computational tools, and modernized knowledge bases to inform new assessment approaches that enhance rapid response and screening capabilities.

### **FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:**

In FY 2026, the HERA Research Program's work will focus explicitly on efforts integral to achieving the Agency's priorities and informing EPA's implementation of key environmental regulations with the express purpose of safeguarding *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative. Examples of this work include:

*Delivering PPRTV Assessments:* HERA will provide five to six high-priority PPRTVs as prioritized by the Office of Land and Emergency Management to support CERCLA and Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) implementation. These assessments will streamline site

<sup>23</sup> For more information, please see: <https://www.epa.gov/superfund/superfund-national-priorities-list-npl>.

<sup>24</sup> To learn more about HERA's PPRTVs, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/pprtv>.

screening and remediation processes, reducing compliance costs for industry while upholding environmental stewardship.

*Developing Fit-for-Purpose Assessment Products:* HERA will complement the PPRTVs with additional human health assessment products for industrial chemicals. HERA will prioritize the development of peer-reviewed toxicity values for per- and polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS) to support federal, state, and tribal risk assessment and management decisions. By tailoring assessment scope to program needs, the Program will enhance efficiency and support timely regulatory outcomes. This work will expand the availability of high-quality toxicity values and inform regulatory decisions while maintaining rigorous scientific standards.

*Enhancing Data Integration for increased cooperation and efficiency:* Collaborate with the Chemical Safety for Sustainability (CSS) Research Program to integrate assessment databases and literature management tools, including *Health and Environmental Research Online*,<sup>25</sup> the Health Assessment and Workplace Collaborative,<sup>26</sup> and the CompTox Chemicals Dashboard.<sup>27</sup> This will streamline data access and improve decision-making speed, aligning with Agency priorities for efficient program execution.

*Providing Rapid Technical Support:* Continue delivering rapid technical assistance to EPA programs and regions, expediting evaluations of chemical-specific exposures at Superfund and contaminated sites, particularly in urgent situations, without imposing additional regulatory burdens.

*Supporting Lead Exposure Assessments:* Enhance and apply lead biokinetic models to estimate blood lead levels for regulatory determinations and site assessments, prioritizing childhood lead exposure.<sup>28</sup> Update the Exposure Factors Handbook<sup>29</sup> with current data on human factors, such as soil and dust ingestion rates, to support risk assessors in making efficient, science-based decisions.

Within the given resource levels for this Program, research will be internally driven only, and external partnerships, grants, and research agreements will not continue.

## **Research Planning:**

The Agency assesses its research performance through the distribution of research evaluation surveys to key users of its research products. This provides evidence for how research products are being used, by whom, and the degree of satisfaction product users have with research product quality, usability, and timeliness of delivery. Through the evaluation process, the Agency identifies its strengths and finds targeted areas for improvement in its research programs.

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<sup>25</sup> For more information on HERO, please visit: <https://hero.epa.gov/>.

<sup>26</sup> For more information, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/risk/health-assessment-workspace-collaborative-hawc>.

<sup>27</sup> The CompTox Chemicals Dashboard can be found at: <https://comptox.epa.gov/dashboard/>.

<sup>28</sup> For more information about HERA's assessments of Lead at Superfund sites, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/superfund/lead-superfund-sites-risk-assessment>.

<sup>29</sup> The EFH can be found at: <https://www.epa.gov/expobox/about-exposure-factors-handbook#about>.



EPA's state engagement<sup>30</sup> is designed to inform states about their role within EPA and EPA's research programs, and to better understand the science needs of state environmental and health agencies. Key partners at the state level include: the Environmental Council of the States, with its Environmental Research Institute of the States and the Interstate Technology and Regulatory Council; the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials; as well as state media associations, such as the Association of State and Territorial Solid Waste Management Officials.

### **Performance Measure Targets:**

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

### **FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):**

- (-\$349.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.
- (+\$825.0 / +14.0 FTE) This program change reflects an increase for the Health and Environmental Risk Assessment program to continue statutorily required work.

### **Statutory Authority:**

Clean Air Act §§ 103, 108, 109, and 112; Clean Water Act §§ 101(a)(6), 104, 105; Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) § 3(c)(2)(A); Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) § 1458; Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA); CERCLA; RCRA.

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<sup>30</sup> For more information, please see: <https://www.epa.gov/research/epa-research-solutions-states>.

## **Research: Sustainable Communities**

## **Research: Sustainable and Healthy Communities**

Program Area: Research: Sustainable Communities

(Dollars in Thousands)

	<b>FY 2024 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
Science & Technology	\$134,581	\$132,205	\$58,597	-\$73,608
Leaking Underground Storage Tanks	\$354	\$327	\$304	-\$23
Inland Oil Spill Programs	\$681	\$670	\$522	-\$148
<b><i>Hazardous Substance Superfund</i></b>	<b><i>\$20,147</i></b>	<b><i>\$16,937</i></b>	<b><i>\$11,448</i></b>	<b><i>-\$5,489</i></b>
Total Budget Authority	\$155,764	\$150,139	\$70,871	-\$79,268
Total Workyears	436.8	397.2	294.6	-102.6

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

### **Program Project Description:**

EPA's Sustainable and Healthy Communities (SHC) Research Program is proposed for reduction to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and reduce duplicative, voluntary, and unnecessary work. This change focuses resources on EPA's core mission and advances core statutory work. This Program supports Superfund law requirements for a comprehensive and coordinated federal "program of research, evaluation, testing, development, and demonstration of alternative or innovative treatment technologies... which may be utilized in response actions to achieve more permanent protection of human health and welfare and the environment."<sup>31</sup>

### **FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:**

Within the given resource levels for this program, research will be internally driven only, and external partnerships, grants, and research agreements will not continue.

In FY 2026, SHC will conduct research and provide technical assistance and support to inform analyses and decisions by the Office of Land and Emergency Management, regional offices, tribes, and states regarding characterization, remediation, and management of contaminated soil, sediment, and groundwater. The tools developed under the SHC Research Program will help the Agency address complex contamination problems at Superfund, Resource Conservation Recovery Act (RCRA), and Brownfields sites in the United States. EPA research personnel and associated support staff also will identify, monitor, and develop options to control vapor intrusion to reduce exposures, reduce contaminant sources, and define sampling strategies that address when, where, and how to sample. SHC researchers will evaluate source control technologies at mine waste sites and investigate remediation and recovery for reuse of critical minerals from contaminated sites. Scientific journal articles, datasets, models, and tools will be published and used to support communities.

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<sup>31</sup> 42 U.S.C. § 9660(b).

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) will continue to be a priority research topic for SHC. EPA researchers will support the needs of EPA partners, states, tribes, and local communities by developing methods to evaluate PFAS in waste, soil, sediment, groundwater, and homes and investigate PFAS fate and transport in the environment as well as its disposal and destruction. Researchers also will identify locations and source contributors to potentially high PFAS exposure in children and other populations by evaluating multimedia PFAS sources and pathways.<sup>32</sup> SHC's research supports implementation of the *PFAS Strategic Roadmap*<sup>33</sup> and EPA guidance on PFAS destruction and disposal that is required by the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020.<sup>34</sup>

In FY 2026, EPA's Superfund Technical Support Centers (TSC) for Engineering<sup>35</sup> and Groundwater<sup>36</sup> will continue to provide rapid technical assistance. EPA's Engineering Technical Support Center (ETSC) will provide expertise regarding critical topics of broad application to site remediation across the United States. The Ground Water Technical Support Center (GWTSC) will provide help with subsurface contamination, contaminant fluxes from groundwater to other media, and ecosystem restoration issues. In a given year, the ETSC and GWTSC can respond to over 100 requests for assistance per year, 75-80 percent of which are from National Priority List sites.<sup>37</sup> Requests come from Superfund and RCRA corrective action staff from all 10 EPA Regions. Most requests are for document review or for technical advice. Some requests require field work, sampling, or laboratory analysis.

### ***Research Planning:***

The Agency assesses its research performance through the distribution of research evaluation surveys to key users of its research products. This provides evidence for how research products are being used, by whom, and the degree of satisfaction product users have with research product quality, usability, and timeliness of delivery. Through the evaluation process, the Agency identifies its strengths and finds targeted areas for improvement in its research programs.

EPA's state engagement program<sup>38</sup> is designed to inform states about their role within EPA and EPA's research programs and to better understand the science needs of state environmental and health agencies. Key partners at the state level include: the Environmental Council of the States, with its Environmental Research Institute of the States and Interstate Technology and Regulatory Council; the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials; as well as state media associations, such as the Association of State and Territorial Solid Waste Management Officials.

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<sup>32</sup> For more information, please see, for example:

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/39526893/>, <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC11874334/>.

<sup>33</sup> See EPA's PFAS Strategic Roadmap at: [https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2021-10/pfas-roadmap\\_final-508.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2021-10/pfas-roadmap_final-508.pdf).

<sup>34</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/pfas/interim-guidance-destruction-and-disposal-pfas-and-materials-containing-pfas>.

<sup>35</sup> For more information, please see: <https://www.epa.gov/land-research/engineering-technical-support-center-etsc>.

<sup>36</sup> For more information, please see: <https://www.epa.gov/water-research/ground-water-technical-support-center-gwtsc>.

<sup>37</sup> [Fiscal Year 2021 Annual Report Office of Research and Development Technical Support Coordination Division | Science Inventory | US EPA](#).

<sup>38</sup> For more information on EPA's state engagement efforts, please see: <https://www.epa.gov/research/epa-research-solutions-states>.

**Performance Measure Targets:**

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

**FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):**

- (-\$586.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.
- (-\$4,903.0 / +9.5 FTE) This net program change for the Sustainable and Healthy Communities Program reflects a refocusing of resources to continue statutorily required work. This program is proposed for reduction to deconstruct wasteful spending, reduce unnecessary burden on EPA partners and the regulated community in order to unleash American energy and economic growth, and refocus EPA on its mission. These adjustments are necessary to enable EPA to fulfill its responsibilities in the most cost-effective and efficient manner.

**Statutory Authority:**

Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1970, 84 Stat. 2086, as amended by Pub. L. 98-80, 97 Stat. 485 (codified as Title 5 App.) (EPA's organic statute); Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA).

## **Superfund Cleanup**

## **Superfund: Emergency Response and Removal**

Program Area: Superfund Cleanup

(Dollars in Thousands)

	<b>FY 2024 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
<b><i>Hazardous Substance Superfund</i></b>	<b><i>\$277,004</i></b>	<b><i>\$59,181</i></b>	<b><i>\$47,311</i></b>	<b><i>-\$11,870</i></b>
Total Budget Authority	\$277,004	\$59,181	\$47,311	-\$11,870
Total Workyears	262.8	231.6	244.7	13.1

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

### **Program Project Description:**

The Emergency Response and Removal Program (Superfund Removal) is proposed for reduction to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations that use appropriated funds. EPA plans to sufficiently fund this program with available Superfund tax receipts.

The Emergency Response and Removal Program (Superfund Removal) is the responsible entity for protecting the Nation against releases containing hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants to ensure every American has access to clean air, land, and water. These substances include chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear or other hazardous materials that can impact public safety, natural resources, waterways, neighborhoods with large populations and open rural spaces. The active presence of the Program is critical for emergency response efforts that mitigate, contain, prevent, or limit the severity of an incident once it occurs. The Program acts as an emergency response instrument within the Agency that supports EPA's mission to protect the human health and the environment.

The Program has a primary role in supporting the Agency's National Contingency Plan, a 24/7/365 days response operation designed to answer the call and address emergency responses without delay.<sup>1</sup> This role extends to managing the Agency's Primary Mission Essential Function and it also includes Superfund Removal cleanups of lead, mercury, asbestos, and other complex contaminants that require dedicated and specialized expertise of federal On-Scene Coordinators (OSCs).<sup>2</sup> OSCs are trained with unique skillsets that equip them with customized and comprehensive tools required for effective deployment actions. Through cooperative federalism and cross-agency partnerships, OSCs have delivered a high-level of efficiency and effectiveness using technical assistance and purposeful outreach to combat disastrous emergencies and detect underlying sources that threaten the health and safety of the American people.

The Emergency Response and Removal Program has completed over 3,066 cleanups across the country since 2010. Cleanup actions are multifaceted and can shift unexpectedly based on a range of varying factors to include size, location, nature and if a fire or explosion is present, a natural

<sup>1</sup> For additional information, please refer to: <https://www.epa.gov/emergency-response/national-oil-and-hazardous-substances-pollution-contingency-plan-ncp-overview>.

<sup>2</sup> Data from US EPA Superfund Enterprise Management System.

disaster has occurred, and if the identification of a chemical release and/or other threat can be minimized to reduce exposure to the public. Almost 40 million Americans, essentially 12 percent of the US population, live less than 3 miles from a Superfund Removal site where the Program has completed a removal action between FY 2019 and FY 2023.<sup>3</sup> Starting in FY 2024, the Program was partially transitioned from the annual Superfund appropriation to the Superfund tax receipts.

### **FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:**

The level of urgency and demands have increased in the Emergency Response and Removal Program due to recent wildfires, hurricane disasters, contaminant growth and other incidents that remain a detriment to the public. Severe weather events have led to subsequent multiple releases of hazardous substances, impacting clean air, land, and water and causing severe outcomes if not identified and secured immediately. The Program is focused on increasing efficiency, providing clean air, land and water to the American people, protecting natural resources, and securing human health. Activities in FY 2026 include:

- Working to ensure that every emergency response action to protects the human health and environment of the American people.
- Implement actions to clean up hazardous sites, support reduced toxic emissions in the air and foster economic growth and restoration to impacted families during emergency response efforts all while remaining good stewards of tax dollars and ensuring resources continue to advance the mission.
- Develop partnerships at state and federal levels to ensure projects are approved that external entities can support and meet the needs of the American people. This will incorporate streamlining emergency incident response processes to safeguard the environment and boost infrastructure that will allow the Nation to thrive.

### **Performance Measure Targets:**

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

### **FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):**

- (-\$4,693.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.
- (-\$7,177.0 / +13.1 FTE) This net program change aligns resources with core statutory requirements, five pillar work, and recognizes the need for efficiencies. EPA will focus the increase in FTE and prioritize efforts on the highest-risk sites to save lives and reduce harm. EPA also will prioritize available Superfund tax receipts to clean up sites.

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<sup>3</sup> U.S. EPA, Office of Land and Emergency Management Estimate 2017. Data collected includes (1) site information from FY 2019-FY2023 and (2) census data from the American Community Survey 5-year estimates (2018-2022).



**Statutory Authority:**

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) and Sections 104, 105, 106; Clean Water Act (CWA).

## **Superfund: EPA Emergency Preparedness**

Program Area: Superfund Cleanup

(Dollars in Thousands)

	<b>FY 2024 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
<b><i>Hazardous Substance Superfund</i></b>	<b>\$7,782</b>	<b>\$8,056</b>	<b>\$7,700</b>	<b>-\$356</b>
Total Budget Authority	\$7,782	\$8,056	\$7,700	-\$356
Total Workyears	31.4	28.8	37.2	8.4

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

### **Program Project Description:**

The Superfund Emergency Preparedness Program is proposed for reduction to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and to focus resources on EPA's core mission. The Superfund Emergency Preparedness Program prepares the country for responding to releases of hazardous substances, ensuring that responses are swift and effective in protecting public health and the environment.

### **FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:**

In FY 2026, the Program will support *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Water, and Land for Every American* and *Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative through the following activities:

- Working to ensure that emergency response management performance and controls review protects the human health and environment of the American people.
- Gauge the reach and abilities of reimagined exercises and regional drills, clean up hazardous sites, support reduced toxic emissions in the air and foster economic growth and restoration to impacted families while remaining good stewards of tax dollars and ensuring resources continue to advance the mission.
- Develop partnerships at state and federal levels by governing and co-administering 13 RRTs and the NRT to ensure projects are approved that external entities can support, restoring trust and fulfilling the needs of the American people. This includes streamlining multi-agency coordination and communication efforts to safeguard the environment, boost infrastructure, and create American jobs that will allow the Nation to thrive.

### **Performance Measure Targets:**

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

**FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):**

- (-\$653.0) This net change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.
- (+\$297.0 / +8.4 FTE) This program change aligns resources with core statutory requirements and five pillar work. Through cross-agency partnerships, EPA will work to streamline emergency preparedness exercises and trainings to keep the public safe.

**Statutory Authority:**

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), §§ 104, 105, 106; Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act.

## **Superfund: Federal Facilities**

Program Area: Superfund Cleanup

(Dollars in Thousands)

	<b>FY 2024 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
<b><i>Hazardous Substance Superfund</i></b>	<b><i>\$32,149</i></b>	<b><i>\$26,189</i></b>	<b><i>\$21,621</i></b>	<b><i>-\$4,568</i></b>
Total Budget Authority	\$32,149	\$26,189	\$21,621	-\$4,568
Total Workyears	115.8	102.9	109.7	6.8

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

### **Program Project Description:**

The Superfund Federal Facilities Program is proposed for reduction to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and reduce duplicative and voluntary work. The Program conducts oversight and provides technical assistance for the protective and efficient cleanup and reuse of Federal Facility sites pursuant to Section 120 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) and as mandated by Congress.

### **FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:**

The Superfund Federal Facilities Program will support the *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative by cleaning up hazardous sites, while fostering economic growth for families across the country and by working with our partners at the state and federal levels to ensure projects are being approved to streamline processes that follow the necessary steps to safeguard the environment.

In FY 2026, the Superfund Federal Facilities Program, as part of its statutorily mandated oversight responsibilities, will support EPA's PFAS Strategic Roadmap by overseeing the growing number of PFAS cleanups at Department of Defense (DoD), the Department of Energy (DOE), and OFA sites. The Program will continue to work with our federal partners in support of the Administration's priority on PFAS and PFAS cleanups under CERCLA. EPA will adjust core program capacity as resources permit. Currently, the Program provides oversight at over 110 Federal Facility NPL sites with PFAS detections.

The Program also will prioritize and continue to partner with OFAs; state, local, and tribal governments; and communities to limit human exposure to potentially harmful levels of lead in the environment. EPA will continue to provide oversight of complex cleanups at Federal Facility NPL sites, such as contamination in groundwater, munitions and explosives of concern, contaminants of emerging concern, and contamination from legacy nuclear weapons development and energy research. For example, while the DOE has completed cleanup work at many of its sites, DOE estimates that the remaining legacy Cold War sites will take decades to complete due to groundwater, soil, and waste processing. Similarly, the DoD inventory includes sites that contain chemical and explosive compounds which require special handling, storage, and disposal

practices, as well as cleanup. EPA will continue to provide oversight and technical assistance at DoD's military munitions response sites and support DoD's development of new technologies to streamline cleanups.

To ensure the long-term protectiveness of the remedies, the Agency will continue monitoring, overseeing progress, and improving the quality and consistency of Five-Year Reviews conducted at federal sites where waste has been left in place and land use is restricted. Five-Year Reviews are required under Section 121(c) of CERCLA, and EPA's role is to concur or make its own independent protectiveness determination. EPA has been working collaboratively with DoD, DOE, and the Department of the Interior (DOI) to improve the technical quality, timeliness, and cost of the five-year review reports. In FY 2026, the Superfund Federal Facilities Program will review 50 five-year review reports to fulfill statutory requirements and to inform the public about the protectiveness of remedies.

In FY 2026, the Superfund Federal Facilities Program will target the highest risk sites and focus on activities that bring human exposure and groundwater migration under control. In addition, EPA manages the Docket which contains information reported by federal facilities that manage hazardous waste or from which hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants have been or may be released. The Docket: 1) identifies all federal facilities that must be evaluated through the site assessment process; 2) determines whether they pose a risk to human health and the environment sufficient to warrant inclusion on the NPL; and 3) provides a mechanism to make the information available to the public. The Docket is updated semi-annually and has approximately 2,400 facilities listed. EPA anticipates additional engagement on non-NPL federal facilities on the Docket to address new information and ensure appropriate assessment and referral of these sites to appropriate cleanup programs.

#### **Performance Measure Targets:**

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

#### **FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):**

- (-\$2,368.0) This change to fixed and other costs is a decrease due to the estimated calculation of base workforce costs for existing FTE, adjustments to provide essential workforce support, and estimated changes to benefits costs.
- (-\$2,200.0 / +6.8 FTE) This net program change aligns resources with core statutory requirements, five pillar work, and recognizes the need for efficiencies. EPA will focus the increase in FTE and prioritize efforts on Federal Facility NPL sites. These adjustments are necessary to enable EPA to fulfill its federal responsibilities in the most cost-effective manner.

#### **Statutory Authority:**

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) § 120.

## **Superfund: Remedial**

Program Area: Superfund Cleanup

(Dollars in Thousands)

	<b>FY 2024 Final Actuals</b>	<b>FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2026 President's Budget v. FY 2025 Enacted Operating Plan</b>
<b><i>Hazardous Substance Superfund</i></b>	<b><i>\$686,559</i></b>	<b><i>\$187,819</i></b>	<b><i>\$0</i></b>	<b><i>-\$187,819</i></b>
Total Budget Authority	\$686,559	\$187,819	\$0	-\$187,819
Total Workyears	921.8	823.1	868.8	45.7

The Agency notes that FY 2025 levels are estimates and subject to refinement based on Administration priorities.

### **Program Project Description:**

The Superfund Remedial Program is proposed to be transitioned from annual Superfund appropriated resources to Superfund tax receipts to increase the effectiveness of Agency operations and focuses resources on EPA's core mission. The Program addresses many of the worst contaminated areas in the United States. by investigating contamination and implementing long-term cleanup remedies at sites on the National Priorities List (NPL). The Program also oversees response work conducted by potentially responsible parties (PRPs) at NPL and Superfund Alternative Approach (SAA) sites. Completing response actions, such as soil excavation or capping remedies, can take a few months, while implementing remedies at complex, large area-wide groundwater, sediment, or mining sites may take decades. Conducting cleanup at NPL and SAA sites directly supports *Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American* of EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback* initiative. Remedial construction projects enhance national infrastructure while addressing harmful exposures.

By addressing the human health and environmental risks posed by releases at NPL and SAA sites, the Superfund Remedial Program strengthens the economy and spurs economic growth for all Americans by returning Superfund sites to productive use. As of FY 2024, EPA data shows that approximately 1,200 Superfund sites are in reuse, more than half the number of sites ever placed on the NPL. EPA has data on 10,622 businesses at 718 of these sites. In FY 2024 alone, these businesses generated \$71.8 billion in sales. These businesses employed more than 242 thousand people who earned a combined income of over \$20 billion. Over the last fourteen years, these businesses generated at least \$778 billion in sales.

### **FY 2026 Activities and Performance Plan:**

In FY 2026, the President's Budget proposes to transition the Superfund Remedial Program, including FTE, from annual Superfund appropriated resources to available Superfund tax receipts. EPA will continue to execute its non-delegable, federal responsibility to remediate sites and protect human health, welfare, and the environment. EPA endeavors to maximize the use of special account resources collected from PRPs for site-specific response actions as stipulated in settlement agreements so that available EPA Superfund resources are prioritized for sites without other

sources of funding. More than half of non-federal sites on the final NPL do not have an associated open special account and must rely on other available Superfund resources.

In FY 2026, the Superfund Remedial Program will continue to start and complete critical pre-construction projects such as site characterization and construction design, continue ongoing construction projects, and initiate new work on remedial construction projects at NPL sites across the country. EPA will accelerate the pace of residential lead cleanups to deliver results to communities sooner.

EPA will move swiftly to continue to support the cleanup of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and will collaborate on agencywide crosscutting strategies, including advancing testing and remediation technologies, stopping PFAS from entering drinking water systems, and ensuring the polluter pays for significant sources of legacy contamination and that passive receivers are protected. EPA will provide the foundation and investment necessary for a toolbox that will help states and communities dealing with PFAS contamination.

EPA's regional laboratories will continue to provide cutting-edge science to inform immediate and near-term multi-media decisions on environmental conditions, emergency response, and enforcement. Regional laboratory science also helps inform communities about the risks the sites may pose in terms of chemical exposures and cumulative environmental impacts. This work will support the ambitious environmental and cleanup goals of the Program.

#### **Performance Measure Targets:**

A list of FY 2026 performance measures and targets is located in the FY 2026 Performance Measures tab.

#### **FY 2026 Change from FY 2025 Enacted Budget (Dollars in Thousands):**

- (-\$187,819.0 / -823.1 FTE) In FY 2026, the Superfund Remedial Program is proposed to be transitioned from annual Superfund appropriated resources to Superfund tax receipts. In FY 2025, the U.S. Treasury forecasts collecting a total of \$1.6 billion in Superfund taxes which will be available for use in FY 2026 across EPA Superfund programs. The Agency will continue its efforts to sustain cleanup work to prevent developing a backlog.
- (+868.8 FTE) In FY 2026, The Agency proposes to fund 868.8 Superfund Remedial FTE from the Superfund tax receipts as reimbursable FTE rather than annual Superfund appropriated resources.

#### **Statutory Authority:**

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA).

## **Superfund Special Accounts**



## **Superfund Special Accounts**

### **Background**

EPA has the authority to collect funds from parties to support Superfund investigations and cleanups. Section 122(b)(3) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) authorizes EPA to retain and use funds received pursuant to a settlement agreement with a party to carry out the purpose of that agreement. Funds are deposited in Superfund special accounts for cleanup at the sites designated in individually negotiated settlement agreements. Through use of special accounts, EPA ensures responsible parties pay for cleanup so that annually appropriated resources from the Superfund Trust Fund, resources made available through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021, and available Superfund tax receipts are generally conserved for sites where no viable or liable potentially responsible parties (PRPs) can be identified. Each account is set up separately and distinctly and may only be used for the sites and uses outlined in the settlement(s) with the party or parties.

Special accounts are sub-accounts in the Superfund Trust Fund. Pursuant to the specific agreements, which typically take the form of an Administrative Order on Consent or a Consent Decree, EPA uses special account funds to finance site-specific CERCLA response actions at the site for which the account was established. Of the current 1,341 Superfund sites listed as final on the National Priorities List, more than half do not have special account funds available for use. As special account funds may only be used for sites and uses specified in the settlement agreement, special account resources, Superfund tax receipts and annually appropriated resources are critical to the Superfund Program to clean up Superfund sites.

Special account funds are used to conduct many different site-specific CERCLA response actions, including, but not limited to, investigations to determine the nature and extent of contamination and the appropriate remedy, design, construction and implementation of the remedy, enforcement activities, and post-construction activities. EPA also may provide special account funds as an incentive to another PRP(s) who agrees to perform additional work beyond the PRP's allocated share at the site, which EPA might otherwise have to conduct. Because response actions may take many years, the full use of special account funds also may take many years. Once all site-specific response work pursuant to the settlement agreement is complete and site risks are addressed, special account funds may be used to reimburse EPA for site-specific costs incurred using appropriated or Superfund tax resources (*i.e.*, reclassification), allowing the appropriated and Superfund tax resources to be allocated to other sites. Any remaining special account funds are transferred to the Superfund Trust Fund, where they are available for future appropriation by Congress to further support response work.

### **FY 2024 Special Account Activity**

Since the inception of special accounts through the end of FY 2024, EPA has collected more than \$8.5 billion from parties and earned approximately \$934.3 million in interest. Approximately 63 percent of the funds have been disbursed or obligated for response actions at sites and plans have been developed to guide the future use of the remaining 37 percent of available special account funds. In addition, at sites with no additional work planned or costs to be incurred by EPA, EPA

has transferred approximately \$86.3 million to the Superfund Trust Fund. As of the end of FY 2024, approximately \$5.3 billion has been disbursed for site response actions and approximately \$605.8 million has been obligated but not yet disbursed.

The Agency continues to receive site-specific settlement funds that are placed in special accounts each year, so progress on actual obligation and disbursement of funds may not be apparent upon review solely of the cumulative available balance. In FY 2024, EPA deposited approximately \$237.8 million into special accounts and disbursed over \$278.4 million from special accounts (including reclassifications). At the end of FY 2024, the cumulative amount available in special accounts was approximately \$3.5 billion.

Special accounts vary in size. A limited set of accounts represent the majority of the funds available. At the end of FY 2024, 4 percent of open accounts had greater than \$10 million available and held approximately 71 percent of all available funds in open accounts. There are many accounts with lower available balances. 71 percent of all open accounts with up to \$1 million available represent approximately 5 percent of available funds in all open accounts.

The balance of approximately \$3.5 billion is not equivalent to an annual appropriation. Unlike annually appropriated, IJIA, and Superfund tax funds, the funds collected under settlements and deposited in special accounts are intended to finance future response work at particular sites for the length of the project(s). EPA is carefully managing those funds that remain available for site response work and develops plans to utilize the available balance. EPA will continue to plan the use of funds received to conduct site-specific response activities or reclassify and/or transfer excess funds to the Superfund Trust Fund to make annually appropriated and Superfund tax funds available for use at other Superfund sites.

For some Superfund sites, although funds are readily available in a special account, remedial action(s) selected for a site may take time to initiate and complete. The timeframe required to implement selected remedial actions for a site is driven largely by site-specific conditions, such as the specific requirements for special account use set forth in the settlement agreement, the stage of site cleanup, the viability of other responsible parties to conduct site cleanup, and the nature of the site contamination. EPA has plans to spend approximately \$912.4 million of currently available special account funds over the next five years, but funds also are planned much further into the future to continue activities, such as conducting five-year reviews or remedy optimization, at sites where waste has been left in place.

Over the past five fiscal years, the EPA has obligated or disbursed more than \$1.3 billion from special accounts (excluding reclassifications), resulting in the Superfund Program performing a significant amount of work in addition to work the Agency performed using annually appropriated, Superfund tax, and IJIA funds. In FY 2024, EPA disbursed and obligated approximately \$276.7 million from special accounts (excluding reclassifications) for response work at more than 680 Superfund sites. Site-specific examples of this work include \$22.7 million to support work at the Welsbach & General Gas Mantle (Camden Radiation) site in New Jersey, \$17.0 million for the Bonita Peak Mining District site in Colorado, \$16.5 million for the Asarco Taylor Springs site in Illinois, \$11.4 million for the Tronox Navajo Area Uranium Mines on the Navajo Nation, \$10.6 million for the Combe Fill South Landfill site in New Jersey. In the absence of special account

funds, annually appropriated, Superfund tax and/or IIJA funds would have been necessary for these response actions to be funded. In other words, EPA was able to fund approximately \$276.7 million in response work at sites in addition to the work funded through appropriated, Superfund tax and IIJA funds obligated or disbursed in FY 2024.

The summary charts below provide additional information on the status of special accounts. Exhibit 1 illustrates the cumulative status of open and closed accounts, FY 2024 program activity, and planned multi-year uses of the available balance. Exhibit 2 provides the prior year (FY 2024), current year (FY 2025), and estimated future budget year (FY 2026) activity for special accounts. Exhibit 3 provides prior year data (FY 2024) by EPA regional offices to exhibit the geographic use of the funds.

**Exhibit 1: Summary of FY 2024 Special Account Transactions  
and Cumulative Multi-Year Plans for Using Available Special Account Funds**

<b>Account Status<sup>1</sup></b>		<b>Number of Accounts</b>
Cumulative Open		1,058
Cumulative Closed		577
<b>FY 2024 Special Account Activity</b>		<b>\$ in Thousands</b>
	Beginning Available Balance	\$3,511,146.8
	FY 2024 Activities	
	+ Receipts	\$237,800.6
	- Transfers to Superfund Trust Fund (Receipt Adjustment)	(\$20,522.7)
	+ Net Interest Earned	\$38,331.7
	- Net Change in Unliquidated Obligations	(\$9,574.1)
	- Disbursements - For EPA Incurred Costs	(\$261,215.4)
	- Disbursements - For Work Party Reimbursements under Final Settlements	(\$5,889.2)
	- Reclassifications	(\$11,316.4)
	End of Fiscal Year (EOFY) Available Balance <sup>2</sup>	\$3,478,761.3
<b>Multi-Year Plans for EOFY 2024 Available Balance<sup>3</sup></b>		<b>\$ in Thousands</b>
	2024 EOFY Available Balance	\$3,478,761.3
	- Estimates for Future EPA Site Activities based on Current Site Plans <sup>4</sup>	\$3,320,238.9
	- Estimates for Potential Disbursement to Work Parties Identified in Final Settlements <sup>5</sup>	\$90,342.2
	- Estimates for Reclassifications for FYs 2025-2027 <sup>6</sup>	\$55,383.5
	- Estimates for Transfers to Trust Fund for FYs 2025-2027 <sup>6</sup>	\$9,301.3
	- Available Balance to be Planned for Site-Specific Response <sup>7</sup>	\$3,495.4

<sup>1</sup> FY 2024 data is as of 10/01/2024. The Beginning Available Balance is as of 10/01/2023.

<sup>2</sup> Numbers may not add due to rounding.

<sup>3</sup> Planning data were recorded in the Superfund Enterprise Management System (SEMS) as of 10/30/2024 in reference to special account available balances as of 10/01/2024.

<sup>4</sup> "Estimates for EPA Future Site Activities" includes all response actions that EPA may conduct or oversee in the future, such as removal, remedial, enforcement, post-construction activities as well as allocation of funds to facilitate a settlement to encourage PRPs to perform the cleanup. Planning data are multi-year and cannot be used for annual comparisons.

<sup>5</sup> "Estimates for Potential Disbursements to Work Parties Identified in Finalized Settlements" includes those funds that have already been designated in a settlement document, such as a Consent Decree or Administrative Order on Consent, to be available to a PRP for reimbursements but that have not yet been obligated.

<sup>6</sup> "Reclassifications" and "Transfers to the Trust Fund" are estimated for three FYs only. These amounts are only estimates and may change as the EPA determines what funds are needed to complete site-specific response activities.

<sup>7</sup> These include resources received by the EPA at the end of the fiscal year and will be assigned for site-specific response activities.

**Exhibit 2: Actual and Estimated Special Account Transactions FY 2024 – FY 2026<sup>1</sup>**

	FY 2024	FY 2025 estimate	FY 2026 estimate
	\$ in Thousands		
Beginning Available Balance	\$3,511,146.8	\$3,478,761.3	\$3,682,474.7
Receipts <sup>1</sup>	\$237,800.6	\$350,000.0	\$350,000.0
Transfers to Trust Fund (Receipt Adjustment) <sup>2</sup>	(\$20,522.7)	(\$10,392.3)	(\$10,392.3)
Net Interest Earned <sup>3</sup>	\$38,331.7	\$165,000.0	\$159,000.0
Net Obligations <sup>2,4</sup>	(\$276,678.7)	(\$289,516.5)	(\$289,516.5)
Reclassifications <sup>2</sup>	(\$11,316.4)	(\$11,377.8)	(\$11,377.8)
End of Year Available Balance <sup>5</sup>	\$3,478,761.3	\$3,682,474.7	\$3,880,188.1

<sup>1</sup> The estimates for Receipts are in line with more typical years.

<sup>2</sup> The estimates for Transfers to Trust Fund, Net Obligations, and Reclassifications are based on a three-year historical average.

<sup>3</sup> Net interest earned in FY 2025 and FY 2026 are estimated utilizing economic assumptions for the FY 2026 President's Budget.

<sup>4</sup> Net Obligations reflect special account funds no longer available for obligation, excluding reclassifications and receipts transferred to the Trust Fund.

**Exhibit 3: FY 2024 Special Account Transactions by EPA Regional Offices**

*\$ in Thousands*

	Beginning Available Balance	Receipts	Transfers to Trust Fund (Receipt Adjustment)	Net Interest Earned	Net Obligations	Reclassifications	End of Year Available Balance <sup>1,2</sup>
Region 1	\$165,393.1	\$5,119.4	(\$3,203.5)	\$1,707.9	(\$21,699.4)	(\$2,365.1)	\$144,952.4
Region 2	\$441,635.3	\$125,137.2	\$0.0	\$6,571.2	(\$63,424.1)	(\$1,881.4)	\$508,038.2
Region 3	\$146,957.2	\$7,787.1	\$0.0	\$1,697.9	(\$21,216.4)	(\$530.2)	\$134,695.6
Region 4	\$59,728.1	\$9,872.5	(\$91.6)	\$457.8	(\$9,064.5)	(\$1,923.8)	\$58,978.6
Region 5	\$495,968.8	\$35,986.7	(\$195.8)	\$7,492.5	(\$23,954.6)	(\$299.5)	\$514,998.2
Region 6	\$425,128.1	\$2,168.9	\$0.0	\$4,018.8	(\$11,777.7)	(\$130.1)	\$419,408.1
Region 7	\$129,737.6	\$8,927.6	(\$227.7)	\$1,141.8	(\$14,446.9)	(\$824.6)	\$124,307.8
Region 8	\$369,710.9	\$10,269.8	\$0.0	\$4,106.7	(\$41,980.9)	(\$20.3)	\$342,086.2
Region 9	\$1,113,581.7	\$14,798.6	(\$4,010.4)	\$10,929.3	(\$41,786.9)	(\$2,590.5)	\$1,090,921.9
Region 10	\$163,305.9	\$17,732.6	(\$12,793.7)	\$207.8	(\$27,327.4)	(\$750.9)	\$140,374.3
Total	\$3,511,146.8	\$237,800.6	(\$20,522.7)	\$38,331.7	(\$276,678.6)	(\$11,316.4)	\$3,478,761.3

<sup>1</sup> FY 2024 data is as of 10/01/2024. The Beginning Available Balance is as of 10/01/2023.

<sup>2</sup> Numbers may not add due to rounding.

## **Superfund Tax Receipts**

## **Superfund Tax Receipts**

(Dollars in Thousands)

	<b>FY 2024<sup>39</sup></b>	<b>FY 2025 Collections Available<sup>40</sup></b>	<b>FY 2026 Estimates of Collections to Be Available<sup>41</sup></b>
Superfund Chemical Taxes	\$760,000	\$557,419	\$697,000
Superfund Taxes on Oil and Petroleum Products	\$680,000	\$904,838	\$895,000
<b>Hazardous Substance Superfund Tax Total Receipts<sup>42</sup></b>	<b>\$1,440,000</b>	<b>\$1,462,257</b>	<b>\$1,592,000</b>

### **Background**

On November 15, 2021, the *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act* (IIJA), P.L. 117-58, reinstated and modified the excise taxes on certain listed chemicals and imported substances that use as materials in their manufacture or production one or more of those listed chemicals (“Superfund chemical taxes”).<sup>43</sup> The Superfund chemical taxes went into effect beginning July 1, 2022, and will expire on December 31, 2031. On August 16, 2022, the *Inflation Reduction Act* (IRA), (P.L. 117-169), reinstated and modified the taxes on oil and petroleum products. The oil and petroleum taxes went into effect on January 1, 2023. On December 29, 2022, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (P.L. 117-328) included legislative language that allows all tax receipts collected in the Superfund Trust Fund from the prior fiscal year to be available to implement the *Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act* (CERCLA) without further congressional appropriation and to be designated as emergency funding.

### **FY 2024 Superfund Tax Receipts Activity**

In August 2024, EPA submitted its FY 2024 Superfund Tax Operating Plan as required by the *Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024* (P.L. 118-42). As established in law, the funds available to the Agency in FY 2024 represent realized collections from the prior fiscal year, totaling \$1.44 billion. The plan included \$745 million allocated as part of EPA’s FY 2024 Enacted Operating Plan. The Superfund taxes are used to advance priority work across the Agency’s Superfund programs. Of these resources, \$1.21 billion went to the Superfund Emergency Response and Removal Program, the Superfund Remedial Program, and the Superfund Federal Facilities Program. Some of the major program investments include: more than \$1 billion for the Superfund Remedial program which includes \$560 million for ongoing construction projects and to start some new construction projects; \$174.6 million for the Superfund Emergency Response and Removal

<sup>39</sup> On April 12, 2024, the U.S. Treasury recertified Superfund tax collections for the tax period ending September 30, 2023, which was made available to the EPA in FY 2024.

<sup>40</sup> On February 21, 2025, the U.S. Treasury certified Superfund tax collections for the tax period ending September 30, 2024 which is now available to the EPA in FY 2025.

<sup>41</sup> Estimates are developed by the U.S. Treasury and based on their economic assumptions.

<sup>42</sup> Superfund tax receipts are subject to change based on U.S. Treasury certified collections.

<sup>43</sup> The original Superfund taxes expired on December 31, 1995, and applied to crude oil and imported petroleum products, chemicals used in the production of hazardous substances listed in Title 26 section 4661 and imported substances that use hazardous chemicals as a feedstock, and corporate modified alternative minimum taxable income more than \$2 million a year.

program which includes \$30.6 million to expand the Program's capacity to complete additional Superfund removals; and \$7.1 million to expand the capacity for the Portable High-throughput Integrated Laboratory Identification System (PHILIS).<sup>44</sup> In addition, more than \$208 million has been invested in the Superfund Enforcement and Superfund Federal Facilities Enforcement programs to ensure that responsible parties conduct cleanups, preserving federal dollars for sites where there are no viable contributing parties. These programs assist the Superfund cleanup programs to ensure contaminated sites across the country are remediated to protect human health and the environment. EPA will continue to prioritize the Superfund tax receipts to support site-specific response activities. Superfund tax receipts, special accounts, and annually appropriated resources are critical to the Superfund Program to clean up Superfund sites.

### **FY 2025 and FY 2026 Superfund Tax Receipt Activity**

In FY 2024, the U.S. Treasury collected \$1.46 billion of tax receipts in the Superfund Trust Fund which are available to utilize in FY 2025. EPA is in the process of developing its budget priorities for the Superfund tax receipts available in FY 2025. EPA will use the Superfund tax receipts to implement CERCLA and continue to plan for the use of available tax receipts in FY 2026.

In FY 2025, the U.S. Treasury forecasts collecting a total of \$1.59 billion in Superfund tax receipts which will be available for use in FY 2026. The FY 2026 President's Budget proposes to transition the remaining \$187.9 million for the Superfund Remedial program from the Agency's annual Superfund appropriation to be solely on the tax receipts like the Superfund Enforcement program. EPA intends to fully replace the Superfund Remedial and Superfund Enforcement programs from tax receipts. EPA also will sufficiently fund the Superfund Emergency Response and Removal program and Federal Facilities Enforcement programs which are funded by both tax receipts and annual appropriations. EPA will then evaluate available budgets and resources across the Agency's Superfund programs to determine the most appropriate use of the tax receipts. EPA will prioritize the Superfund tax receipts to clean up Superfund sites. The Agency also will continue to maximize the participation of liable and viable parties to conduct response work or finance cleanups. By doing so, annually appropriated and Superfund tax receipt resources will be conserved for cleanups at sites and activities where potentially responsible party resources are not available. This will allow the Agency to maximize progress in cleaning up sites to return to beneficial use. As resources are available, EPA also will continue to start new construction projects; fund ongoing construction projects; promptly address emergency and short-term CERCLA response actions; and implement Administration and Agency priorities.

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<sup>44</sup> For additional information, please see: [PHILIS \(Portable High-throughput Integrated Laboratory Identification System\) | US EPA](#).