

Trump administration freezes nearly \$2 billion in funding to Northwestern and Cornell



Washington, April 9 (RHC)-- The U.S. government has frozen more than \$1 billion in federal funding for Cornell University and about \$790 million for Northwestern University to investigate alleged civil rights

violations, according to the White House.

The development follows threats by the administration of U.S. President Donald Trump to block federal funding for schools over pro-Palestinian campus protests, as well as other issues such as diversity, equity and inclusion programmes and transgender policies.

The White House confirmed the funding pauses late on Tuesday night, but offered no further details on what they entail or what grants to the schools are being affected.

An official speaking on anonymity told the Reuters news agency that the funding being paused includes mostly grants and contracts with the federal departments of health, education, agriculture and defence.

In a statement, Cornell said it had received more than 75 stop work orders earlier on Tuesday from the Department of Defense related to research “profoundly significant to American national defense, cybersecurity, and health” but that it had not otherwise received any information confirming \$1bn in frozen grants.

“We are actively seeking information from federal officials to learn more about the basis for these decisions,” said the statement from Michael I Kotlikoff, the university president, and other top school officials.

Northwestern said it was aware of media reports about the funding freeze but had not received any official notification from the government and that it has cooperated in the investigation.

“Federal funds that Northwestern receives drive innovative and life-saving research, like the recent development by Northwestern researchers of the world’s smallest pacemaker, and research fuelling the fight against Alzheimer’s disease. This type of research is now in jeopardy,” a Northwestern spokesperson told Reuters.

[SOURCE: AL JAZEERA and REUTERS]

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