



## **CBCF EXECUTIVE ORDER TRACKER**

# **Establishing the Task Force to Eliminate Fraud**

## **Executive Order #14395**

**Date Issued:** March 16, 2026

**Topic:** Criminal Justice, Law Enforcement, Immigration

### **WHAT DOES THIS EXECUTIVE ORDER DO?**

- This executive order creates a new interagency Task Force to Eliminate Fraud within the Executive Office of the President. Chaired by Vice President JD Vance, with the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) Chairman as Vice Chairman, the task force is charged with coordinating a government-wide strategy to combat fraud, waste, and abuse in all federal benefit programs, including Medicaid, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), housing assistance, cash aid, and disability benefits.
- The order directs agencies to develop measures to improve eligibility verification processes in federal benefits programs and maximize enforcement of eligibility requirements, including program-specific requirements and those under the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996. The order specifically names Minnesota, California, Illinois, New York, Maine, and Colorado as states with alleged fraud vulnerabilities.
- The order requires the Task Force to coordinate with the Homeland Security Council on any matters related to law enforcement, public safety, national security, transnational crime, and organized criminal activity, linking fraud enforcement directly to immigration and national security operations.



## WHAT DOES THIS EXECUTIVE ORDER DO?

- The order is the latest in a series of administration actions targeting federal spending, following the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) initiative to optimize federal bureaucracy, reduce federal spending, and streamline government agencies a January 2026 announcement of a new Department of Justice (DOJ) Division for National Fraud Enforcement, and executive orders on information-sharing and cybercrime. It represents a shift from DOGE's ad hoc approach to a formalized enforcement structure with explicit timelines and authority to withhold federal funds from non-compliant states.

## HOW WILL THIS EXECUTIVE ORDER BE ENFORCED?

- The task force includes representatives from eleven federal agencies: Treasury, Justice, Agriculture, Labor, Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Education, Veterans Affairs, Homeland Security, the Small Business Administration (SBA), and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). The Assistant to the President for Homeland Security serves as Senior Advisor, linking fraud enforcement to immigration enforcement.
- The order establishes three escalating deadlines. Within 30 days, each agency must identify transactions and processes most susceptible to fraud and propose preventive measures. Within 60 days, the task force must adopt minimum anti-fraud requirements across agencies and address how federal funds may be withheld from non-compliant jurisdictions. Within 90 days, each member agency must submit a measurable implementation plan.
- The order instructs the task force to develop a comprehensive anti-fraud strategy. Enforcement mechanisms include the authority to recommend pausing certain funding when fraud is identified, withholding federal funds from jurisdictions without adequate anti-fraud requirements, and pursuing suspension, termination, repayment, exclusion, and debarment actions.



## HOW WILL THIS EXECUTIVE ORDER BE ENFORCED?

- The order directs the Attorney General to promote private whistleblower lawsuits against fraud and ensure the Department of Justice (DOJ) reviews these cases within the statutory 60-day period.
- The order does not end existing federal benefit programs or change their statutory eligibility criteria. However, it empowers agencies to impose new pre-payment controls, eligibility verification requirements, and data-sharing mandates that could significantly alter how benefits are administered and accessed.

## HOW DOES THIS IMPACT BLACK COMMUNITIES?

- The impact of this executive order on Black communities carries significant risks that far outweigh its stated benefits. While reducing genuine fraud protects program integrity for all beneficiaries, the programs targeted by this order are precisely those where Black Americans are most overrepresented, and evidence shows that anti-fraud crackdowns consistently produce collateral harm that falls disproportionately on eligible Black families.
- The programs in the crosshairs serve Black families at rates far exceeding their 13.4% share of the U.S. population. Black adults are **1.5 to 2 times** more likely than white adults to receive Social Security Disability Insurance. Any broad enforcement action against these programs will disproportionately affect Black households by a large margin. Moreover, research has found that work requirements and eligibility **barriers** in programs like SNAP are more strongly associated with participation declines among Black individuals than white individuals, suggesting that procedural tightening itself perpetuates structural racism.
- History provides a clear warning. During the **Reagan-era disability reviews** (1982–1984), the government issued 490,000 termination notices from 1.2 million reviews. Two hundred thousand of those terminations were later reversed on appeal, a staggering error rate that led to documented harm and a Congressional moratorium.



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- In addition, the 1996 welfare reform, whose statute this new executive order explicitly invokes, cut Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) caseloads by 70% while creating racialized barriers. The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights found Black welfare recipients received shorter employment interviews, faced more drug and criminal background testing, and were more frequently assigned undesirable work hours.
- More recently, when states resumed eligibility redeterminations after pandemic-era protections expired in 2023, a disproportionate share of those unable to navigate renewal paperwork were Black (22.0% vs. 16.4% of overall enrollees).
- The order directly targets immigrant communities, particularly Black immigrants. Its preamble singles out Minnesota and alleges that “organized ring[s] of Somali immigrants” stole hundreds of millions in federal childcare funding. However, the order conflates isolated fraud prosecutions with systemic program failures, using these cases to justify sweeping enforcement measures that could affect entire immigrant communities. The order’s emphasis on coordination with the Homeland Security Council on “transnational crime” and its focus on states with large immigrant populations signals that fraud enforcement may serve as a pretext for immigration enforcement, putting Black immigrant families at particular risk of losing benefits they are lawfully entitled to receive.





## HOW ARE CBC MEMBERS RESPONDING?

- Members of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) have been sounding the alarm about the administration's broader pattern of federal workforce reductions, safety net restructuring, and government efficiency initiatives that this executive order extends.
  - **Rep. Ayanna Pressley** has been among the most vocal CBC members on the programs this executive order targets. In a May 2025 House Oversight Committee markup, Pressley challenged Republicans on SNAP cuts, stating: "More than 42 million Americans participate in SNAP each month. This includes 16.9 million children, 4.5 million people with disabilities, and 1.2 million veterans." She emphasized the broader economic stakes: "Every \$1 in SNAP benefits generates \$1.50 in economic activity. There is nothing efficient about making people hungrier and sicker." [Full Statement](#)