

Court Order Extended, Devex, 21 Feb 2025

Let's try this again

On Feb. 13, a U.S. federal court issued a temporary restraining order requiring the Trump administration to lift its blanket freeze on foreign assistance funding for existing projects. Last night, [it extended that order](#) and stressed that **the administration needed to get the money flowing again**, which [it has largely refused to do](#).

The administration had claimed it could terminate nearly all [USAID](#) contracts and grants because the judge's original order stated that normal contract clauses can still be enforced. But in the most recent hearing, Judge Amir Ali **pushed back on that assertion**.

“The Court was not inviting Defendants to continue the suspension while they reviewed contracts and legal authorities to come up with a new, post-hoc rationalization for the en masse suspension,” he stated.

But the judge **didn't find the government in contempt**, which was what the plaintiffs in the case — including for-profit contractors and NGOs — had been seeking.

Instead, Ali **extended the temporary restraining order until midnight on March 10, 2025**. Though his earlier reversal hasn't yet resulted in the thaw of Trump's funding freeze, this latest order is clear: The administration cannot “simply replace their earlier implementations with ‘other directives’” to suspend, pause, or terminate obligated funds.

Read: [Court extends order lifting Trump administration's foreign aid freeze](#)