

**Community Spirit to help laid-off aid workers.** Devex, 26 Mar 2025

## **Community spirit**

When [USAID](#) started cutting jobs, thousands were laid off or furloughed — and not just government staff, but [contractors and partners too](#). Despite that, the development world didn't sit still, Devex contributing reporter Rebecca Root writes. It [rallied with job boards, virtual meetups, emergency funds, and loads of LinkedIn love](#).

“Our sector has always had a familial feel,” says funding adviser Joanne Sonenshine, who has compiled a list of job seekers and open positions. “We’re seeing people from all over the world doing whatever they can to help.”

**LinkedIn is now the go-to support zone** — full of coaching, job leads, and even “career reset” events. But all the help can feel like a firehose. “I imagine it could be difficult for people to navigate the many, many different resources that are popping up,” says career coach Colin Steele.

Need direction? There are **free federal benefits**, such as unemployment and counseling, **expert-curated job lists**, and yes, even **AI can help with brainstorming** which new roles might be suitable.

Dedicated sites such as USAID Stop-Work and the USAID Resource Hub are keeping track of the chaos and offering ways to take action or get practical support.

“The reality is people who are working at USAID have overcome a million challenges. ... This is just one more little brick wall,” says career development speaker Jeremy Schifeling. “I really do believe they can break through.”

**Read more:** [For those laid off from USAID, new job resources are plentiful](#)