

Brief note on various support mechanisms for fired AID workers. *Devex, 22 Dec 2025*

Support system

I can venture a guess that the thousands of USAID workers who were summarily fired in 2025 are not big fans of the folks on Michael's list. The feeling's probably mutual based on how acrimoniously everything went down.

Those hard feelings aren't likely to fade in 2026 as legions of former employees continue their job hunts.

It's a grueling process, so **emotional support is key**. There was an outpouring of it after the initial collapse of USAID, and while some of that has waned, there are still plenty of resources available to weary job-seekers.

"What's emerging now isn't just job boards. It's deeper support for people who want to design a career that fits the life they want, not the other way around," **Kelsi Kriitmaa**, a social impact coach and consultant, tells Devex contributing reporter Rebecca Root, who [outlines a slew of support options](#) in her article.

Perhaps among **the most enduring is LinkedIn**, where connections and community still thrive.

"There are a few LinkedIn accounts that have emerged, like **Friends of USAID and OneAID** ... and these are almost like nonprofits that have been developed to help support former USAID staff, but also to keep a lot of the information alive," says **Joanne Sonenshine**, a funding adviser to corporate sustainability leaders.

Other useful LinkedIn groups that have cropped up include **Pivoting Parents**, **#FiredFed**, and the **Global Aid Alumni Marketplace**.

Mental health support is another area that shouldn't be overlooked, says **Alexandra Shannon**, who has been aggregating resources into the **Public Service Support Hub**, formerly known as USAID Hub.

"Some people go really inward and need to process and work through trauma because being laid off is extremely traumatic, especially when there's no performance-related reason for it," Shannon says.

“People are traumatized by what’s happened in the job market,” Kriitmaa adds, “and with this comes the question, ‘Do I even want to jump back into an organization or sector with this volatility? Should I pivot?’ These are really tough questions, and finding a community to unpack them together is crucial.”