

Costly and restrictive requirements of health aid policy changes. *Devex*, 24 March 2026

Mexico City standoff

For decades, Republicans have invoked the Mexico City Policy to bar U.S. global health assistance from reaching foreign nonprofits that perform or actively promote abortion — even if they do so with non-U.S. funds. U.S. President Donald Trump not only renamed that policy, but he also put it on steroids.

Now, the **Promoting Human Flourishing in Foreign Assistance Policy** covers not only abortion, but **anything that touches diversity and “gender ideology,”** even if funded by another donor. And it doesn’t just apply to foreign nonprofits but also to U.S. -based entities, multilateral agencies, and foreign governments.

That’s a simple explanation. There’s a thicket of complex rules that make the new policy difficult to follow, as my colleague Elissa Miolene writes [in her detailed piece](#). What does all this mean in practice? That’s the question on many minds — and finding answers won’t come cheap.

To comply, the [State Department](#) estimates some 2,500 organizations will each need to pay tens of thousands of dollars. **Ro Wietecha**, a partner at Mission Driven Counsel LLP, a law firm that specializes in global development, calculates that each organization will **need to pay an average of \$42,033** in one-time costs to familiarize themselves with the rules, along with \$115,153 in ongoing training, monitoring, and compliance fees, though the true figures are still hazy.

“For those that still want U.S. money, they will have to tie themselves into pretzels to comply with the kind of **surveillance apparatus that will be a prerequisite** for receiving those funds,” says **Jessica Stern**, who served as the U.S. special envoy to advance the human rights of LGBTQ+ persons during the Biden administration.

“The way [the new policy] was described at one point, when it was still being worked on by the State Department, was that they were swinging for the fences,” Wietecha says. “It was meant to push as far to the boundaries of just about every aspect that it had been previously.”

And that’s the point — **push the boundaries to push the issues** that the administration cares about.

“Under Joe Biden, it was the policy of the United States to export abortion and radical gender ideology all around the world,” says U.S. Vice President JD Vance. “That’s why we’ve completely realigned U.S. foreign aid and turned off the tap for NGOs whose sole purpose is to dissuade people from having kids.”