About Downsizing the Federal Government

This website is designed to help policymakers and the public understand where federal spending goes and how to reform each government department. It describes the failings of agencies and identifies specific programs to cut. It also discusses the systematic reasons why government programs are often obsolete, mismanaged, or otherwise dysfunctional.

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Stakeholder(s):

**Federal Government**: The federal government is running huge budget deficits, spending too much, and heading toward a financial crisis.

**Working Families**: Without a change of direction in Washington, average working families will be faced with large tax increases and a lower standard of living.

**Policymakers**

**The Public**

**Cato Institute**: Downsizing the Federal Government is a project of the Cato Institute.

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**Opportunity Foundation**

**Searle Freedom Trust**

**Woodford Family Foundation**

**Chris Edwards**: Chris Edwards is the director of tax policy studies at Cato and editor of www.DownsizingGovernment.org. He is a top expert on federal and state tax and budget issues. Before joining Cato, Edwards was a senior economist on the congressional Joint Economic Committee, a manager with PricewaterhouseCoopers, and an economist with the Tax Foundation. Edwards has testified to Congress on fiscal issues many times, and his articles on tax and budget policies have appeared in the Washington Post, the Wall Street Journal, and other major newspapers. He is the author of Downsizing the Federal Government and coauthor of Global Tax Revolution. Edwards holds a BA in Economics from the University of Waterloo and an MA in Economics from George Mason University. He was a member of the Fiscal Future Commission of the National Academy of Sciences.

Vision

More freedom and prosperity

Mission

To cut the federal budget

Values

**Freedom**: Scholars at Cato believe that cutting the federal budget would enhance personal freedom, increase prosperity, and leave a positive fiscal legacy to the next generation.

**Prosperity**

**Legacy**
Results

*Explain how government programs work in the real world*

**Stakeholder(s)**

**Milton Friedman**: Economist Milton Friedman said that “one of the great mistakes is to judge policies and programs by their intentions rather than their results.”

Some people have lofty visions about how government spending can help society. But this website puts aside the “bedtime stories” about how programs are supposed to work, and instead focuses on how they actually work in the real world.

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**Administrative Information**

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