

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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Downsizing the Federal Government (DSFG)

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.

DSFG Financial Supporters :

The creation of this website was made possible by the generosity of the Opportunity Foundation, the Searle Freedom Trust, and the Woodford Family Foundation.

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.

Administrative Information

Start Date:

End Date:

Publication Date: 2020-11-11

Source: <https://www.downsizinggovernment.org/about>

Submitter:

Given Name: Owen

Surname: Ambur

Email: Owen.Ambur@verizon.net

Phone: