

# Federal-State Policy Landscape for Extreme Heat



# As Extreme Temperatures Become More Frequent, Where is the Federal Government?

# True Costs of Heat

Without federal action on extreme heat, Americans can expect billions of dollars in lost productivity, increased healthcare costs, and growing food insecurity – every year.

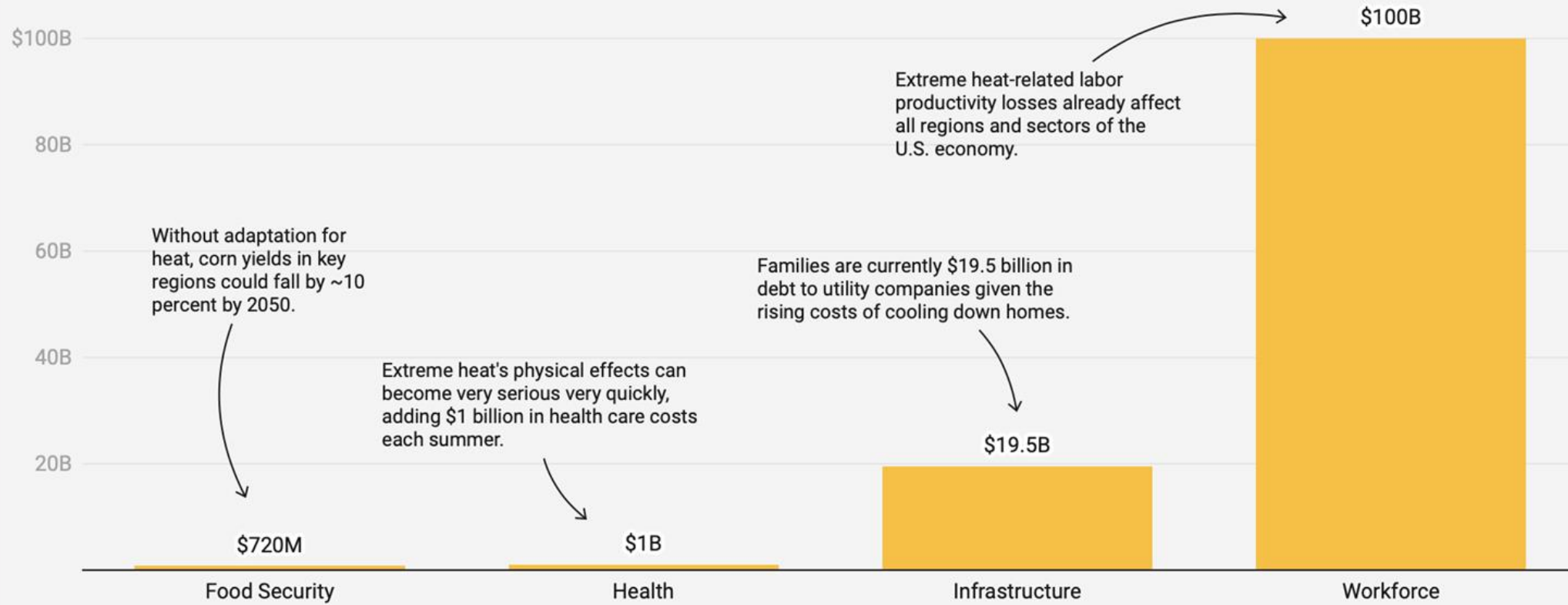


Chart: Federation of American Scientists • Created with [Datawrapper](#)

# As Extreme Temperatures Become More Frequent, Where is the Federal Government?

FAS has mapped the federal landscape over the last year to locate and inventory all ongoing activities, here's what we found...

# Infrastructure and the Built Environment

## *Concerns:*

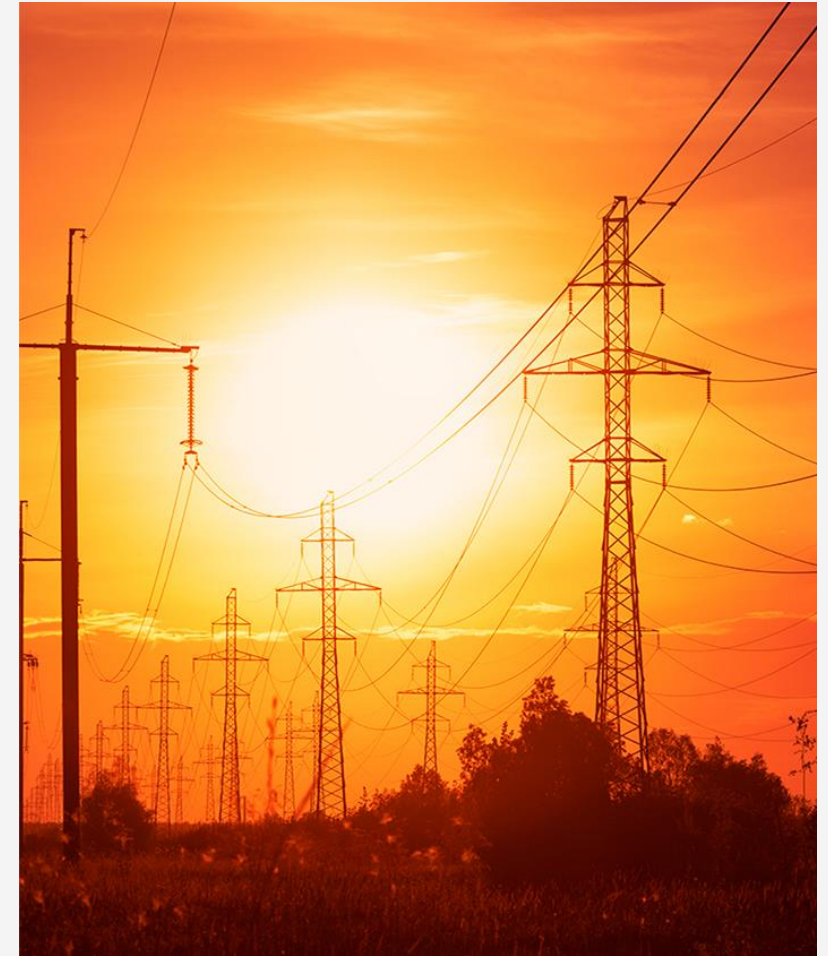
- Grid and transportation resilience
- AC vs. passive cooling technologies
- Building codes for thermal comfort and resilience
- Urban planning and design - Urban Heat Islands

## *Some Current Federal Programs:*

- DOE - Grid Resilience Program; Weatherization Assistance Program
- DOT - PROTECT (surface transportation resilience)
- USDA - Urban and Community Forestry Program (~\$1 billion)
- FEMA - BRIC program
- HHS ACF - LIHEAP Program for energy assistance
- IRA Tax Credits - weatherization activities, energy-efficiency

## *Gaps:*

- Integration of extreme heat resilience into funding eligibility criteria
- Benefit-cost analysis not up-to-date on heat



# Public Health

## Concerns:

- Growing numbers of heat-related illness and death
  - Lack of access to shade, AC, medical transportation
  - Indoor deaths on the rise
- Healthcare response and coordination
- Infectious disease transmission

## Current Programs:

- OCCHE - Climate and Health Outlook
- CDC - Climate Ready States and Cities Initiative
- CMS - 1115 Waivers to support AC distribution in Oregon, support broader needs for housing

## Gaps:

- Funding - CDC's program underfunded by 1100%
- Lack of training for health professionals
- Lack of proactive response plans



# Workforce

## *Concerns:*

- Outdoor workers at a higher risk for developing heat-related illnesses
- Loss in workplace productivity - \$100 billion
- High-exposure during day followed by lack of cooling at night - more heat illness

## *Current Programs:*

- OSHA - Heat Hazard Alert and National Emphasis Program
- OSHA - Increased inspections and enforcement

## *Gaps:*

- No national heat standard
- State-level standards and capacities differ
- Need for more protective cooling strategies
- Costs to small businesses to develop cooling interventions



# Food and Resource Security

## *Concerns:*

- Exacerbates other natural hazards (ex. droughts, wildfires) - increasing the level of risk
- Reduction in crop growth and productivity
- Livestock impacts
- Transportation and storage
- Increasing food prices for consumers

## *Current Programs:*

- USDA - Climate Hubs
- USDA - Partnerships for Climate Smart Commodities

## *Gaps:*

- Funding (again!)
- No explicit focus on extreme heat



# Planning and Management

## *Concerns:*

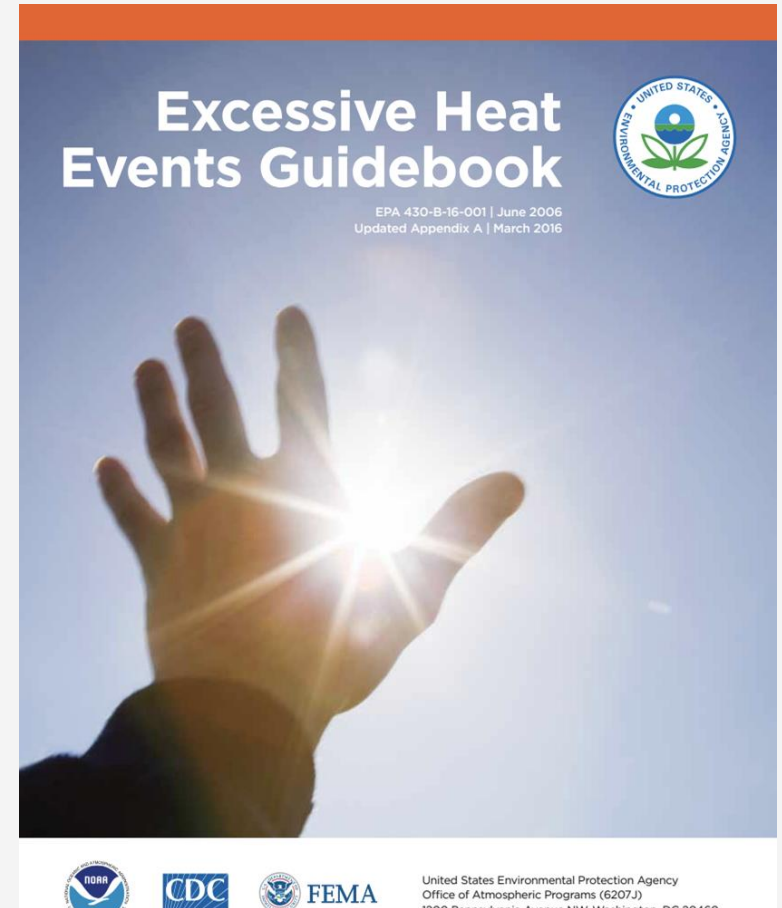
- No trigger for federal emergency declaration under Stafford Act
- Lack of responsibility among federal agencies
- Local and state governments are experimenting with different organizational structures
- Households have few avenues to prepare themselves

## *Current Programs:*

- CDC, EPA, FEMA - Guidance Documents

## *Gaps:*

- No insurance products on the market to cover losses
- No best practices for how to plan and respond to an extreme heat disaster and poor understanding of the costs
- No incentive to create heat management personnel



# Data and Indices

## *Concerns:*

- Inadequate data collection, especially in urban environments
- Different heat indices communicate different levels of severity

## *Current Programs:*

- NOAA and CDC - NIHHIS
- EPA - Urban Heat Island Mapping Campaign
- HHS - EMS Tracker for Heat Illness

## *Gaps:*

- Underestimating the severity of heat
- Lack of application of data to specific localities
- Lack of data on which strategies are most effective at mitigating extreme heat



# Cities, Local Governments, and States Out Ahead

## *State Actions*

- Extreme Heat Preparedness Plans in New Jersey and Maryland in development. Plans finalized in Arizona and California
- California's \$200 million for building resilience to extreme heat - Extreme Heat and Community Resilience Program
- Minnesota, Colorado, Oregon, Washington, California - workplace protections

## *Local Government Actions*

- Miami-Dade County - workplace heat rules (failed)
- Pima County - has one of the most sophisticated deaths tracking system in the country

## *City Actions*

- New York City and Los Angeles - cool roof mandates
- Phoenix - cooling requirements for renters

# THANK YOU