

# Have you felt impact of local budget cuts?

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Parks are closing or forgoing improvements, after-school programs are ending and events and festivals are being called off.

Families have felt the pain of tough economic times, and so are cities, towns and counties. A [report in USA Today](#) details some of the measures being taken to balance shrinking government budgets.

The problem, at least according to a budget analyst with the Cato Institute, is that labor costs are fixed and often were negotiated during more flush times. So the promise of better salaries and benefits is still out there, despite the economy having soured.

What cuts have you seen in your city, town or state? If your town cut an after-school program, did your family feel the impact? What about parks, or libraries, or other services?

And have you agreed with the cuts being made on the local level, or do you think other programs should be cut instead?