



# COALITION ON HUMAN NEEDS

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## Government Shutdown Information

About an hour before the midnight deadline, the Senate did not have the 60 votes necessary to cut off debate on the Continuing Resolution to extend funding past January 19. As a consequence, a partial government shutdown will go into effect. The shutdown directly affects programs that are funded through the appropriations process. Programs such as Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, SSI, SNAP and TANF get most of their funding (and all their benefits funding) outside the appropriations process. Benefits for these programs will continue to be sent out throughout the shutdown. However, staffing at the Social Security Administration, for example, is paid with appropriated funds. Some of these staffers will be furloughed during the shutdown, and that will make it harder for new applications for Social Security benefits to be processed.

In a shutdown, federal agencies are asked to identify which workers are “essential” and which are not. The latter are furloughed (and are prohibited from coming to work); the former are expected to come to work. Neither is paid during the shutdown. Essential workers will be paid when a new spending bill is signed into law. Other furloughed workers do not have to be paid, but after past shutdowns, Congress has voted to provide their pay for the period they were prohibited from working.

A partial shutdown would mean more than 850,000 federal government employees could be furloughed without pay and more than 1 million would be required to work without pay, according to J. David Cox Sr., president of the American Federation of Government Employees.

Since many federal agencies are closed over the weekend, the full impact of the shutdown will not be felt immediately. If Congress is able to negotiate an agreement over the weekend, most of the worst impacts would be avoided.

Federal agencies are required to develop contingency plans in which they detail the kinds of workers who are furloughed and those deemed essential. Not all agencies had new plans as of the afternoon on January 19. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) made available a listing of federal agency plans, linked to below. More detail for human needs programs follows, which will be updated as more information becomes available.

[OMB Listing of Agencies' Contingency Plans](#) (some are out of date)

Links to Selected Departments' Government Shutdown Plans:

[U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service](#) (7/17)

**WIC: Statement from the [National WIC Association](#):**

WIC serves over 7 million mothers, pregnant women, and children who rely on the program for access to nutritious food, breastfeeding support, infant formula, nutrition education, and healthcare referrals. About 50% of infants born in the US are currently enrolled in WIC.

- While WIC clinics will remain open in the near term, a prolonged shutdown may result in clinic closures.
- A prolonged federal government shutdown may result in babies and young children being deprived of nutrition, breastfeeding, and healthcare services, which would lead to negative health outcomes, especially for newborns and breastfeeding infants, whose mothers may lose access to breastfeeding support or infant formula during this crucial period of development. Families will be forced to make hard choices about how to feed their newborns and young children.
- Policymakers should not put babies and young children at risk of hunger, poor nutrition, and developmental challenges.
- It is imperative that Congress and the administration immediately put aside partisanship in order to pass a long-term spending bill and re-open the federal government.

**[U.S. Department of Health and Human Services](#) (FY 2018)**

About half of its 82,000 staff would be furloughed. Benefits for programs such as Medicare, Medicaid, SSI and TANF would not be affected, but processing of new applications could be slowed. According to [The Hill](#), agencies such as the Food and Drug Administration and the Centers for Disease Control would be affected. Routine food safety inspections would be canceled. CDC could be forced to stop tracking disease outbreaks.

From [National Network for Youth](#): The Family and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB) has indicated that **all Runaway and Homeless Youth grantees will be able to access and draw down their available federal funds** through the appropriate payment system.

HHS has indicated that **"the vast majority" of Administration for Children and Families (ACF) (and FYSB) employees will be furloughed**. This would include staff in Washington, DC and throughout the country. Some personnel will remain at work, but they will have limited capacity to respond to inquiries and provide support.

Federal funds that would normally be spent during the time of the shutdown **may or may not be restored** (this could lead to a reduction in funding that FYSB would otherwise have received). Congress could address this issue in any temporary or final funding legislation for FY17.

U.S. [Department of Education](#) (9/15)

[U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development](#) (2017)

[Social Security Administration](#) (12/17)