

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN FACT SHEET

Veterans:

Veterans' Benefits –

Compensation, pension, education, and vocational rehabilitation programs should continue to process claims and make payments through late October. However, if a shutdown is prolonged, claims processing and payments would stop once funds were completely dispersed.

Survivor benefits –

Survivor benefits including Dependency and Indemnity Compensation or Survivors' Pension, will continue to be paid until funding runs out in late October.

Veterans Health services through VA

Hospitals/VA medical facilities –

During a shutdown all VA medical facilities including clinics will continue to be fully operational because the VA was funded fully for FY 2014 through H.R. 3210, the Pay Our Military Act, signed into law on September 30, 2013. Veterans' medical care will not be affected.

Department of Veterans Affairs (generally speaking) –

Most VA employees are covered through multi-year funding and other types of appropriations.

Social Security and Disability Benefits:

Social Security checks and disability benefits will continue to be paid. All Social Security offices will remain open for their usual business hours to process applications, requests for appeals and hold hearings although services may be limited.

*State Disability Determination Services (DDS) will be asked to remain open; however since these 100 percent federally-funded agencies are staffed by State employees, each State will make its own decision whether to maintain limited operations.

Social Security Administration (generally speaking):

44,000 of Social Security Administration's 62,000 employees should still be working. Partial functionality will continue to operate at the very least on a basic level.

Military Pay:

H.R. 3210 was signed by the President to ensure the Military is paid during the government shutdown. Members of our Armed Forces (including reserve components), civilian personnel of the Department of Defense and contractors will continue to be paid. However, the Administration has chosen to narrowly implement this very broad piece of legislation leading to some furloughs. This was not the intent of Congress.

The law explicitly stated that Department of Defense employees supporting the Armed Forces were to be considered exempt from furloughs. Since all DOD civilian employees serve to support the uniformed services, all of these civilian employees should be returned to work without further delay. Many members have signed onto a letter to the Administration asking that they call back all those furloughed. Representative Paul Cook has also introduced a bill that would further clarify that these furloughs were not intended.

Medicare:

Medicare services are considered mandatory spending and at least for the short term current beneficiaries will continue to receive services without interruption.

Medicaid/SCHIP:

Medicaid allotments are paid to states on a quarterly basis. Since these payments are paid in advance of the quarter, states should not see an immediate impact from a short term shutdown. Additionally, providers of Medicaid and SCHIP services should not experience an immediate impact.

TANF/Welfare:

TANF funding is authorized through the end of FY 2013 which expired on September 30, 2013. This program is paid quarterly and this funding is suspended until the programs are reauthorized and/or the government is back up and running fully. However, states can continue to administer these programs with their own funds.

Food Stamps:

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) should not experience an interruption in services for beneficiaries at least for the month of October.

School Lunches:

Child Nutrition (CN) Programs, including School Lunch, School Breakfast, Child and Adult Care Feeding, Summer Food Service and Special Milk will continue operations through October.

Mail:

USPS will continue to deliver the mail.

National Parks:

National Parks will be closed to the public until the government is reopened.

Passports:

State Consular functions, both domestically and abroad, are funded by fees-for-service so they will not be immediately impacted by a government shutdown.

Debt:

The U.S. Treasury should continue payments, collections and daily cash management operations consistent with the relevant statutory requirements this includes payments on interest on the national debt.

General Items of Note:

- President will not get paid during a shutdown.
- Embassies overseas will continue to provide American services.
- Customs and Border Patrol agents, TSA screeners, Federal Prison Guards, FBI and CIA will be considered exempt from furlough status
- Air Traffic Controllers are exempt from furlough status.
- FEMA disaster relief money is considered “no year money” and would be unaffected. However, some grants could be affected.

Mandatory spending programs:

Some defense programs

Social Security

Medicare

Medicaid

Veterans

Parts of Obamacare

Unemployment benefits