

Government Shutdown FAQs

Due to a lapse in funding, the federal government entered a shutdown on October 1, 2025. I am fighting for Congress to fund the government and ensure health care is affordable.

In the meantime, my D.C., Bellingham and Everett offices are fully operational. Below are answers to frequently asked questions about the shutdown. This information is subject to change in the event of a prolonged shutdown. My office will continue to provide the most up-to-date information that is available.

You can also call my D.C. office at (202) 225-2605 or my Everett office at (425) 252-3188 with questions or to share your concerns.

I am a federal employee. Will I still be paid?

Under a government shutdown, all *non-essential* federal employees are placed on unpaid leave, also known as a furlough. However, essential employees who perform emergency work involving the safety of human life, the protection of property, or other exempted work must continue to report to their job. Each federal agency will determine which employees will be furloughed and which must continue to report to work.

Furloughs are expected to impact the services that agencies provide to the public. Neither essential nor furloughed employees are authorized to receive compensation during a lapse in government funding. The Government Employee Fair Treatment Act of 2019, 31 U.S.C. § 1341 (GEFTA) statutorily requires retro-active pay for furloughed and essential employees following the end of a lapse in government funding. The exact timeframe for retro-active payment will depend on the length of the lapse in government funding and start date of the enacted continuing resolution or appropriations bill.

For more details, please visit the Office of Personnel Management's website at [the link here](#).

Will I continue to receive my Social Security benefits?

A shutdown will not impact Social Security benefit payments but be aware that benefit verifications have ceased, meaning new recipients may see delays in processing their claims.

Will my Medicare or Medicaid benefits be interrupted?

Medicare and Medicaid benefits will continue for the foreseeable future, but you may experience difficulty reaching these agencies as some employees are furloughed.

Is USPS still delivering mail?

All services under the Postal Service will continue unimpacted during the government shutdown.

What happens to federal financial aid?

The Education Department will continue to disburse student aid such as Pell Grants and Federal Direct Student loans. Student loan borrowers will still be required to make payments on their outstanding student debt. The Education Department will also make Title I and IDEA grant funding available as usual. You can continue to file Free Applications for Student Aid (FAFSA).

However, Department staff needed to carry out and support these functions may be significantly reduced. If the shutdown continues for an extended period of time, school districts, colleges, and universities may begin to experience funding shortages due to lapsed federal funding. For more information, please visit the Education Department's shutdown guidance, [linked here](#).

Do military personnel continue working?

The Department of Defense will continue defending our nation and all military personnel will continue their usual duty. Servicemembers will not receive pay during the shutdown. However, they will receive retroactive pay following the end of a lapse in government funding

Can veterans still get treatment at VA or access other services?

All functions within the Veterans Health Administration will continue and veterans will continue to receive compensation and pension claims.

I rely on nutrition programs like SNAP and WIC. Will I keep getting my payments?

USDA guidance says SNAP benefits should continue through the month of October. However, in the event of a prolonged shutdown, funding for SNAP benefits may run out. For more information, please visit USDA's shutdown guidance, [linked here](#).

Washington State Department of Health (DOH) estimates that the Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) has one to two weeks of funding remaining from the start of the shutdown on October 1. For more information, please visit [DOH's press release](#).

Should I cancel my upcoming travel?

You can and should continue to enjoy your travel plans. Airports will stay open. TSA officers and air traffic controllers are considered essential and are reporting to work throughout the shutdown. However, both TSA and Air Traffic Control are currently working without pay so please have patience with any delays.

I'm traveling to D.C. Will my tours still take place?

Unfortunately, tour guides and visitor centers of D.C.'s government buildings are considered nonessential and have been closed. This means that all tours of the U.S. Capitol, White House and FBI Building have been canceled during the shutdown. My office continues to accept tour requests for future dates and will notify constituents about canceled tours due to the shutdown.

What about international travel?

All services at international embassies and consulates will continue during the shutdown. If you are abroad and need help, contact the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate. You can also visit travel.state.gov.

Will my passport renewal still be processed?

Passport applications will continue to be processed. The Bureau of Consular Affairs/Passport Services is designated as an essential service provider and is funded through passport fees, so all

of Passport Services, including agencies and the National Passport Information Center, will remain open during a lapse of appropriations.

What immigration services will be affected?

Immigration court cases for detained individuals will continue, while those who are not in detention could have their hearings rescheduled for a later date. ICE enforcement and removal operations will continue.

Are National Parks closed?

National Park facilities will mostly be closed. Parks with admission gates or fee booths will be locked; those with open entry points, including North Cascades National Park, will be accessible but with minimal services. Please exercise caution during any visits as most services will be halted. Trail and road conditions won't be updated, visitor centers will be closed, entrance fees won't be collected, educational programs will be canceled, and campsites won't be staffed.

I have an issue with a government agency, can I still call them for help? Can you help me instead?

Due to the lapse in funding, many agencies have furloughed workers, so their help desks may have little or no staffing. You are encouraged to contact any agency to learn if they are still able to assist you at this time.

You can also contact my office to open a case for you. We can contact an agency on your behalf and provide you with updates if they are open or when they re-open at the conclusion of a shutdown.

I already have a case open with your office, should I do anything during the shutdown?

My office is continuing to submit inquiries to federal agencies including requesting updates on constituents' behalf, submitting paperwork, and opening new cases. We will provide you with an update as soon as it is available.

For more information, please visit:

- [OPM Shutdown Guidance](#)
- [OPM Shutdown Page](#)