This is causing a backlog of calls to IRS offices as phone lines have been converted to voicemails. In addition, it appears the IRS shutdown plan limits the amount of time that collection staff spends on the phones or responding to correspondence.

Bill Burding NTP, executive vice president and general counsel for Orange Coast Title Co., described this as a “big problem” for the industry as deals are either being delayed or cancelled.

“There is no workaround in my mind, and I have said no to proposed ones,” he added.

Nick Hacker, president/ and CEO of North Dakota Guaranty & Title, said one underwriter his company works with has advised against closing deals involving IRS liens. The company is also holding some seller proceeds until the payoffs are confirmed in order to continue closing transactions.

In a [bulletin](https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USIRS/bulletins/2264c2f?reqfrom=sharehttps://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USIRS/bulletins/2264c2f?reqfrom=share) released Monday to participants of its Income Verification Express Service, the IRS said it has started working through the backlog of requests for transcript information.

“While the IRS remains closed during the partial government shutdown, on January 7, 2019, it will begin processing requests for transcript information made through Income Verification Express Service (IVES) program,” the bulletin said. “Because it will take time to ramp this service up to normal operating status, it may initially take a few days to process these requests, as employees are brought back to work and begin to process requests backlogged since the funding lapse began on December 22, 2018.

[Text Link](https://em-ui.constantcontact.com/em-ui/em/page/em-ui/email)