



**GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN: THE LATEST UPDATES**  
*January 4, 2019*

We are now on day 14 of the partial federal government shutdown that began on December 22, 2018. The partial shutdown impacts nine federal departments and several agencies; however, the Departments of Health and Human Services and Labor have been funded and are not impacted by the shutdown.

Yesterday, the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress convened to swear in new members, with the first order of business after approving the rules package, being votes and discussions to end the shutdown.

The House of Representatives introduced its [rules package](#) along with [2 bills](#) that will end the government shutdown for impacted agencies. [H.R. 21](#) is a package of 6 spending bills (Agriculture, Commerce-Justice-Science, Financial Services, Interior-Environment, State-Foreign Operations, and Transportation-HUD) that would fund most of the remaining unfunded government agencies until September (the end of FY 2019). [H.J. Res 1](#) (Homeland Security Continuing Resolution) will provide stopgap funding for the Department of Homeland Security through February 8<sup>th</sup> so that negotiations over the border wall can continue between the chambers and the President.

Last night, in a vote of 241-190, the House voted to pass H.R. 21 and in a vote of 239-132, the House voted to pass H.J. Res 1. However, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has stated that any funding bills, even in separate packages, will not be voted on by the Senate if it does not include \$5B in funding for a border wall because the President will not sign it, as indicated in a [statement](#) released by the White House yesterday.

**KEY HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES CONSIDERATIONS**

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
  - While the Farm Bill was passed at the end of last year, federal funding is still impacted because the Department of Agriculture's appropriations bill has yet to be signed into law.
  - Eligible households will still receive monthly SNAP benefits for the month of January. Funding is available for state administrative expenses through the end of January.

- Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)
  - WIC can continue to operate at the state and local level with any funding and commodity resources that remain available.
  - Additional federal funds will not be provided during the shutdown but the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) has stated that state agencies have sufficient funds to continue its operations and eligible households should continue to receive benefits.
  
- The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)
  - Due to the lapse, additional administrative federal funds will not be provided for TEFAP (began December 22, 2018).
  - Once federal funding becomes available, food distribution program costs incurred during this lapse may be eligible for federal reimbursement only to the extent that the programs were administered in accordance with federal statute and regulations.
  
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
  - TANF has yet to be reauthorized and has expired with no new funding.
  - States may use prior-year funding or non-federal funding to cover operations.
  - State spending during the shutdown may be used to meet matching or maintenance of effort requirements, unless otherwise specified by Congress.
  
- Child Care Development Fund (CCDF)
  - Like TANF, the mandatory/matching portion of CCDF has also expired with no new funding.
  
- Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
  - HUD will continue to make Section 8 housing voucher payments, which assist low-income families, but new housing voucher requests will not be processed.
  - HUD's homeless assistance grants, including support for veterans, and Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) will continue to operate.
  - HUD will continue to disburse CDBG, HOME, and other block grant funds where prior year funds have been obligated.
  
- Justice
  - The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) expired last month when the government shutdown and federal funds are suspended. The programs will continue, provided there is funding through grants. However, there will be a delay in payment requests from programs funded by VAWA.
  - Juvenile delinquency program funding is also suspended.

- Immigration
  - Systems used to verify immigration status during employment and eligibility determination processes, such as e-Verify and SAVE, may be impacted. It applies across the board.

#### **OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN DOCUMENTS**

- Department of Health and Human Services: [Contingency Plan](#)
- Department of Agriculture: [Summary](#) of activities to be continued in the event of a government shutdown and [Press Release](#) summarizing continuation of activities
- Food and Nutrition Service: [Information](#) on program operations in light of shutdown and [Contingency Plan](#)
- Office of Management and Budget: [One Stop Shop](#) for contingency plans for agencies across the federal government