

Federal Government Shutdown: Frequently Asked Questions

Please note: This FAQ is based on information from prior shutdowns and currently available information from agencies.

2025 Government Shutdown

On October 1, 2025, the federal government entered into a nationwide shutdown due to a lapse in federal government funding.

As your Member of Congress, I want to ensure you have the information you need regarding any potential 2025 federal government shutdown and how it might affect you. Below are some frequently asked questions (FAQs) about a shutdown and key information you need to know.

In the event of a government shutdown, my district and D.C. offices will remain available to assist you. Please [email me](#) or contact my office at **(202) 225-5876** or **(601) 866-9003** with any questions.

FAQ:

What is a federal government shutdown? And who will be affected?

- A shutdown happens when Congress does not pass funding bills or a short-term fix called a Continuing Resolution (CR). Without funding, many agencies must close or scale back services. Federal employees are either furloughed (temporarily out of work without pay) or required to keep working without pay until the shutdown ends. Families, businesses, and communities that rely on federal programs also feel the effects.

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

- Many agencies operate with little or no staff during a shutdown, so their helplines may not be available. My office will stay open to assist you by contacting agencies on your behalf. Some matters may be delayed until agencies return to full operations, but we will continue opening cases and requesting updates.

Do furloughed federal employees get back pay?

- Yes. Under federal law, employees who are furloughed or required to work without pay during a shutdown must receive back pay once funding is restored.

- Resource: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/24>

Additional Resources for Federal Employees:

- Find Your Union [here](#)
- Partnership For Public Service has compiled [Government Shutdown Resources](#)

Will I continue to receive my Social Security?

- Yes. Social Security benefits will continue, but new services such as issuing replacement cards or processing new claims may be delayed.
 - Resource: <https://www.ssa.gov/agency/shutdown/>

I rely on food programs like WIC and SNAP — will I keep getting my payments?

- WIC funding could run out quickly during a shutdown, which may interrupt benefits for families. SNAP benefits should continue for a time, but a prolonged shutdown could put them at risk.

Does USPS still deliver mail?

- Yes. The U.S. Postal Service is self-funded and will continue delivering mail as usual.

Will Medicare or Medicaid be interrupted?

- No. Medicare and Medicaid benefits will continue. However, communication and customer service may slow down because of staff furloughs.

Do military personnel continue working?

- Yes. Service members continue their duties, but they will not receive pay until the shutdown ends.
 - Resource: <https://www.militaryfamily.org/the-u-s-government-is-shutdown-what-does-this-mean-for-military-families/>

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

- Yes. VA hospitals and most benefits remain available, but some research and administrative functions may pause until funding resumes.
 - Resource: <https://department.va.gov/contingency-planning/>

What will be the impact on federal housing loans?

- The Federal Housing Administration will stop approving new housing loans. This creates significant delays for families trying to purchase, refinance, or renovate homes.

- Resource: <https://www.nahb.org/blog/2025/10/government-shutdown>

What is the impact on small businesses?

The Small Business Administration will stop issuing new loans, such as through the 7(a) and 504 programs. However, SBA's Disaster Loan Program will continue regular operations.

Should I cancel my upcoming travel plans?

- No. TSA officers and air traffic controllers will continue working, but without pay, which may cause longer wait times. Passport services generally remain open.

Will immigration applications still be processed?

- Most immigration and visa services continue because they are funded by fees, not federal appropriations. However, some immigration court cases may be delayed until after the shutdown.

Will I receive my tax refund? Do I still need to file my taxes if I got an extension?

- Yes. The IRS continues to process tax returns and refunds during a shutdown, and deadlines for extensions still apply.

What does this mean for disaster relief efforts?

- FEMA will continue responding to emergencies, but longer-term recovery projects may be delayed until funding is restored.

Will student loans continue to be disbursed?

- Pell Grants and Federal Direct Student loans will continue for now, but a prolonged shutdown could create funding shortages for schools and students. Student loan borrowers will still be required to make payments on their outstanding student debt.

I'm traveling to Washington, D.C. — will my tours still take place?

- No. Tours of the U.S. Capitol, White House, and FBI are cancelled during a shutdown. The Supreme Court and Bureau of Engraving and Printing will be open for tours.

Do national parks and monuments close?

- Some remain open with limited services, but visitor centers, restrooms, and maintenance are often closed. Emergency services may also be limited.
 - Resource: <https://www.npca.org/articles/3590-what-a-federal-government-shutdown-means-for-national-parks>

If the government shuts down, how do you get it reopened?

- The shutdown ends once Congress passes a funding bill and the President signs it into law. Until then, operations remain restricted.