



October 8, 2013

On October 1, 2013, the federal government went into partial shutdown due to a lack of a final FY14 funding bill being passed by Congress. While elected officials have been using media sound bites to get out their opinion, the situation is more complex and much more difficult to define accurately.

Essential federal employees are still on the job (military, police, etc) while non-essential staff have been furloughed. Furloughed staff may apply for unemployment benefits.

In general, funds already obligated will continue to be available and organizations are encouraged to use whatever FY13 carryover funds might exist until Congress works out their differences. Here's a snapshot of some of the key workforce programs:

- **Workforce Investment Act:** The shutdown primarily impact Adult and Dislocated Worker programs since those programs were expecting a large allocation on October 1st. Funding for programs such as Youth and Migrant/Farmworker were distributed earlier this year. ETA put out guidance that can be accessed [HERE](#)
- **Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF):** The TANF block grant expired on September 30 and states will not receive any additional TANF funding until the shutdown is resolved and the program is reauthorized. Jurisdictions with carryover TANF funds may use those funds to continue programs. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released [THIS GUIDANCE](#) on TANF
- **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Employment and Training (SNAP E&T);** SNAP will continue to operate and eligible households will receive monthly benefits in October. According to the National Skill Coalition, "it is unclear what funding will be available for SNAP E&T. Because "100 percent" funds are annually appropriated, no additional 100 percent funds will be made available under the shutdown. Additionally, it is currently unclear if staff will be available to receive, review, or process reimbursement requests for "50-50" funds."

When will this end?

I wish I could tell you. Negotiations are ongoing, but it appears that neither side is willing to compromise. Both the House and the Senate must agree to the funding provisions and the President must sign the bill before new funding will flow.

President Obama and Senate Democrats are advocating for a short-term spending bill and a debt-limit increase without conditions. House Republicans are predicating any

funding agreement on provisions defunding or delaying the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

Adding to the complexity of the situation is the fact that the nation will come up against the debt ceiling next week and Congress must address that issue or the US will default on its debts.

Real Consequences

We are hearing reports of workforce organizations furloughing staff, cutting hours, and, in some cases, temporarily closing.

Earlier today, I had the opportunity to speak with Senator Barbara Mikulski, Chair Senate Budget Committee. She expressed her frustration and indicated that due to the furloughs, most legislators do not have staff to answer phones, read emails or open mail at this time.

So, if you are advocating using these traditional methods - your message may NOT be getting to the legislators in a timely manner. Therefore, she recommends also using the local radio call in shows, local press, and local television stations to report on the impact these cuts are having in the local community.

We are working with the national press to get your stories out to the general public and legislators. NAWDP will continue to work with elected officials to pass a continuing resolution that will reopen the government and fund critical workforce programs.

Thank you for all of your efforts to serve our nation's employers and job seekers. Workforce Development Professionals are at the heart of our economic recovery and you should take pride in all of your efforts.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at Bridget@nawdp.org or 202/589-1790.

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