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Subject: Federal Shutdown - Continuing Services

The following is our current understanding of which federal offices, programs, and services will continue during the federal shutdown. This list has been compiled based upon the contingency plans that federal agencies have filed with the Office of Management and Budget, communications between federal and state officials, and various press accounts, publications, and compilations. This list will evolve as federal agencies release new information and/or as agencies exhaust their remaining fund balances.

This information is organized by federal agency:

Agriculture

- Food safety inspections will generally continue, but with reduced resources.
- The Food and Drug Administration will continue to issue recalls, if necessary.
- The school lunch program is expected to continue through October with existing funds.
- The SNAP program (food stamps) can continue for the immediate future; state and federal officials are determining how/if existing funds and authority can be used to continue benefits.
- Firefighting activities will continue.

Commerce

- Many employees at the National Weather Service will continue to work due to the importance of their forecasts to the economy and public safety (especially during hurricane season).
- The Patent and Trademark Office has sufficient funds to remain open for about a month.

Defense

- On September 30th, the President signed legislation allowing for the 1.4 million members of the active-duty military to be paid during the shutdown.

Education

- Title I and Special Education payments will continue.
- Pell Grants and Federal Direct Loans will continue to be processed but likely at a slower pace.

Energy

- Employees responsible for nuclear weaponry and naval reactors will continue to work.

Environmental Protection

- Only a handful of emergency responders will continue to work.

Federal Reserve System

- Central banking services are self-funding and will continue.

Health and Human Services

- Medicaid and Medicare payments, including the CHIP program (children's insurance), will continue.
- Many HHS components, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, will operate with a reduced staff in order to protect health and welfare by responding to emergencies and outbreaks.
- Clinics of the National Institute of Health will treat existing patients and preserve ongoing trials.

Homeland Security

- The Department of Homeland Security and its various components will continue to operate at nearly full capacity.
- This includes the Citizenship and Immigration Service, Coast Guard, Customs and Border Protection, and Transportation Security Administration, each of which is expected to keep 85 percent or more of its employees in place during the shutdown.

Housing and Urban Development

- FHA mortgages are still available.
- Homelessness programs will generally continue and GNMA will continue its operations in the mortgage market.

Interior

- Services that will continue are largely confined to law enforcement activities.

Judiciary

- Federal courts have reported to the Washington Post that they can continue to operate for approximately two weeks.
- The Supreme Court has historically continued to operate during an impasse; their next session begins next week.

Justice

- ATF, DEA, FBI, and other federal law enforcement activities will generally continue, including the operation of federal prisons and the U.S. Attorney offices.

Labor

- Unemployment payments will continue for as long as funds are available.

Postal Service

- Mail service will continue without interruption.

Securities and Exchange Commission

- The SEC reports that it will be able to continue its operations “for a few weeks” using existing resources.

State

- The Department of State will continue to provide most of its domestic and overseas services for the foreseeable future.
- Citizens can continue to obtain passports and visas, but some offices will be closed if they are located in federal buildings that are shared with other agencies that have suspended their operations.

Transportation

- Air traffic controllers will continue to work.
- AMTRAK will continue to operate.
- Construction and repair programs financed by the Highway Trust Fund will continue.

Treasury

- Employees who are responsible for processing mandatory payments – such as Social Security checks – will continue to work.
- The IRS will continue to receive and process tax payments.

Veterans Affairs

- VA mortgages are still available.
- Employees who provide medical services, primarily those of the Veterans Health Administration, will continue to work.
- Burial benefits and death notices will continue to be provided.

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