FAQs: How will the Government Shut Down Affect...

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**Child Support/Maintenance Payments**

I receive child support/maintenance/alimony by way of the Child Support Services through WI Dept. of Children and Families, will payment be affected? While it is still unclear the extent of the federal government shutdown, child support, maintenance/alimony payments are most likely not affected. The shutdown is a federal shutdown and the WI Dept. of Children and Families is a state-run agency. You should continue to receive your payments as long as the other party is making the payment to the agency. However, some are unable to make their child support payment because they hold a federal job and have been furloughed.

If it is affected, will I get paid up in full once the government reopens? Again, the federal government shutdown should not affect your payment, unless the other party is a federal employee and is unable to make payment because they are unemployed.

Is there some other way for me to get my child support/maintenance if CSS is affected? Possibly. You should talk with the other party about alternative ways they can pay. Additionally, you may want to talk to the court about making modifications to the child support/maintenance/alimony payment order.

For further insight read:

- [https://www.familyneedslaw.com/blog/2013/10/govt-shutdown-causing-concern-over-child-support-payments.shtml](https://www.familyneedslaw.com/blog/2013/10/govt-shutdown-causing-concern-over-child-support-payments.shtml)

**Food Stamps**

Does the government shutdown affect my ability to receive food stamps? Yes. However, SNAP/Food Stamps is covered through the end of February.

Not to be construed as legal advice. Information only.
**Will my kids still get meals at school?** Yes, school meals and the Child and Adult Care Food Program are covered for the month of January and an additional two months’ worth of funding was approved to cover the months of February and March.

For more info read:

**If the shutdown continues longer than February or March, how can I get food?** Many organizations in the community have food pantries, including many churches and other community organizations.

Search for Food Pantries at:
[https://211wisconsin.communityos.org/guided_search/render/ds/%7B%22%5Cservice%5C%5Cservice_taxonomy%5C%5Cmodule_servicepost%22%3A%7B%22value%22%3A%5B%7B%22taxonomy_id%22%3A407761%7D%5D%2C%22%5Coperator%22%3A%5B%22contains_array%22%5D%2C%22agency%5C%5Cagency_system%5C%5Cname%22%3A%22%5B%22%5Cvalue%22%3A%22VLTEST%22%5D%2C%22operator%22%3A%5B%22notequals%22%5D%7D?localHistory=m0L55b4quNvxZmGuI5SPjA](https://211wisconsin.communityos.org/guided_search/render/ds/%7B%22%5Cservice%5C%5Cservice_taxonomy%5C%5Cmodule_servicepost%22%3A%7B%22value%22%3A%5B%7B%22taxonomy_id%22%3A407761%7D%5D%2C%22%5Coperator%22%3A%5B%22contains_array%22%5D%2C%22agency%5C%5Cagency_system%5C%5Cname%22%3A%22%5B%22%5Cvalue%22%3A%22VLTEST%22%5D%2C%22operator%22%3A%5B%22notequals%22%5D%7D?localHistory=m0L55b4quNvxZmGuI5SPjA)

Type Zip Code/City, State in Search Bar on the right to find Food Pantry/Providers in Client’s Area.

**For all public benefits that are suspended, will the government pay up in full any arrears that have built up?** It is unclear at this time whether the government will pay up all arrears, however after previous shutdowns, the government has worked to pay back built up arrears.

**HOUSING – SECTION 8/HUD**

**Is my HUD/Public Housing subsidy affected by the shutdown?** Yes. However, there is funding for Section 8 housing through the end of January. If the shutdown lasts beyond January, Section 8 housing will most likely be affected.

For more info read:
- [https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/Main/documents/GENERALFAQS.pdf](https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/Main/documents/GENERALFAQS.pdf)

**Should I still pay my share of the monthly rent?** Yes. You should still pay your share of the monthly rent because failure to pay your portion is good cause for an eviction action.

For more info read:
- [https://tenantsunion.org/en/rights/section-8-vouchers](https://tenantsunion.org/en/rights/section-8-vouchers)

Not to be construed as legal advice. Information only.
If my HUD/Public Housing subsidy is affected, can I be evicted even if I pay my share of the monthly rent? Most likely not. It is unclear if you will be evicted because of the shutdown. However, in the past, no one has ever been evicted because of a shutdown.

For more info read:

If it doesn’t get paid now, will HUD/Public Housing repay the back rent once the shutdown ends? It is unclear at this time. However, in the past, landlords have always received the back rent owed.

For more info read:

My lease says that my rent is the full amount (my share and the subsidy), can my landlord hold me to that whole amount? No. Your landlord cannot require you to pay the full amount.

I have a subsidy that helps pay my rent, and the subsidy agency is late paying the rent. Can my landlord charge me a late fee? No. As long as you paid your share of the rent on time, your landlord cannot charge you a late fee, even if the agency was late paying its share.

My HUD/Housing Authority contracts were not renewed in December and January. Can my housing authority evict me? Yes, the Housing Authority can evict tenants if the HUD contracts were not renewed. However, some landlords have reserve accounts to cover the costs and others without reserves are trying to work with tenants and the government to keep the tenants in their homes.

For more info read:

MORTGAGES – FHA/VA/USDA

Does the government shutdown affect my ability to get an FHA loan? Probably not. Currently, the FHA is functioning with delays, but the impact has not been significant.

For more info read:
I applied for an FHA loan for low income home buyers; will I still be able to close on the sale of my home? The decision to close or not will be decided by each individual lender, so you should contact your lender.

For more info read:
- [https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/Main/documents/GENERALFAQS.pdf](https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/Main/documents/GENERALFAQS.pdf)

If I can’t close on time, will the seller have to let me close once the government reopens? It is unclear whether the seller will have to let you close once the government reopens. However, you may be able to communicate with the seller and negotiate for more time while you wait for the documentation you need. The best thing to do is communicate.

Will the government shutdown affect my ability to get a VA loan? Probably not. The VA is still open and functioning with minor delays.

For more info read:

Will the government shutdown affect my ability to get my USDA loan? Yes, the USDA loan program is in total lock-down. Scheduled closings are on hold and no new applications are being processed. Additionally, the processing of thousands of USDA loans for both building and buying homes is suspended.

For more info read:

**SOCIAL SECURITY, MEDICARE, & MEDICAID**

Will my Social Security payments be affected? No. Social Security is a core program and benefits continue during a shutdown.

For more info read:

Will Medicare coverage be affected? No. There may be a slight delay in processing reimbursements and new applications, but the benefits will be disbursed because Medicare is an essential program.
For more info read:

- [https://medicareworld.com/2019/01/04/government-shutdown-medicare/](https://medicareworld.com/2019/01/04/government-shutdown-medicare/)

**I (or my elderly relative) live in an assisted living facility, will Medicaid payments to the facility be suspended?** No. Funding for Medicaid, and the agency that administers Medicaid, is available through at least September 30, 2019.

For more info read:


**Can the assisted living facility kick me out if Medicaid doesn’t make its payments?** Possibly, but the likelihood is slim. An assisted living facility can kick out a resident who does not pay their bill. However, the facility has to provide 30 days’ notice. Additionally, facilities can’t discharge residents who have submitted a timely application for Medicaid and are waiting to hear about their eligibility.

For more info read: