

Resources for Federal Workers Affected by the US Government Partial Shutdown

Background

- A partial federal government shutdown could possibly begin on February 15, 2019. This document is based upon lessons learned during the previous federal government shutdown and serves as a guide for the Town of Carrboro in assisting residents during a future shutdown.
- Potentially affected agencies or departments:
 - National Science Foundation
 - Homeland Security
 - Commerce, including National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
 - Environmental Protection Agency
 - Food and Drug Administration
 - National Aeronautics and Space Administration
 - Transportation
 - Interior, including the National Park Service
 - Agriculture
 - State
 - Justice
 - Housing and Urban Development
 - Smaller agencies, government contractors, etc. are also affected.
- NC has 44,000 civilian federal workers. Most are not affected by the shutdown.

Resources

- Federal workers will probably continue to have access to their health insurance and should be able to obtain Employee Assistance Program (EAP) counseling (mental health, legal, financial counseling).
- Affected North Carolina workers can apply for unemployment wages during the shutdown. It takes about a week to process a claim. However, should workers receive back pay after the shutdown ends, they will be required to pay back their unemployment wages.
- Employees may be able to take loans against their Thrift Savings Plan and receive help from their financial institution.
- During the previous shutdown, some banks, on a case by case basis, worked with furloughed employees by deferring payments on loans, mortgages and credit cards. Some also waived fees. However, it was not automatic and workers needed to negotiate with their financial institutions.

- Many food and diaper banks around the country asked for increased donations to help support affected families. They also did outreach to federal workers in their area.
- Many restaurants around the country provided free meals to affected federal workers and their families.
- Some municipalities (Las Vegas, for example) offered utility assistance (deferred payments) to affected workers and some utility companies utilized a rainy-day utility fund to help affected workers pay for their utilities.
- Some resources come with pitfalls: options such as use of retirement savings, credit cards and Go Fund Me type fundraisers can incur penalties, taxes and high-interest rate debt.

North Carolina Impact

RTP and Beyond

During the previous shutdown, State agencies that depend on federal funds used reserves that were projected to last 2-3 months before reduced services and furloughs begin. However, national parks were immediately affected, payments to farmers for hurricane recovery stopped and grants to fund programs for victims of domestic violence and sexual violence and juvenile justice stopped.

<http://24hourbailbondsnc.com/2019/01/04/federal-workers-in-rtp-feeling-the-bite-of-the-shutdown-if-it-drag-on-others-will-too-the-herald-sun/>

UNC

As stated during the previous shutdown - "UNC-Chapel Hill has been planning for a partial shutdown scenario, and our campus is well prepared," Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost Bob Blouin said in a December email to the University community. "At this point, every indication is that a short-term partial shutdown would have a minimal impact on the U.S. higher education community."

<https://www.dailytarheel.com/article/2019/01/government-shutdown-0110>

Hurricane Recovery

Hurricane Recovery was slowed and delays were expected in obtaining Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Relief funds.

<https://www.wral.com/federal-shutdown-slowing-hurricane-recovery-in-nc/18109171/>

Local Resources

Inter-Faith Council for Social Service

110 W. Main Street
Carrboro, NC, 27510

Food Pantry – 919-929-6380, 110 W. Main Street – once every month IFC provides approximately a week's worth of groceries, according to household size. Call to schedule

a morning appointment or drop-in during afternoons. Evening hours available some Tuesday/Wednesdays.

Emergency Financial Assistance (Rent + Utility support) – 919-929-6380 x19 - once every 12 months

Call Tuesdays at 9 a.m. and leave a message. Staff will return messages in the order received and schedule appointments until full. Bills must be past due.

Community Kitchen (Rosemary Street, Chapel Hill)

Everyone welcome. Lunch every day, Dinner every weekday.

Monday through Friday

Lunch 11:15am-12:30pm

Dinner 6:15pm-7:00pm

Saturday

Lunch 11:15am-12:30pm

Sunday

Lunch 12:15pm-1:30pm

Shelter – Access through Orange County Coordinated Entry

Folks looking for shelter should stop in at CEF (208 N. Columbia St, Suite 100) between 10-3 to check bed availability.

Bill Assistance

Duke Energy

800.452.2777

PSNC Energy

1-877-776-2427

OWASA

Inter-Faith Council for Social Service (administers the OWASA Care to Share program and Orange County Social Services funds for our service area)

110 West Main St.

Carrboro NC 27510

919-929-6380

Counseling (legal, financial, employment, mental health)

Community Empowerment Fund

208 N. Columbia St, Suite 100

Chapel Hill, NC 27514

919-200-0233

Compass Center

210 Henderson St,

Chapel Hill, NC 27514

Phone: 919-968-4610

Diaper Bank

Any Orange County resident in need can pick up diapers at:

Compass Center

210 Henderson St,
Chapel Hill, NC 27514
Phone: 919-968-4610

Emergency Shelter

Inter-Faith Council for Social Service (see above)

110 W. Main Street
Carrboro, NC, 27510
(919) 929-6380

Food

Food Bank of Central and Eastern NC

2700 Angier Avenue, Suite A
Durham, NC 27703
Phone: 919-956-2513

Inter-Faith Council for Social Service (see above)

110 W. Main Street
Carrboro, NC, 27510
(919) 929-6380

PORCH Chapel Hill/ Carrboro

P.O. Box 16363
Chapel Hill, NC 27516-6363
chc@porchcommunities.org

Table

209 E. Main Street
Carrboro, NC 27510
(919) 636-4860

Economic, Employment, Emergency assistance

Orange County

Southern Human Services

2501 Homestead Road
Chapel Hill, NC 27516
(919) 245-2800