

October 1, 2025

Congressional leaders and the White House were unable to reach an agreement on a continuing resolution to avert a full government shutdown, which began Oct. 1 at 12:01 a.m. ET.

Please see below information and resources on anticipated effects of the shutdown on federal agencies and programs of importance to AAMC member institutions.

- The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released its [FY 2026 contingency staffing plan](#), detailing some of the impacts on agency staff and services. The Congressional Research Service also issued an [FAQ on government shutdowns and executive branch operations](#).
- Specific to the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the HHS contingency plan and a [notice from the NIH for the extramural community](#) provide information about the status of key [NIH activities](#), including the following:
  - No NIH grant peer review meetings, advisory council meetings, new awards issuance, and program/grants management activities will occur.
  - New patients will not be admitted to the NIH Clinical Center (unless deemed medically necessary by the NIH Clinical Center Director).
  - NIH will not hold scientific meetings at NIH facilities, and NIH scientists will not travel to scientific meetings.
  - Almost all NIH administrative functions will stop, and many NIH employees will be unable to review or respond to emails, telephone calls, or mail.
  - Regarding the management of current, active grants, eRA Commons and grants.gov will be operational, but will not have technical support. It is expected that the drawdown of funds will continue to be available but technical problems and manual approval requirements could delay access to funds. Reporting deadlines for grantees will remain in place without extension, even if NIH staff cannot review the submissions during furlough. No-cost extension notifications for grants that will lapse during the shutdown should be submitted as usual, but those that require preapproval will not be reviewed.
  - For grant applications responding to active notices of funding opportunity, submission deadlines will not change, but NIH staff will not be available to answer questions or respond to technical difficulties.
  - The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare will not continue any activities during the shutdown.
- The new AAMC [document](#), “Effects of a Government Shutdown on HHS Operations and Key Medicare/Medicaid Policies,” summarizes the anticipated effects of a shutdown on Medicare and Medicaid payments, HHS staffing, agency rulemaking, and key health care extenders (telehealth, Hospital-at-Home, and Medicaid disproportionate share hospitals). If you have any questions related to the effects of the shutdown on agency operations and

CMS health care policies, please do not hesitate to reach out to the AAMC Health Care Affairs policy and regulatory team at [regulations@aamc.org](mailto:regulations@aamc.org).

- The [Health Resources and Services Administration \(HRSA\) contingency plan](#) notes, “drafting and posting FY 2026 NOFOs and reviewing applications for discretionary funded programs would be impacted,” as well as “limited staff to support programs in maternal health, health workforce, and behavioral health,” among other activities.
- The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) [Human Capital Contingency Plan](#) includes a [summary of significant activities](#) that will cease during the funding lapse.
  - The plan notes, “Veteran medical care and critical services within VHA will continue, as they are financed with advance appropriations. This will include suicide prevention programs, homelessness programs, the Veterans Crisis Line and caregiver support. Certain work to protect against imminent threats to life and property within VHA medical and prosthetic research will continue as an excepted function. VHA research is funded by a multi-year appropriation and will continue until funds are exhausted, after which a portion of employees may be furloughed.”
  - A shutdown will not impact the operations of VA’s Office of Academic Affiliations (OAA) or health professional trainee pay.
- The Department of Education also issued a [memo outlining its contingency plan](#) for a lapse in appropriations. It notes that more than 80% of the Department and Federal Student Aid (FSA) staff will be furloughed in the shutdown and student aid, including Pell Grants and Federal Direct Loans, will continue to be disbursed. Additionally, student loan borrowers will be required to continue making payments on any outstanding student loan debt.
  - Title IV student aid processing and disbursement is not expected to be impacted by the lapse in appropriations. The Department of Education’s Office of Federal Student Aid has issued an [electronic announcement](#) that provides operational guidance.
  - The Department of Education’s Reimagining and Improving Student Education (RISE) committee negotiated rulemaking deliberations will continue in person this week as planned through October 3rd. This committee is charged with considering implementation for the student aid provisions contained in the One Big Beautiful Bill Act.
- The Department of State [guidance on operations during a lapse in appropriations](#) indicates that consular and embassy operations domestically and abroad, including passport and visa services, will continue in a government shutdown so long as there are sufficient fees to support operations. F-1, J-1, and H-1B visa applications that are already in process with consulates abroad should not be affected.

If you have additional questions, contact the AAMC Office of Government Relations at [gov-relations@aamc.org](mailto:gov-relations@aamc.org).