

## **The Federal Government Shutdown—What You Need to Know**

### ***What federal programs are affected by the shutdown?***

Only non-mandatory federal programs funded by Congress through the annual appropriations process are affected by a shutdown. Mandatory programs—such as Medicare and Social Security—are not affected because their budgets are automatically determined outside of the appropriations process.

### ***Will the National Institutes of Health (NIH) continue to accept grants?***

Yes. NIH will continue to accept grant applications, but will not review them during the shutdown. NIH will store the applications it receives and process them when the federal government operations resume.

### ***Can I still draw down on my existing NIH grants?***

It depends. NIH grantees who received awards before the government shutdown can continue to draw down their grant, except if the award came with restrictive terms and conditions or if the drawdown request triggers “Payment Management System edit checks and/or the drawdown limit controls.”

### ***Who can I contact about my NIH grant draw down?***

Federal staff will not be available to assist grantees during the government shutdown. Therefore, requests about grants awarded on a reimbursement basis for withdrawing funds or otherwise restricted cannot not be processed until after government operations resume.

### ***Does the shutdown affect NIH application deadlines?***

The answer is unclear at this time. NIH plans to publish a notice in the NIH Guide concerning adjusted submission dates after government operations resume.

### ***How will the shutdown affect the other following federal agencies?***

#### **Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)**

AHRQ will be unable to fund new grants and contracts related to health services research initiatives, including research on improving patient safety and reducing healthcare-associated infections.

#### **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)**

In the short term, the Medicare Program will continue largely without disruption. CMS will continue large portions of the Affordable Care Act activities, including coordination between Medicaid and the Marketplace, as well as insurance rate reviews, and assessment of a portion of insurance premiums that are used on medical services.

#### **Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)**

About 62,000 VA workers will likely face furloughs during the government shutdown. However, VA hospitals and care centers will continue to provide services.

#### **Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI)**

PCORI is not subject to the annual appropriations process and thus is not affected by a shutdown.

### ***Where can I get additional information?***

You can visit the Department of Health and Human Services website at <http://www.hhs.gov/> for updates about the shutdown at AHRQ, CMS, and NIH. For updates about the shutdown at the VA, please visit [http://www.va.gov/opa/appropriations\\_lapse\\_plan.asp](http://www.va.gov/opa/appropriations_lapse_plan.asp).

### ***What has to happen in order for the federal government to resume standard operations?***

Congress must pass a Continuing Resolution to fund government until a budget is passed for Fiscal Year 2014.