

Memorandum

TO: ED/CEO, Advocacy POC, DVMIG, Nat Staff
FROM: Catherine Beane, Vice President of Public Policy & Advocacy, YWCA USA
DATE: January 18, 2019
SUBJECT: Federal Government Shutdown and Funding Streams

Dear YWCA Leaders,

Here at YWCA USA, we know that as leaders of organizations who utilize federal dollars to provide critical services to clients in your communities, you may be feeling some trepidation and concern regarding the current federal government shutdown.

Below is a brief synopsis of where various funding streams utilized by local associations and the clients you serve currently stand. Please be assured that we are monitoring what is happening with the Administration and Capitol Hill closely and will continue to do so in order to provide you with the most updated information.

The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)

- **UPDATE:** The Grant Payment Request System (GRPS) is currently fully operational and processing payment requests. **Requests will continue to be processed until further notice and are encouraged to continue to request drawdowns as per usual.**
- The Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) is currently operating and accepting grant applications for 2019 solicitations. **Please note: No extensions will be granted for late applications.**
- YWCA USA continues to work hard to get VAWA reauthorized, which has technically expired, to add improvements to the law. We will keep you updated as to any changes in the status of the legislation.

Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Funds

- Requests for reimbursements will continue to be processed until January 18, 2019.

Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

- As of January 3, Section 8 Project-Based Rental Assistance, HUD was unable to renew federal contracts for over 1,100 Section 8 Project-Based Rental Assistance (PBRA) properties housing tens of thousands of low-income renters that have expired.

- Public Housing Operating Fund Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) received timely payment for January and expect to receive payment for February.
- The Housing Choice Voucher Program PHAs received payment for January and expect to receive payment for February.
- Ongoing review and approval of grant reports may be delayed, which might result in funding delays or halts to funding for homeless assistance grants, CDBG, and HOME grants.
- Funding and application processes for homeless programs may be delayed.

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

- On January 8, the USDA announced that they had interpreted the continuing resolution to allow them to spend money within 30 days.
- Benefits for February will be front-loaded onto cards, and additional funds will be used for new applicants.
- No solution is yet available for March.

Women, Infants, and Children Program (WIC)

- On January 8, the USDA announced that they have a way to keep WIC open through the end of February.
- The agency will be bringing key employees back from furlough and allocating \$248M this week, with an additional \$350M in unspent FY2018 funding to be allocated at a later date.
- No solution is yet available for March.

School Meals Programs

- USDA will provide funding to carry the program through March.

Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)

- USDA will provide funding to carry the program through March.

Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA)

- Not impacted. (HHS funding was appropriated prior to the shutdown.)

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Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG)

- Not impacted. (HHS funding was appropriated prior to the shutdown).

If you hear any differing information from your program officers, please email Caitlin Lowry, Public Policy and Advocacy Manager at clowry@ywca.org, and please engage in sharing the impact of this uncertainty with your Members of Congress.