

School Nutrition Announcements January 9, 2019

Child Nutrition Programs Not Affected During the Federal Government Shutdown. We will keep you informed of any changes.

In a press release <https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2018/12/29/usda-updates-available-functions-during-lapse-funding>, USDA provided updates on the impact of the partial government shutdown, which began on December 22, 2018, on Child Nutrition programs. This includes the National School Lunch Program, the School Breakfast Program, the Child and Adult Care Feeding Program, Summer Food Service and the Special Milk Program.

Another press release <https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2019/01/08/usda-announces-plan-protect-snap-participants-access-snap-february> provides additional information about the impact on the School Nutrition Programs.

Child Nutrition Programs

- For these programs, including school meals and the Child and Adult Care Food Program, States already have funding to cover CN program operations for the month of January (approximately \$2.1 billion) on the basis of the last continuing resolution.
- This week, we will provide an additional two months' worth of funding, consistent with the standard practice of funding these programs on a quarterly basis.

School Nutrition Programs has funding through March. We are directed by the USDA to continue to administer the programs as usual in accordance with Federal statute and regulations.

A resolution to the federal shutdown should be resolved before School Nutrition Programs become impacted, however, we will keep schools updated if we become concerned about funding for these programs.

For more information or visit www.montana.edu/teamnutrition or contact Katie Bark at Montana Team Nutrition Program kbark@mt.gov or (406) 994-5641.

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USDA Updates Available Functions During Lapse in Funding

Press Release

Release No. 0285.18

Contact: USDA Press**Email:** press@oc.usda.gov

(Washington, D.C., December 28, 2018) – The U.S. Department of Agriculture today updated its assessment of how the lapse in federal funding will affect services and programs should the government shutdown remain unresolved beyond December 31, 2018. Many services will carry on, while others will discontinue on January 1, 2019 because available funds have been expended.

Certain USDA activities would remain active because they are related to law enforcement, the protection of life and property, or are financed through available funding (such as through mandatory appropriations, multi-year discretionary funding, or user fees). During the first week of the shutdown, 62% of employees have been either exempted or excepted from shutdown activities. If the shutdown continues, this percentage would decrease, and activities would be reduced as available funding decreases.

USDA activities that **will continue** beyond January 1, 2019 include:

- Meat, poultry, and processed egg inspection services.
- Grain and other commodity inspection, weighing, grading, and IT support services funded by user fees.

- Inspections for import and export activities to prevent the introduction and dissemination of pests into and out of the U.S., including inspections from Hawaii and Puerto Rico to the mainland.
- Forest Service law enforcement, emergency and natural disaster response, and national defense preparedness efforts.
- Continuity and maintenance of some research measurements and research-related infrastructure, such as germplasm, seed storage, and greenhouses.
- Care for animals, plants, and associated infrastructure to preserve agricultural research and to comply with the Wild Horses and Burros statute.
- Eligible households will still receive monthly Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits for January.
- Most other domestic nutrition assistance programs, such as the Commodity Supplemental Food Program, WIC, and the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations, can continue to operate at the State and local level with any funding and commodity resources that remain available. Additional Federal funds will not be provided during the period of the lapse, however deliveries of already-purchased commodities will continue.
- The Child Nutrition (CN) Programs, including School Lunch, School Breakfast, Child and Adult Care Feeding, Summer Food Service and Special Milk will continue operations into February. Meal providers are paid on a reimbursement basis 30 days after the end of the service month.
- Minimal administrative and management support, including to excepted IT systems and contracts, will be maintained to support the above activities.
- Natural Resources Conservation Service offices will remain open to support conservation technical and financial assistance (such as Environmental Quality Incentives Program and easement programs).
- Market Facilitation Program payments for producers that have already certified production with the Farm Service Agency.
- Trade mitigation purchases made by USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service.
- Agricultural export credit and other agricultural trade development and monitoring activities.