



DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Rafael López, Secretary

October 1, 2025

SUBJECT: Federal Government Shutdown Update

Community Partners,

We are reaching out on a matter of significant importance to our agency and the Marylanders we have the honor of serving.

Unfortunately, the federal government entered a period of shutdown starting at midnight today, October 1, 2025. This is happening because the Trump Administration and the United States Congress did not enact a budget and appropriate funds for federal agencies, including the two federal agencies that have the most impact on our operations: the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

In the spirit of moving together, we want to share how this federal shutdown will impact our agency and the Marylanders we serve.

Maryland is moving with urgency to continue to serve families and support those impacted by this federal shutdown. This morning, Governor Wes Moore [held a press conference](#) to announce [a series of immediate actions](#) to protect Marylanders and continue state services, as well as resources outlined on this [webpage](#) to support impacted federal employees and contractors. It's important to acknowledge that we don't yet know how long the shutdown will last.

What does this mean for our customers?

Our focus is serving and investing in Marylanders who need our help. We will work as one team across the state to do all that we can to provide world-class customer service, without interruption, until matters at the federal level are resolved.

A federal government shutdown will make lives for Marylanders much more difficult, especially for families and seniors struggling to put food on the table. We understand the financial and emotional impact this will have. And we recognize that many of you have members of your own family who are federal employees. We must work together to support and lift each other up when we need it the most.

How are we approaching this?

Driven by our [Moore-Miller Administration Values](#), we will be proactive in how we approach the federal government shutdown and will be decisive in a time of uncertainty. Here are four key action steps we are taking.

1. **Sustain Customer Service and Benefits:** We will do all that we can to maintain the availability of services without interruption to Marylanders, including:
 - Nutrition assistance programs (e.g., Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program or SNAP, SUN Bucks), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families-funded programs (e.g., Temporary Cash Assistance or TCA, employment training programs), and energy assistance programs (e.g., the Maryland Energy Assistance Program or MEAP)
 - Adult Protective Services, Child Support-related services (e.g., establishing paternity and enforcing child support orders), and Child Welfare-related services including foster care, guardianship, and adoption assistance payments; family preservation services; and child abuse and neglect investigations. The Child Support Administration will offer relief from systematic enforcement actions directly resulting from the shutdown and the individual's inability to pay child support during this time for affected federal employees or federal contracted employees. Examples of these enforcement actions include suspension of driver's licenses and contempt.

We continue to invite Marylanders to apply for benefits at [MarylandBenefits.gov](#).

2. **Minimize Funding Disruption:** One of our most immediate concerns is the disruption in federal funding which will cause a significant fiscal shortfall. Our state fiscal year 2026 agency budget of \$4.2 billion is 69% federally funded. A prolonged shutdown will impact federal funds and could delay or suspend some of our programs. The human cost of the federal shutdown is real on our families, friends, and neighbors.

We are working closely with our partners in the Governor's office, the General Assembly, and across state agencies to implement contingency plans to ensure we continue to offer essential benefits without interruption.

3. **Prioritize Well-Being:** We know from experience that the stress and uncertainty that accompany federal government shutdowns can affect the well-being of our team members, partners, customers, and their families. We are here to support each other during this challenging time. Remember that asking for help when you need it is an act of strength. The following mental health resources are available to all Marylanders:

- **9-8-8 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline:** The 988 Lifeline provides 24/7 free and confidential support via phone or chat for people in distress; prevention and crisis resources for you or your loved ones; and best practices for professionals in the United States. In addition to 988, you can find county-specific resources in our [Maryland Crisis Hotlines Guide](#).
- In addition to these resources, you can seek help at any of these [Behavioral Health Walk-in and Urgent Care Centers](#) across Maryland. Many of these locations operate seven days a week and offer same-day appointments and services.

4. **Over Communicating:** Open and transparent communication is crucial during this shutdown. We will do our best to keep you informed of any developments that might impact our agency, our work together, or the people we serve.

We will closely monitor the federal shutdown and update our plans as necessary. We encourage you to be kind and patient with each other and the Marylanders who come to us for help when they need us most. We encourage you to take up your own leadership and proactively ask questions when you are uncertain.

We know this is a challenging time for our communities, for Maryland, and for our country. In periods of uncertainty, we must model calm in the storm and deliver the world-class service Marylanders deserve. We appreciate each and every one of you, and I am honored to serve in partnership with you. Together, we will get through this challenging period by lifting up each other and the Marylanders we serve.

In service,



Rafael López
Secretary