

October 2, 2025

Dear CPA Members,

I wanted to give an overview of where things stand for the field of psychology and how we are impacted by the current government shutdown.

Summary:

The government has shut down for the first time since December of 2018 after lawmakers failed to reach an agreement to extend federal funding by the September 30 deadline. Democratic leaders sought to include an extension of enhanced Affordable Care Act subsidies — set to expire at the end of the year — in the funding package, as well as rolling back steep Medicaid cuts enacted earlier this year. Republican leaders pushed for a seven-week stopgap spending bill at FY2025 levels to buy time to negotiate the subsidies separately, with no specific timeframe for when subsidies would be considered. The immediate halt of most nonessential operations impacts the following that are key to psychology.

- **RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE:** [The National Institutes of Health \(NIH\)](#), National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), and the [National Science Foundation \(NSF\)](#) are all affected. New grant applications will not be reviewed, and existing research projects may face interruptions in funding.
- **EDUCATION AND TRAINING:** For grantees receiving federal funding for psychology workforce training programs through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, those who have received their awards prior to the government shutdown will be able to continue drawing down funds. For those considering applying for funding, the Grants.gov system will continue accepting applications and store them until return to normal operations.
- **PRACTICE OF PSYCHOLOGY:** While Medicare and Medicaid benefits will continue, there will be delays in customer service and administrative functions due to staff furloughs. Flexibilities in Medicare telehealth coverage have also not been renewed as a casualty of the shutdown, as both Republican and Democratic versions of a continuing resolution (CR) included a temporary extension of the telehealth flexibilities. When neither package succeeded, these flexibilities expired but can be restored in subsequent legislation. Additional details on Department of Health and Human Services contingency plans are available in [this document](#). The most [significant impact](#) for psychologists will be the implementation of the in-person requirement for telehealth. Within the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Veterans Crisis Line and mental health services should continue uninterrupted, but programs such as the Staff Sergeant Parker Fox Suicide Prevention Grants and Rural Access Network for Growth Enhancement (RANGE) programs require reauthorization included in the continuing resolution. Health Care for Homeless Veterans (HCVV) program might also be impacted.

- **HEALTH EQUITY:** Additional programs run by HRSA that will likely see limited staff include programs in maternal health, health workforce, and behavioral health. The shutdown will disproportionately impact under-resourced communities including rural populations, as delays in support services can exacerbate access to care challenges.

APA Advocacy office will continue to advocate for the re-opening of the federal government to ensure the timely resumption of peer review, funding opportunities for psychological research, stability for educational and training experiences for graduate students and early career psychologists, the restoration of the Medicare telehealth coverage rules in place prior to Oct. 1, and a permanent repeal of the in-person visit requirement.

In the meantime, please bookmark their [Response Center](#) for future updates as things unfold.

I will keep this group informed of any major developments in the federal funding impasse.

Thank you,

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