



FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SHUT DOWN STARTS TODAY

It is up to Congress and the White House to determine how long this shutdown will last, but StateWide Senior Action Council is open for business. We will help callers in whatever way we can.

Here's the initial impact that we are learning about due to closed federal government services:

- The federal workforce had already been significantly cut.
- All remaining staff are not being paid for now, even those who are required to work.
- Be prepared for delays in getting immediate answers from federal government agencies.

The shutdown does NOT affect the delivery of Social Security payments and Medicare or Medicaid benefits, but the federal government agencies that run these programs will face staff furloughs that may affect customer service and operations.

- We do not anticipate an immediate impact on SNAP benefits (food stamps.)
- Medicare Open Enrollment (October 15- December 7) should not be impacted.
- **Call our office if you are having any issues.**

According to the National Council on Aging:

- Programs funded by the [Older Americans Act](#), such as home-delivered and congregate meals, senior center programs, and family caregiver support, may be forced to cut back on services if the shutdown continues for a long period of time.

StateWide notes: State and local funding for these programs are not immediately impacted, so we anticipate that there will not be an immediate need to curtail services.

The Social Security Administration (SSA) reports that distribution of existing Social Security checks will NOT be impacted by the shutdown. You should not miss payments you are expecting. If you do, contact a local SSA Field Office. Phones are open and staffed. Here is the list of things SSA is not allowed to process during the shutdown:

- Income verification letters (you can still print them from your MySSA account)
- Earnings record corrections
- Payee accounting forms
- Benefit suspensions for prisoners
- Requests from third parties for queries (attorneys asking for your earnings history for example)
- Replacement Medicare card requests

According to the National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care:

- “CMS survey and certification activities would focus on complaint investigations alleging the most serious incidents of resident or patient harm.
- Other survey activities, such as recertification surveys, initial surveys, and less serious complaint investigations, and all surveys by federal staff would be suspended.”

The [Department of Health and Human Services](#) (HHS) and the [Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services](#) (CMS) have posted contingency plans for the shutdown, noting that nearly half of CMS will not be retained during the shutdown.

- Medicare’s authority to pay for telehealth services has been ended due to the September 30th expiration of the law that allowed it.
- While not related to the shutdown directly, any Congressional budget negotiations to end the shutdown can restore these benefits that are particularly needed by rural Medicare beneficiaries and those that are homebound.

Open enrollment for the NY health insurance exchange (Affordable Care Act/non-Medicare) will be impacted:

- Congress has not reauthorized premium supports. Although they technically expire in December, unless addressed immediately, starting November 1st posted premiums for 2026 will increase dramatically for enrollees.
- It is predicted that many will go uninsured upon reapplying and seeing skyrocketing premiums that will be unaffordable.

OUR MEMBERS ARE PART OF OUR STRENGTH

By joining StateWide, you can have an impact on state and federal issues of importance to older New Yorkers. You can also help spur your peers to become more knowledgeable about issues including Medicare, Medicare Fraud, Social Security, prescription drugs, long-term care, patient’s rights and NYS budget issues. Please fill out the **Membership Form** and join StateWide today! If you have any questions, call our Helpline at 800-333-4374.

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