



Outlook

Fw: Potential Lapse of Funding - Government Shutdown

From Soil & Water Conservation Program <soil&waterconservationprogram@swcd.mo.gov>

Date Fri 3/14/2025 2:53 PM

To DNR.Soil and Water Conservation Districts staff <dnr.soilandwaterconservationdistrictsstaff@dnr.mo.gov>; Soil & Water Conservation Program <soil&waterconservationprogram@swcd.mo.gov>

Cc DNR.MGS SWC Staff <dnr.swcstaff@dnr.mo.gov>

Good afternoon. Please see the email below from NRCS State Office regarding potential Lapse of Funding. Additional guidance will be provided if the government shutdown occurs.

Thank you.

Soil & Water Conservation Program
Missouri Geological Survey
Department of Natural Resources
(573) 751-4932

We'd like your feedback on the service you received from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. Please consider taking a few minutes to complete the department's Customer Satisfaction Survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MoDNRsurvey>. Thank you.

From: Goodrich, Nate - FPAC-NRCS, MO

Sent: Friday, March 14, 2025 12:55 PM

To: ug-mo-nrcs <mo-nrcs@usda.gov>

Cc: Jim Plassmeyer <jim.plassmeyer@dnr.mo.gov>; (Lisa.Potter@mdc.mo.gov) <Lisa.Potter@mdc.mo.gov>; awhite@pheasantsforever.org

Subject: Potential Lapse of Funding - Government Shutdown

Importance: High

Missouri NRCS Team,

As you are probably aware, the federal government may face a lapse in funding (shutdown) if Congress does not pass a funding package by midnight tonight. I want to take this opportunity to outline the implication of a government shutdown for our employees, partners, and offices, as well as give you a heads up on the procedures we must follow during such a situation.

Impact on Federal Staff

In the event of a shutdown, Missouri NRCS employees should receive notification if they are placed in furlough status or are exempt. **ALL EMPLOYEES** will need to report to their duty station the morning of Monday, March 17th, unless they are away on annual leave. Instructions will be provided on closing the office if we are placed in a furlough status. A furlough status means you will be in a temporary, unpaid leave status until funding is restored. During the furlough:

- You will not be permitted to perform any work-related activities, including answering emails and phone calls.
- You will receive retroactive pay once the government opens.
- Detailed guidance on the status of employee benefits, including health insurance, will be provided.

Impact on Partner Staff

Partners who are co-located in USDA Service Centers will not be permitted in the office until a spending package is approved and the government returns to fully operational. Further guidance for partners will be provided if a shutdown should occur. Please ensure that co-located partners have received this information, and they understand the details. Please arrange lines of communication for changes regarding the office closure.

Office Closures

If we are directed to close USDA Service Centers, we will follow specific procedures to secure our facilities and equipment, including:

1. Ensuring all confidential and sensitive information is stored securely.
2. Shutting down and unplugging non-essential electronics.
3. Locking doors and verifying that all entrances are secure.
4. Posting signage on the doors announcing the office closure (signage will be provided).

Preparation Checklist

To ensure a smooth transition if a shutdown occurs, employees will report to their duty station on Monday, March 17th, to do the following:

- Set up outgoing messages on email and phones
- Complete any outstanding tasks that may be time-sensitive
- Leave detailed instructions or notes for resuming operations once the office reopens
- Remove any perishable items from the office
- Shutdown and unplug any non-essential electronics
- Leave Government funded equipment (computers, cell phones, iPads, etc.)
- Make sure you have shared personal contact information with your supervisor and partners for communication on return to work

What if I'm on Leave when the shutdown is announced?

If you are on annual leave at the time of the government shutdown, you have two options:

1. If you are on leave but at home, you must go to the closest USDA Service Center to drop off your government equipment, if you have it.
2. If you are out of state, you should return your government equipment to your duty station when you return.

Additional Resources

- USDA's Lapse in Funding Plans that includes a list of FAQs can be found here: <https://www.usda.gov/shutdownplans>
- Additional furlough guidance can be found on the Office of Personnel Management's (OPM) website: <https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/pay-leave/furlough-guidance/>

We recognize the challenges that come with this uncertainty and appreciate your professionalism and dedication to our mission. We are monitoring the situation closely and will keep you updated as we learn more. If we do have a government shutdown, a more detailed email will be sent following the shutdown announcement. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to your supervisor.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation as we navigate this potential lapse in funding.

Have a great weekend,

Nate Goodrich
Acting State Conservationist



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