

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS REGARDING THE POTENTIAL GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN for Credit Unions & their Members



The potential of a government shutdown may have your members concerned about their finances. But as credit unions, you believe in “people over profit,” and the first step to assuring your members that their deposits are safe is through communication.

1

WHAT IS A GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN?

Fiscal year 2024 begins on October 1. If Congress and the president fail to pass and enact legislation to keep government agencies and programs funded, it will result in a “funding gap.” All programs and agencies deemed “non-essential” will close temporarily, and “non-essential” personnel in all agencies (and Congress) will be furloughed until the end of the shutdown.

2

HOW WOULD A SHUTDOWN AFFECT ME?

The most affected individuals would be federal employees, active duty and veteran military, and those in federal assistance programs. Additionally, local communities relying heavily on federally funded programs — such as tourism at national parks — will feel a greater impact from a shutdown. Some federally supported programs may also be put on pause.

3

WOULD I STILL HAVE ACCESS TO MY ACCOUNTS?

Yes, members will continue to have access to their accounts. While there could be some service interruptions for credit unions located within federal buildings, they will remain operational through remote services, even if physical branch access is restricted. Importantly, member deposits will never be subject to freezing, ensuring that access remains unchanged.

4

IS MY MONEY SAFE?

During the 2018/19 shutdown, more than 60,000 members nationwide turned to their credit unions for assistance because of their confidence in the safety of credit unions. The National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund operates independently of the federal appropriations process, which excludes it from any effects of a government shutdown. Because of this, credit union deposits remain insured and completely secure.

5

WHAT IF I CAN'T MAKE MY PAYMENTS?

By offering access to low- or no-interest loans, generous repayment terms, and advances and short-term loans to members who are also federal employees, credit unions often step in to assist members during such shutdowns to help them pay their bills. Check with your credit union to formulate a plan for you.

Questions? Contact Karen Smith at karen@mcun.coop or visit CUNA's [Government Shutdown Assistance](#) page.