

Jan. 18, 2018

Who's Affected If The Government Shuts Down

Federal government funding runs out on Jan. 19. House Speaker Paul Ryan and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell prepared a short-term spending measure — the fourth in four months — to buy more time to negotiate with congressional Democrats. The legislation proposes giving lawmakers until Feb. 16 to draft a trillion-dollar omnibus bill that lasts through September.

Without a vote by Congress and a signature from President Donald Trump to pass the stopgap spending bill before current spending legislation expires, a federal government shutdown could occur. During a shutdown, “non-excepted” federal employees are furloughed, or sent home without pay, and government operations are reduced. “Excepted” and “exempt” employees — workers deemed necessary for protection of people and property or not paid from annual appropriations — must work during a shutdown.

Federal workers

Agencies are required to submit plans to the OMB outlining anticipated staffing levels during a shutdown.



EXCEPTED EMPLOYEES

Workers necessary for protection of people and property must work during a shutdown without pay but are guaranteed back pay.



EXEMPT EMPLOYEES

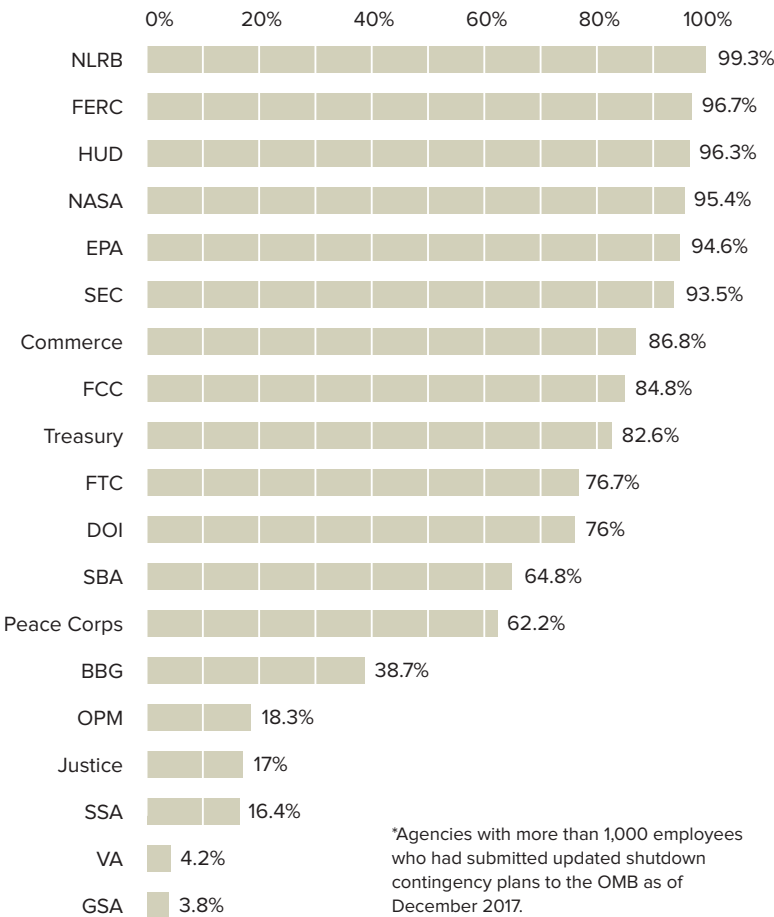
Workers OPM defines as not paid by annual appropriations must report to work as well.



NON-EXCEPTED EMPLOYEES

Employees who do not work during a shutdown and are not guaranteed back pay. Congress historically has paid non-excepted workers for the time they were not working.

Percentage of the federal workforce, by agency, estimated to be furloughed if a shutdown occurs this month.*



*Agencies with more than 1,000 employees who had submitted updated shutdown contingency plans to the OMB as of December 2017.



Government contractors

Federal contractors cannot be paid during a shutdown if appropriations have not been signed into law.

During the federal shutdown in 2013, legislation was enacted that provided funding to pay certain supporting contractors of the Armed Forces. Similar legislation could be considered in anticipation of future shutdowns.

The CBO has reported that it cannot provide comprehensive information regarding the size of the federal government's contracted workforce.



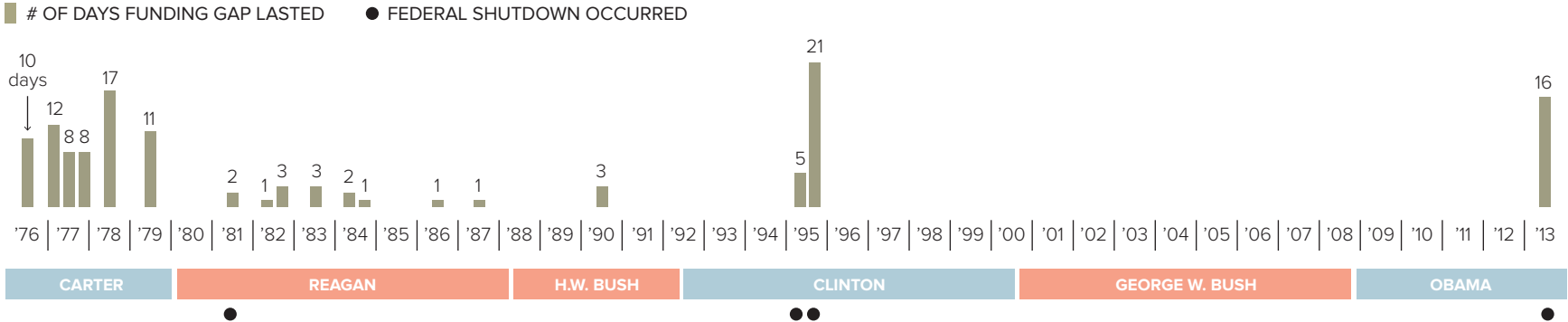
Federal grant recipients

Administration of grant programs and activities such as execution of grant agreements and processing of payments could be affected by a shutdown.

Investigations of waste, fraud and abuse related to federal grant outlays could also be interrupted.

How Long Past Federal Government Funding Gaps Lasted and Which Ones Resulted in a Shutdown

There have been 18 funding gaps in federal government appropriations since 1976 but not all of the events resulted in a shutdown. If a funding gap is of short duration or occurs over a weekend, federal agencies may not have enough time to reduce affected projects and activities before funding is available again.



Sources: Congressional Research Service report RL34680 “Shutdown of the Federal Government: Causes, Processes and Effects”; CRS report RS20348 “Federal Funding Gaps: A Brief Overview”; Government Executive

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