



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Federal government shutdown takes effect

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — The federal government shutdown is now in effect after Congress failed to reach an agreement to fund the government beginning Oct. 1, largely due to disagreements related to Medicaid benefits.

Speaker Crystalyne Curley stated that as more details unfold about how federal agencies may be impacted, the Navajo Nation Council will continue working with federal officials and informing the Navajo people. Although the federal government shutdown is now in effect, certain personnel and operations are deemed “essential” and will continue to function.

According to the Navajo Nation Washington Office (NNWO), the following essential programs and services for the Navajo Nation will continue to operate to protect the health, safety, and well-being of the people:

- Transportation Program – Road maintenance and emergency services, including bridge repairs and snow/ice removal, will continue using non-lapsing federal funds.
- Wildland Fire Management – Fire prevention and response efforts will remain in place to protect life and property, supported by available funds and carryover.
- Tribal Government Operations – Core operations will proceed with the use of non-lapsing tribal funds.
- Emergency Energy Production – Oil and gas activities necessary for public safety will continue.
- Budget Formulation – Preparation for the Fiscal Year 2027 budget will move forward as planned.
- Law Enforcement and Detention Centers – Public safety services will remain active, with carryover funds used if available.
- Social Services (Child and Adult Protection) – Financial assistance and support for foster care and residential care will continue with available carryover funds.
- Irrigation, Power, and Dam Safety – Programs will remain funded through non-appropriated sources, including service fee collections.

According to information provided by the Navajo Nation Washington Office, the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) has released its official contingency plan, confirming that 1,154 of its 3,126 employees will be furloughed. The furloughs will apply across the entire BIA, including its regional offices. This new information revises earlier reports that BIA staff might be expected to work without pay during the shutdown.

The Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) announced that it does not anticipate furloughing any employees during the shutdown. Its contingency plan has also been made public.

The BIA contingency plan can be accessed online at: <https://www.doi.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2025-09/doi-bia-contingency-plan2025930508.pdf>

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Indian Health Service (IHS) received advanced appropriations and health care services will continue on the Navajo Nation.

IHS released the following statement on Wednesday, "The Indian Health Service has received advance appropriations for fiscal year 2026, which means that IHS will continue to operate business-as-usual during a lapse of appropriations. 100% of IHS staff will report for work and health care services across Indian Country will not be impacted."

"As the shutdown continues, the Navajo Nation Council will closely monitor the situation to assess impacts to federal services and programs that directly affect Navajo citizens. More updates will be provided to the Navajo people as quickly as possible," said Speaker Curley.

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