

State Agency Contingency Plans in the Event of a Federal Government Shutdown

Impact and Contingency Plan Submitted by

CT Department of Veterans' Affairs

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1. If the federal government shuts down, what impacts do you anticipate on your agency's programs and operations?

Impact on the Domicile Healthcare services --

- ❖ The majority of the DVA Domicile residents receive their medical and psychiatric care and their prescription drugs from the federal VA. In the event of a federal government shut down, the healthcare services for the veterans in the Domicile would have to be provided by the Medical Staff at the DVA with Primary Care provided by the APRNs in the clinic. The Specialty services which are usually provided through VA Healthcare, such as Cardiology, neurology, surgery, psychiatry and dialysis, would have to be provided through community providers. Acute care hospitalizations would also need to be arranged through community hospitals. The medications that are currently sent from the VA would have to be purchased through a commercial pharmacy vendor in the event of a federal government shut down.

Disclaimer: VA website (http://www.va.gov/opa/appropriations_lapse_plan.asp) posted on 9/27/13, stated that the VA medical facilities and clinical services will not be impacted by the shutdown at this time.

Impact on the Services --

- ❖ Transportation would be impacted greatly due to the increase in medical appointments within the local community
- ❖ Veteran Service Officers (VSO) submit claims on the behalf of the veterans, in the event of prolonged federal shut down, the claims process can be delayed at the VA level which will impact CT veterans directly.

Impact on the Employees --

- ❖ The Agency does not have federal funded employees/ positions. In the event of federal shutdown, the medical staff, nursing staff, transportation drivers, and administrative staff could expect their work volumes increased.

Impact on the Agency --

- ❖ Dramatic increases in the operating cost in transportation, medication, specialty clinics, hospitalization cost.

2. Identify programs and positions which are funded by grants and/or other outside funding.

- ❖ DVA receives VA Per Diem to supplement the cost of healthcare and residential services to veterans at our Healthcare and Domiciliary facilities. The Billing is up to date as of 08/31/13 and payment was received as of 07/31/2013. The VA per diem payments could be delayed but we do not anticipate loss of funding to the VA per diem program at the DVA.
- ❖ Medicare/ Medicaid – services are billed through DAS and claims booked by DSS. We do not anticipate loss of funding for these programs.

Disclaimer: Email from Vernon Wilkes, VA Chief State Home Construction Grant Program on 9/27/13, stated, "The VHA 10NA program offices are expected to remain in operational status. The state home grant office code is 10NA5. Therefore, the VA Per Diem revenue should not be impacted under current status.

3. Recommended steps for mitigating any risks

- ❖ The agency will engage with community healthcare providers to provide the services identified as potential impacted areas. The funding will be covered through the agency's Institutional General Welfare Fund for the additional healthcare expenditures that would occur in the event of a federal government shut down.