

Impact of Federal Shutdown on SDA

The federal shutdown, if it lasts for a few weeks during October, will have some impact, although minimal, on the programs and positions of the SDA.

Impact on Programs

We have several forward-funded federal grant programs where grant awards have already been received and the funding should be available for draw down even during a shutdown. Those grants include: State Health Insurance Program (SHIP), Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP), SMP Expansion, Senior Community Services Employment Program (SCSEP), Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC), Chronic Disease Self-Management Program (CSDMP), Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act (MIPPA). Services under these federal grants are expected to continue on October 1st, even if there is a shutdown of the federal government.

An email from the HHS grants office on 9/27/13 states, "Should a lapse in funding occur . . . HHS will . . . maintain the Payment Management System in an operational status to continue processing grant drawdown requests, so that payments can be made for excepted programs. The robust internal controls that currently exist would continue to ensure the integrity of grant drawdown requests and payments. For awards received prior to the gap in funding, you may also be able to continue drawing funds from prior awards during an appropriations lapse."

Grant awards that have not yet been received for FFY '14 which may be impacted by the federal shutdown include Older Americans Act Title III and Title VII.

- Title III and Title VII grants are funded on the FFY and are contingent upon a federal budget or Continuing Resolution for FFY '14. However, each year, neither the CR nor the funding is normally received on October 1st so the Area Agencies on Aging have contingency plans that allow them to continue to provide services on a short-term basis, for a few weeks, without these federal grant funds. If the shutdown lasts longer than a few weeks, we expect to see an impact on services. The services include nutrition (home delivered meals and congregate meals), supportive services such as in-home, legal and transportation, health promotion and respite for caregivers. Short-term solutions for the AAAs on October 1st:
 - State funds for the AAAs for the 2nd quarter to help cover some services such as nutrition (Title III-C-1 and C-2). A small amount of state match for Title IIIB is provided. Once available for the second quarter of the SFY, these state funds can be paid to the AAAs.
 - Some federal funds that the AAAs have carried forward from FFY '13 to FFY '14.

The Congregate Housing Services Program depends on monthly federal payments to pass through to contractors. These payments are regularly in arrears, so this may affect the two present contractors and the housing services they provide through this program. There are state match dollars for CHSP that will support the two contractors, the Eastern AAA and the Western AAA, for a short period of time. Note that contractors are relying on reserve funding as well.

Impact on Positions

There are 2.2 federal funded positions in SDA: 1.2 FTE Ombudsman funded from Title VII (SID 20876) and 1.0 funded from SHIP (SID 20967). Title VII funds are not typically available on October 1st. SHIP funds should be available through PMS for draw down to cover the SHIP staff salary.