



CARA Alert – January 24, 2019

A publication of the California Alliance for Retired Americans.

STOP THE GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

CALL YOUR SENATOR TODAY!

(202) 224-3121!!!!

Today is a national call in day to the Senate (and every day until the Government Shutdown ends). Please call your Senators (Feinstein and Harris) and urge them to vote to end the shutdown now. There are also actions around the country sponsored by local Labor Councils and the AFL-CIO to support the federal workers impacted by this shutdown as well as the people who depend on these federal workers and programs. Go to go.aflcio.org/ShutdownEvents to find events in your area.

HOW THE FEDERAL SHUTDOWN IMPACTS SENIORS

(provided by the Alliance for Retired Americans)

On December 22nd 2018, the United States government began what has since become its longest shutdown in history due to an impasse in budget negotiations. With no end in sight, the shutdown threatens to extend into February and March, when vulnerable populations that receive federal assistance—including low-income seniors and people with disabilities—will begin to face significant hardship.

Housing

Because of shutdown, funding and personnel at government departments responsible for programs critical to the lives of low-income families and individuals are practically non-existent. The Department of Housing and Urban Development is unable to renew up to 1,150 rental assistance contracts due to the lack of funding—a number that will increase exponentially in February and March as more contracts expire, putting residents who rely on them at risk for eviction. 1.4 million households rely on such contracts to afford housing.

Nutritional Assistance

The Department of Agriculture has a similar problem with its Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) and the Senior Food Box Program, which provide low-income seniors and people with disabilities with food assistance. 11 million people rely on SNAP and 700,000 seniors rely on the Food Box Program for food support. If the USDA remains closed through the shutdown or funding is not allocated for these programs, thousands of people across the country will face significant food insecurity.

Addressing the Problem

An immediate end to the government shutdown would allow for personnel to return to work and the continuation of funding to agencies with programs critical to the well-being of low-income seniors and people with disabilities. CARA and the ARA urges Congress to immediately end the government shutdown to ensure that programs benefitting low-income seniors and people with disabilities continue to receive funding and return to business as usual, ensuring that no one must face food insecurity or the threat of eviction.

SAVE THESE DATES

THURSDAY, MAY 23RD – SACRAMENTO (10-3pm) / CARA LOBBY DAY/ IN PARTNERSHIP WITH DISABILITY CAPITOL ACTION COALITION

MONDAY/TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22ND AND 23RD – CARA CONVENTION IN SACRAMENTO

Details and registration information, along with transportation arrangements will be available soon.

You can contact CARA at:

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