



## **Helping Those Impacted by the Government Shutdown**

The longest government shutdown in U.S. history has disrupted services for those that need them most – below are some areas where you can make an immediate and ongoing impact for those affected. We encourage you to speak with the staff of your favorite non-profits to inquire about how their work might be impacted by the shutdown. If you would like to discuss specific giving options or strategy, please call *your* Philanthropic Services Group at 303.300.1790.

### ***Support Food Banks and Systems-Level Food Security***

Although those who rely on food stamps (SNAP) will still receive their benefits for February, some food banks are worried about a surge in demand if the government shutdown continues.

The USDA has said only that its reserve fund amounts to less than the total projected cost of February's benefits. After February, it's possible there would be nothing. Other food programs that serve seniors, mothers and children could also be affected. While vital programs like food stamps and WIC are currently protected, if the government shutdown is prolonged, it could have negative impacts on Coloradans. Consider supporting local food banks and community resource centers.

[Food Bank of the Rockies](#) has added emergency food distribution centers in the Denver area to serve federal workers and others.

[Hunger Free Colorado](#) leads efforts to connect families and individuals to food resources and helped build the [Colorado Food Pantry Network](#). Through this statewide network, 80 food pantries come together to learn from and collaborate with each other to build capacity and strengthen the food pantry system in Colorado. Their [Food Resource Hotline](#) is a statewide, bilingual, toll-free number that connects people to needed food.

[Metro Caring](#) operates one of Denver's largest hunger relief programs, including a fresh foods shopping market. Situated in the heart of Denver, they distribute between 4,000 and 6,500 pounds of food, baby items, and personal care products in helping to meet the nutritional and health needs of up to 500 people every day.

[Mountain Resource Center](#) is a nonprofit, community-based organization that delivers high quality, integrated health and human services within a 1000+ square mile rural mountain area. Serving a population of over 65,000 in West Jefferson, Clear Creek, Gilpin and Park counties, MRC provides a single point of entry to connect clients with the range of services, including a food pantry.

### ***Spread the Word about the City of Denver's Housing Assistance Program***

Mayor Michael B. Hancock announced the city's new [Temporary Mortgage Assistance Program](#) offering financial assistance to homeowners who are facing hardship due to unexpected changes in their employment status – including furlough, temporary layoff or significant reduction of hours worked. The program, being offered through a partnership with [Mile High United Way's 2-1-1 Call Center](#), will provide households up to two months (or \$5,000 maximum) of help to cover mortgage payments. The Program began accepting applications on Wednesday, January 16.

Low-income renters affected may take advantage of the city's [Temporary Rental and Utility Assistance Program](#), which began in 2017 as part of efforts to address Denver's housing crisis. Callers can get information about the rental assistance program by dialing the city's 311 help line.

### ***Support Domestic Violence Shelters and Advocates***

Consider reaching out to [domestic violence coalitions](#), asking how you can support them during this time of uncertainty. Shelters and other victim services are funded through a patchwork of sources, from the Department of Justice, to local donors, to the Department of Health and Human Services. The shutdown halts the distribution of reimbursements and new grants, causing many coalitions to lean on their limited reserves. For those seeking safety at shelters, a sustained shutdown can be life-threatening.

Update: Domestic violence shelters got an eleventh-hour reprieve as the Department of Justice announced its offices that distribute essential funding for victims' advocates (The Office of Violence Against Women) would remain funded through March 1. If the shutdown persists beyond that date, staff will likely be furloughed and grantees could be left scrambling. **2018 Office of Violence Against Women grantees can be found [here](#).**

### ***Support Rural Development Organizations***

The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced that it would not be able to grant any new rural development loans during the shutdown. These loans are specifically used to help fund housing, business, and utility development in rural areas. While the USDA is out of the picture, consider donating to nonprofits that work in rural development, like the [Rural Development Initiatives](#), which supports community development in the Northwest or [NeighborWorks America](#), which promotes affordable rural housing across the country.

### ***Support Native Health Organizations***

Among those hamstrung by the shutdown are Native American communities. The Department of Interior and its Bureau of Indian Affairs are responsible for providing basic services to about 1.9 million indigenous people across the country. Those services include providing health services and food supplies. There are many nonprofits working to improve health care and other resources for Native Americans and Alaska Natives – all of them could benefit from donations. Check out the [Center for American Indian Health](#) and [Partnership with Native Americans](#) to get started.

### ***Support Our National Parks***

Contact your local chapter of a national parks nonprofit like the [Sierra Club](#) or the [National Parks Conservation Association](#) to organize or join a trash pick-up day.

**The National Park Foundation** is in close communication with local park partners across the country to monitor the impact on parks. When the shutdown ends, they will work with the National Park Service to determine the immediate needs. Garbage and sanitation issues appear to be only the tip of the iceberg. Natural habitat restoration, graffiti removal, and other volunteer efforts will likely also be top priorities. NPF has established a [Parks Restoration Fund](#) to provide parks and partners with much-needed resources as soon as the shutdown comes to an end.

### ***Support Federal Workers in Our Nation's Capital***

**The Greater Washington Community Foundation** announced it will dedicate \$50,000 in funding for emergency cash and food relief for local (DC, MD, VA) workers, contractors and small business owners impacted by the partial Federal Government shutdown. These funds are being made available through their [Resilience Fund](#). All donations made to the Resilience Fund through the end of the shutdown will be added to the \$50,000 in funds set aside to support nonprofits providing aid or assistance to local residents.