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Sent: Saturday, December 22, 2018 9:42 AM
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Subject: Impacts of Partial Federal Government Shutdown

December 22, 2018

A partial federal government shutdown began just after midnight Friday after the Congress and President Trump failed to agree on funding for several agencies due to a dispute over funding for a southern U.S. border wall.

The University of Rochester is working with its Congressional delegation, agency sponsors and national associations, including the Association of the American Universities (AAU) and others, to monitor the situation and assess and communicate the impact to our administrators, students, researchers, providers, and patients.

Unlike previous shutdowns, much of the government has already been funded for fiscal year (FY) 2019, and therefore programs and activities included under the departments of Defense, Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, Energy and Veterans Affairs, among other agencies, will not be impacted by this partial shutdown. This includes funding for federal student aid, the National Institutes of Health, and the University's Laboratory for Laser Energetics. Mandatory programs like Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security are also not impacted.

However, funding has not yet been allocated for programs and activities under the departments of Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, State, Interior, Agriculture, Treasury, Commerce, Homeland Security and Justice, as well as other independent agencies. This includes several important agencies to the University: the National Science Foundation (NSF), National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and National Endowment for the Humanities and the National Endowment for the Arts. As a result, these agencies would have to halt all or most operations, including grant administration and communications. Agencies can not incur any new obligations and more than 750,000 federal government employees could be furloughed without pay.

During the shutdown period, no new funding opportunities will be announced for impacted agencies, and no new grants will be awarded. Awardees will be able to continue using already awarded funding as long as activities are under the already agreed-to award budget and period, as no extensions or supplements would be processed. With many proposals due in January, it is recommended that faculty download any materials needed from the agency websites. After the shutdown, agencies typically assign new deadlines for any programs where proposals were due during the shutdown period. Panels and advisory committee meetings will also be rescheduled post-shutdown.

The White House Office of Management and Budget has issued [Special Instructions for Agencies Affected](#) in addition to posting various [agency-specific contingency plans](#). Please monitor these websites for updates regarding your grants and initiatives.

Additionally, the U.S. Customs agency will be operational during the shutdown, but to avoid possible travel delays all international students, scholars, and employees are encouraged to carry appropriate immigration documents with them if they will be traveling internationally during this time.

The University is disappointed that the Congress and the White House could not reach a funding deal for these important agencies and hopes that differences can be resolved soon. If you or your colleagues find the shutdown has a direct impact on your work, please contact [Josh Farrelman](#) in the Office of Government and Community Relations. We would like to share these impacts with members of the New York Congressional delegation.

The University will continue to monitor the situation.