



PIERCE COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY

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GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN FAQ

We at PCHA understand many of our participants and partners may be concerned about the potential government shutdown on October 1, 2023, and have questions about how such a result may impact your Housing Assistance Payments. Shutdowns such as this pose genuine risk to the capacity, stability, and wellbeing of both our participants and partners, but as of this time, we would like to reassure you that our operations are at no immediate risk. We have answered a few of the questions we normally receive in this situation below.

Please note that we receive a high number of calls during shutdown periods, and that if you have a question, it may take our Housing Specialists longer than usual to answer.

[Will Housing Assistance Payments still be paid if the government shuts down?](#)

Yes, Housing Assistance Payments will still be processed through at least December 31, 2023.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development, our funder, has made arrangements to continue funding Public Housing Authorities around the county until December 31, 2023 in the event of a shutdown.

[Will there be people in the PCHA office to answer my calls if the government shuts down?](#)

Yes. All PCHA staff will still be reporting to the office if the government shuts down.

Our operations will not be meaningfully affected unless the shutdown lasts beyond December 31, 2023. However, our local HUD field-office will not be staffed starting on October 1, 2023, which means we may have delayed response times for complex matters requiring field-office consultation.

[What happens if the shutdown lasts beyond December 31, 2023?](#)

We do not expect the shutdown to last until December 31, 2023.

The longest shutdown in United States history was 35 days, and the majority of shutdowns have been between one and three weeks, so it is extremely unlikely that a 90+ day shutdown will occur. If this occurs, it would be a completely unprecedented situation for all government agencies and functions. However, it is possible, and PCHA has plans in place to reallocate funding so that we are able to continue making Housing Assistance Payments for as long as possible in the event of a prolonged shutdown. If the government shutdown seems likely to exceed the 35-day record, we will send additional correspondence with more information.

[I'm a participant who wants to move or am currently searching for a new unit- what should I do?](#)

For anyone currently leased, we are not recommending moving until the government shutdown is over. This is because many landlords may have concerns about our ability to pay for the full term of a new lease if the government has not yet committed to backing these payments beyond December 31, 2023. **However, please don't hesitate to reach out if a move is necessary for you or your family.** For those currently seeking housing, we recommend following the guidance of your Housing Specialist and leasing in accordance with the timeframe of your voucher.

[Should I be worried about losing my assistance due to a shutdown?](#)

At this time, we do not see reason for our participants or partners to worry. However, please remain aware of the ongoing and rapidly-shifting federal situation, and understand that more correspondence may follow with any updates we may receive.

We will send more information if the shutdown seems likely to exceed 35 days.