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Hand Over Your Health Care or the Economy Gets It...

Urge Congress to Reopen the Government and Raise the Debt Ceiling.

A government shutdown began October 1 as Congress failed to appropriate the funds needed for many basic functions of government. The main cause was the demand by the House that the Affordable Care Act (ACA) be repealed or delayed in exchange for funding the government, which the Senate and the Administration refused to do.

As we enter the second week of the shutdown, no resolution is in sight. At the same time, the U.S. is about one week away from reaching its debt limit and Congressional action will be needed to continue to borrow funds needed for obligations Congress already approved. If the debt ceiling is not raised, the economic impacts would be disastrous, likely causing another recession. If this occurred, we would see an increase in homelessness. **Call your members of Congress and demand that they reopen the entire government and raise the debt ceiling without requiring policies that would harm low-income and vulnerable people!**

TAKE ACTION

Conservatives in the House have maintained they will not support reopening the government or raising the debt ceiling unless there are significant cuts to entitlement spending and/or delays of the ACA. These changes would harm many low-income people by denying them benefits, raising premiums, and/or reducing benefits.

Join other national organizations in a national call-in drive this week. Call 1-888-659-9562 toll-free to be connected to your members' of Congress. Urge them to fund the government and raise the debt ceiling without any policy conditions.

Most Congressional offices still are staffed, but leave a message if no one picks up.

The government shutdown is taking its toll on public services, is increasing economic hardship, and will cause tremendous increase in poverty and homelessness if it continues and/or the debt ceiling is breached. The shutdown and debt ceiling crisis needs to end. Call NOW!

A Note on the Gov't Shutdown

In the near term, programs will use reserves and available funds to continue to provide services, but it is unclear how many weeks this can be sustained without further government funding. HCH grantees should be able to continue to access their grant funding through the Payment Management System unless internal controls are triggered for some reason, but communication with HRSA officers will be significantly delayed. Some safety net programs that will be closed include:

- Head Start
- Women, Infant, and Children Nutrition Program (WIC)
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- Many public health programs run by the Center for Disease Control.
- Many public functions of the District of Columbia, to include 80% of the revenue streams for the only HCH grantee in DC, Unity Health Care

To see a fuller accounting of the impact on health and housing programs, please view the [HHS contingency plan](#) and [information from the National Low-Income Housing Coalition](#).

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