

Federal Government Shutdown

IMPACT ON UTAH

As of Jan. 2, the partial federal government shutdown's impact on Utah is primarily to state national park access and support services. No other significant fiscal or operational impacts are anticipated through January 15. GOMB will continue to monitor the partial federal government shutdown status and keep apprised of potential agency impacts in the coming weeks.

Utah National Parks Update

- The Governor's Office of Economic Development spent \$55,000 of \$80,000 in authorized expenditures from available agency balances to keep Zion, Bryce and Arches open through December.
- With snow closures and low projected visitation at Arches, Canyonlands and Capitol Reef, the intent is to NOT provide state funding for the operation of visitor centers and support services at these parks.
- Private foundations supporting Zion and Bryce have sponsored costs to keep the parks open through January 5 and January 10, respectively. Moreover, Washington County and the city of St. George have expressed willingness to contribute to the costs of keeping Zion open beyond January 5, and Garfield County and the Bryce Canyon Natural History Association have expressed preliminary interest in helping to cover operational costs in Bryce as well.
- The Office of Tourism estimates the remaining \$25,000 in GOED authorized expenditures should cover the costs of keeping Zion and Bryce open through the middle of January. Approximately \$620,000 in GOED balances remains available pending further direction from leadership.

Programs/activities that could be interrupted if the shutdown continues beyond January 15

- **Women, Infants and Children Program:** The Women, Infants and Children program provides low-income women, infants and children under five with nutrition education, vouchers for nutritious foods, breastfeeding support, a review of immunization records and referrals to other helpful agencies. The Department of Health has enough WIC funding to continue benefit and clinic operations for the next four to six weeks (\$4,026,663).
- **Child Nutrition Programs:** Funding for Child Nutrition Programs provided through the Utah State Board of Education (e.g. school lunch, school breakfast, etc.) could be compromised if the shutdown extends beyond January. It should be noted that special session legislation was passed in 2013 to allow the State Board of Education to use state funds to pay for these programs. The bill has since been repealed, but a similar measure could be considered again in the event of an extended shutdown.
<https://le.utah.gov/~2013S2/bills/static/HB2002.html>
- **National Guard:** There is expected to be a limited impact to the National Guard as most federal funds come through the defense budget which has already been passed. Some contracts with the Department of Justice could cause a delay in minor reimbursements to the state for National Guard law enforcement activities.
- **Federally Funded State Employees:** In the event of an extended shutdown and federally funded state employee furloughs, special legislation would be necessary to use state funds to pay holiday leave and the employer share of fixed benefits to furloughed employees (health insurance, dental insurance, life insurance, etc.). Furloughed employees would be billed by PEHP directly for the employee share. In previous shutdowns, furloughed federally funded employees received back pay upon the conclusion of the shutdown.
<https://le.utah.gov/~2013S2/bills/static/HB2001.html>

