

U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

VA Contingency Planning

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) estimates 97 percent of VA employees continue to work during a shutdown, according to the VA Human Capital Contingency Plan. VA is committed to providing quality, consistent care and services to Veterans, families, Caregivers, and Survivors. VA's mission allows no exception to this standard, even when operations are limited by the absence of appropriations (commonly known as a "Government shutdown").



Not impacted by the shutdown

- VA Medical Centers, Outpatient Clinics, and Vet Centers will be open as usual and providing all services.
- VA benefits will continue to be processed and delivered, including compensation, pension, education, and housing benefits.
- Burials will continue at VA national cemeteries. Applications for headstones, markers, and burial benefits processing will continue.
- The Board of Veterans' Appeals will continue decisions on Veterans' cases.
- Call Centers: VA's primary call center ([1-800-MyVA411](tel:1-800-MyVA411)) and the Veterans Crisis Line (Dial [988](tel:988), Press 1) will remain open 24/7. The VA Benefit Hotline ([1-800-827-1000](tel:1-800-827-1000)) will be available Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. ET.
- Suicide prevention programs, homelessness services, and caregiver support will continue.



Impacted during the shutdown

- VA will cease providing transition program assistance and career counseling.
- Call Centers: VA's GI Bill (1-888-GIBILL-1) and National Cemetery Applicant Assistance (1-800-697-6947) hotlines will be closed.
- VA benefits regional offices will be closed.
- Public Affairs and outreach to Veterans will cease, including social media, VetResources emails, and responses to press inquiries.
- No grounds maintenance or placement of permanent headstones at VA cemeteries.
- Applications for pre-need burial at VA cemeteries will not be processed.
- No printing of new Presidential Memorial Certificates.
- No outreach to state, county, tribal, municipal, faith-based, and community-based partners by VA Central Office.

Please continue to visit this site for updates on this situation.

Important information

[Agency Operations in the Absence of Appropriations Plan](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[Veteran Field Guide to Government Shutdown](#)

(PDF, 1 page, 587KB, updated Sept. 2025)

[OPM Shutdown FAQs](#)

(PDF, 69 pages, 646KB, updated Sept. 2025)

Information for VA Employees

[Office of Personnel Management's \(OPM\) Shutdown Furlough Guidance](#)

[SF-8 Notice to Federal Employee About Unemployment Insurance](#)

[Sample Letters for Creditors and Mortgage Companies](#) (PDF, 4 pages)

[Unemployment Benefits Finder by State](#)

In the event of a prolonged shutdown, VA will continue to review and update its plan in conjunction with the applicable legal requirements and circumstances. Please visit this website, the [Office of Management and Budget \(OMB\)](#) website, or [VA.gov](#) for updated information.



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