

APPROPRIATIONS UPDATE

October
27th, 2025

Critical Programs Wind Down as Shutdown Continues

As the government shutdown enters its fifth week, six major programs are facing critical funding lapses that threaten millions of Americans. SNAP food aid for over 40 million people will start running out of money this weekend, with at least 25 states preparing to cut benefits. Head Start programs serving about 59,000 children across 41 states will lose funding, forcing closures and unpaid teachers. WIC nutrition assistance for 7 million low-income mothers and infants will also dry up unless \$300 million in emergency funds are released. The Essential Air Service program, which keeps flights running in rural areas, will lose subsidies, potentially cutting off travel access. Finally, both military and federal civilian workers face missed paychecks, threatening military readiness and key operations like air traffic control and TSA screenings if workers stop reporting for duty.

“Rifle shot” bills head to the Senate Floor

Rather than passing the House’s short-term continuing resolution to reopen the government, several senators have introduced bills to fund lapsing programs individually – largely to put Senate Dems on the spot by forcing a recorded vote. The move seems to have stirred at least some movement as three Dems voted in support of Senator Johnson’s (R-WI) proposal to pay military servicemembers. Johnson is also in talks with Senator Van Hollen (D-MD) to potentially pay both servicemembers and the civilian federal workforce. Speaker Johnson (R-LA) has said he won’t reconvene the House for anything less than a full reopening of the government, but if the Senate is able to pass any of these “rifle shot” bills, the onus for action could very well shift to the House.