

Diane Moyer

From: Cathleen Palm <cpalm@theadvocatesagenda.com>
Sent: Monday, October 07, 2013 6:46 AM
To: 'Cathleen Palm'
Subject: The Department of Public Welfare is examining the federal money that flows to food stamps, cash welfare payments and heating assistance, as well as to social services focused on mental health, intellectual disabilities, homelessness, domestic violence and

Pa. officials weigh federal shutdown's impact on services

October 7, 2013 12:01 am

By Karen Langley / Post-Gazette Harrisburg Bureau

<http://www.post-gazette.com/stories/local/state/pa-officials-weigh-federal-shutdowns-impact-on-services-706484/>

HARRISBURG -- It's the federal government that has partially shut down, but the presence of money from Washington throughout the state's budgets has Pennsylvania officials working to determine when programs here will start to feel the pinch.

Pennsylvania's general appropriations for the current fiscal year include \$20.4 billion in federal funds along with \$27.8 billion in state funds, according to the administration. Not all federal funding is the same. Much of Pennsylvania's share is in spending that is not directly stopped by the failure of Congress to pass an appropriations bill.

But some funding is subject to the federal impasse. Gov. Tom Corbett has directed agencies here to comb through their budgets and determine the funding stream -- whether paid in advance or reimbursed, with or without an option of using leftover cash -- for all federal money.

"They are literally doing that, department by department, program by program, line by line, right now," Jay Pagni, the governor's press secretary, said last week.

The administration has maintained that a short-term shutdown will not stop any critical state-administered services, though it has not put a date on when exactly that would change. For now, agencies are developing contingency plans in case the standoff continues.

"With our current assessment of the situation we are confident that Pennsylvania can maintain essential programs and services for the next couple of weeks," Mr. Pagni said Friday.

Officials in other states are talking in similar terms about how long their agencies can wait before the shutdown begins to have serious consequences, said Marcia Howard, executive director of Federal Funds Information for States, a service founded by the National Governors Association and National Conference of State Legislatures.

"What I hear when I talk to states is they sort of feel like a week or two is OK," she said. "When they talk about it, it's like if this goes beyond October, we don't know what we're going to do."

In Pennsylvania, officials are scrutinizing funding for schools, health programs and human services.

The Department of Public Welfare is examining the federal money that flows to food stamps, cash welfare payments and heating assistance, as well as to social services focused on mental health, intellectual disabilities, homelessness, domestic violence and rape, according to spokeswoman Carey Miller. Medicaid will not be affected, she said.

"Should the federal government shutdown last beyond a few weeks there could be impacts on these programs, and we're certainly going to have to address that with plans moving forward," she said.

The state Department of Health expects offices of the Women, Infants and Children nutrition program can operate normally for a few weeks, said spokeswoman Aimee Tysarczyk. State officials are working with their federal counterparts to determine what would happen after that.

"We can't put a specific date around when any adjustments will have to be made, but if the federal government shutdown continues for an extended period of time, we're going to have to make some tough choices," Ms. Tysarczyk said in an email. "We'll do all we can for as long as we can."

Schools will see no immediate impact to programs with federal funding, said Tim Eller, spokesman for the state Department of Education. Programs such as special education and Title I, which serves schools with a certain proportion of low-income students, receive funding in advance, rather than requiring states to file for reimbursement.

The agency is making plans to deal with any long-term lack of funding, he said.

One area where the budget impasse has had an immediate effect is the Pennsylvania National Guard, where more than 1,000 military technicians were furloughed last week. Mr. Corbett has written to Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel asking that the government put the technicians, who wear military uniforms, back to work.

The Pennsylvania adjutant general, Maj. Gen. Wesley Craig, told Guard members and federal civilian employees in writing Thursday that a law signed the day before the shutdown was meant to ensure all military branches, including reserves, would continue to work and be paid during the shutdown. The Department of Justice stopped this from applying to the Guard's military technicians, he said.

"Their restrictive interpretation of the law is clearly not what Congress intended," Mr. Craig said. "All of us are working hard to correct this at once."

Karen Langley: klangley@post-gazette.com or 1-717-787-2141.

Diane Moyer

From: NAESVPolicy@yahoo.com on behalf of Terri Poore <terrimpoore@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 04, 2013 8:24 AM
To: org', 'terri@endsexualviolence.
Subject: [NAESVPolicy] NAESV Calls on Congress to Immediately Fund the Federal Government



For Immediate Release
October 4, 2013

Contact: Monika Johnson Hostler, monika@nccasa.org

NAESV Calls on Congress to Immediately Fund the Federal Government

[The National Alliance to End Sexual Violence](#) (NAESV) is the voice in Washington for state coalitions and local programs working to end sexual violence and support survivors. NAESV calls on Congress to immediately find a path forward to fund the federal government. Over 1300 rape crisis centers rely on federal funding to support victims and prevent rape through the Victims of Crime Act, the Violence Against Women Act, and the Rape Prevention Education Program.

Advocates at rape crisis centers provide the nation's frontline response to sexual assault at no cost to victims: meeting victims at emergency rooms at all hours; answering 24 hour hotlines; providing crisis intervention; running support groups for both recent victims and survivors of childhood abuse; mentoring volunteers; and providing awareness and prevention programs to their communities. Many rape crisis centers serve broad geographic areas or dense population centers.

"If Congress does not end the shutdown very soon, rape crisis centers will not be able to pay advocates or keep their doors open as the ability to draw down federal funds ceases. Women,

men, boys and girls who will tragically experience rape in the coming weeks will not have an advocate available to them, counseling sessions for survivors in crisis will be canceled, and prevention programs at high schools will end,” said NAESV President Monika Johnson-Hostler.

Advocates provide essential support to victims of sexual violence. A 2006 study found that when victims receive advocate-assisted services following assaults, they receive more helpful information, referrals, and services and experience less secondary trauma or re-victimization by medical and legal systems. Furthermore, the same study found that when advocates are present in the legal and medical proceedings following rape, victims fare better in both the short- and long-term, experiencing less psychological distress, physical health struggles, sexual risk-taking behaviors, self-blame, guilt, and depression.

Before the shutdown, rape crisis centers were already reeling from budget cuts and sequestration. According to a 2013 survey of rape crisis centers conducted by NAESV, half of programs had reduced staff, one-third of programs had a waiting list for basic services, and several programs had closed.

We owe it to victims of sexual violence, who have survived such an intimate and devastating violation, to make sure the funding is available to support them in their time of crisis. Congress must act to prevent an even worse nightmare for victims—the lack of services and support from local rape crisis centers.

###

This message was sent to terrimpoore@gmail.com from:

North Carolina Coalition Against Sexual Assault | 811 Spring Forest Road Suite 900 | Raleigh, NC 27609

[Unsubscribe](#)

Email Marketing by
iContact 
try it free

[Reply via web post](#) [Reply to sender](#) [Reply to group](#) [Start a New Topic](#) [Messages in this topic \(1\)](#)

RECENT ACTIVITY:

- **New Members 2**

[Visit Your Group](#)

YAHOO! GROUPS