



Effects of the Trump Shutdown in Kansas

By Saharra Griffin

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President Donald Trump's shutdown of the federal government over demands for billions of dollars in new border wall funding is already having profound consequences for hundreds of thousands of working Americans and a wide range of vital services. And each day the impasse continues, as funding dries up and more agencies exhaust emergency measures, these harmful effects will only be exacerbated.

Although the new Democratic House majority passed legislation to reopen the government, the president has continued to stall negotiations.¹ To enable the stalemate, some Republican senators reversed their earlier opposition to the shutdown just days after the chamber unanimously passed a similar deal.

Due to Trump's shutdown, an estimated 3,100 federal employees in Kansas are furloughed or working without pay.² Below is a breakdown of affected federal employees and agencies in the state.

"Shelters like the Wichita Family Crisis Center provide help for women and children affected by domestic violence, but without government funding, the shelter could be forced to close its doors ... [Amanda] Meyers says if the shutdown lasts any longer, the shelter could face a major shortfall in funding from government grants. 80% of funding for the crisis center comes from federal grants." –KAKE, January 9, 2019³

U.S. Department of Agriculture: 860 employees

In Kansas, an estimated 860 Department of Agriculture employees, including those working for the following agencies, are furloughed or working without pay.⁴

- **The Farm Service Agency** office in Manhattan and 43 local offices across the state facilitate new assistance programs under the farm bill.
- **The Office of Rural Development** offers loans and grants to help create jobs and support economic development in rural communities.
- **The Food Safety and Inspection Service** prevents foodborne illness by ensuring that meat, poultry, and egg products produced in Kansas are safe and accurately labeled.

- **The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service** defends the state’s agricultural resources from pests and diseases.
- **The Agricultural Research Service** office in Manhattan collects detailed agricultural production data in the state.

“This past fall, the USDA issued a round of relief payments to help make up for the loss in value for many crops. Now farmers aren’t getting the second round of those checks because of the government shutdown. This is the time of year when farmers like Bob Haselwood are fixing equipment and getting ready to plant the next crop ... Although he’s still a long way from planting season, now is when he needs to start buying seed.” –KSNT, January 7, 2019⁵

U.S. Department of the Interior: 360 employees

In Kansas, an estimated 360 Interior Department employees, including those working for the following agencies, are furloughed or working without pay.

- **The National Park Service** supports the state’s historic sites, trails, and preserves.
- **The Bureau of Indian Affairs** funds critical services for the 28,000 American Indians based in Kansas, including health care, law enforcement, housing, disaster relief, and infrastructure maintenance.⁶
- **The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service** operates five national wildlife refuges in the state.
- **The U.S. Geological Survey** conducts research on the state’s natural resource issues.

Additional agencies

- The Trump shutdown is also harming the following workers and agencies:
- An estimated 735 Federal Aviation Administration and Transportation Security Administration employees at the state’s four commercial airports
- An estimated 450 Environmental Protection Agency employees
- An estimated 220 Federal Bureau of Prisons employees at the U.S. Penitentiary in Leavenworth
- U.S. Attorneys’ Offices in Kansas City, Topeka, and Wichita

Already reeling from the effects of retaliatory tariffs and Trump’s incoherent trade policy, Kansas farmers are now being needlessly harmed by Trump’s government shutdown. The Department of Agriculture’s loan and financial aid department is closed, so farmers who have not yet filed tariff mitigation will not receive payments until the shutdown ends.⁷ The department has also delayed the release of major crop forecasts—the Crop Production Report and World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimate—on which farmers and traders rely to plan production.⁸ Farmers must decide whether to wait for the shutdown to end or make decisions based on less dependable information.

If the partial government shutdown continues, tax filing season could be more difficult for Kansas families and small businesses. Because IRS offices are closed and the agency is operating with a skeletal staff, taxpayers and preparers may have trouble accessing needed guidance.⁹ Last year, the agency processed 6.1 million refunds within the first week of filing season in January.¹⁰

Moreover, Kansas' 250,000 small businesses are unable to receive guaranteed loans and technical assistance from the Small Business Administration state office in Wichita.

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Endnotes

- 1 Erica Werner, Seung Min Kim, and Jeff Stein, "Congressional Democrats turn up the heat on GOP over shutdown," *The Washington Post*, January 7, 2019, available at https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/democrats-pledge-to-paralyze-senate-as-shutdown-negotiation-tactic/2019/01/07/ed5e355e-12aa-11e9-a896-f104373c7ffd_story.html?utm_term=.31fbb6bdd0af.
- 2 Seth Hanlon and Saharra Griffin, "Effects of the Trump Shutdown on Federal Workers' Paychecks: State-by-State Estimates," Center for American Progress, December 21, 2018, available at <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/economy/news/2018/12/21/464638/effects-trump-shutdown-federal-workers-paychecks-state-state-estimates/>.
- 3 Taylor Adams, "Government shutdown could slow funding for local domestic abuse shelters," KAKE, January 9, 2019, available at <http://www.kake.com/story/39761525/government-shutdown-could-slow-funding-for-local-domestic-abuse-shelters>.
- 4 U.S. Department of Agriculture, "Agencies," available at <https://www.usda.gov/our-agency/agencies> (last accessed January 2019).
- 5 Willis Scott, "Government shutdown is delaying trade war relief payments for Kansas farmers," KSNT, January 7, 2019, available at <https://www.ksnt.com/news/local-news/government-shutdown-is-delaying-trade-war-relief-payments-for-kansas-farmers/1691220386>.
- 6 Bureau of Indian Affairs, "What We Do," available at <https://www.bia.gov/bia/ots/what-we-do> (last accessed January 2019).
- 7 Juliet Linderman, "Government shutdown could block federal aid to farmers hit by trade war," Associated Press, December 28, 2018, available at <https://www.desmoines-register.com/story/news/2018/12/28/government-shutdown-federal-aid-farmers-usda-payments-presidential-donald-trump-trade-war-china-soybeans/2434143002/>.
- 8 Julie Ingwersen, "U.S. delays key agriculture reports due to government shutdown," Reuters, January 4, 2019, available at <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-shutdown-usda/u-s-delays-key-agriculture-reports-due-to-government-shutdown-idUSKCN10Y1K9>.
- 9 Internal Revenue Service, "Contact Your Local IRS Office," available at <https://www.irs.gov/help/contact-your-local-irs-office>; Darla Mercado, "White House promises tax refunds will go out, but there's hardly anyone at the IRS to do the work," CNBC, January 7, 2019, available at <https://www.cnbc.com/2019/01/07/white-house-official-says-tax-refunds-will-be-sent-out-despite-government-shutdown.html>.
- 10 Internal Revenue Service, "Filing Season Statistics for Week Ending February 2, 2018," available at <https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/filing-season-statistics-for-week-ending-february-2-2018> (last accessed January 2019).