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Pay During a Shutdown

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Will furloughed employees receive pay?

The [Government Employee Fair Treatment Act of 2019](#) guarantees backpay for federal employees impacted by a government shutdown that occurs because of a lapse in appropriation, but not during other types of shutdowns. The law covers both furloughed and excepted employees and it ensures they will receive retroactive pay after Congress passes and the president signs a new appropriation, including a continuing resolution. For other types of shutdowns, furloughed employees would not receive backpay, unless the government enacts a law providing for such backpay.

How are separated employees' entitlements to severance pay affected by a furlough?

Funds for severance pay are obligated on a day-to-day basis, as the recipient accrues continuing entitlement to severance pay by not being reemployed by the U.S. government. (Severance pay is suspended or terminated when the individual is reemployed by the federal government). Payout of severance pay occurs in the same pay period intervals, as if the recipient were still an employee. Any severance payment (on a payroll payday) will correspond with the pay period during which the recipient accrued continuing entitlement to severance pay. If the recipient becomes reemployed by the federal government during a pay period, they are entitled to a prorated severance payment covering the days in the period prior to reemployment (e.g., 2/5 of one week's pay if the recipient became a reemployed employee on the third workday of the pay period).

Thus, in the case of a shutdown furlough, accrued but unpaid severance pay represents an obligation to receive pay from funds available before the lapse in appropriations or authorization occurred. Just as payroll checks for work performed prior to a lapse in appropriations, or as authorization processed as part of the orderly suspension of nonexcepted activities, severance paychecks covering days before the lapse may also be processed.

There is no authority to authorize funds for severance payments for days during the lapse until appropriations or authorization is in place.

If a furlough begins due to lapse of appropriations, will employees receive a paycheck for the last pay period worked prior to the furlough?

Under the current Office of Management and Budget (OMB) guidance, employees will receive this paycheck. Although processing of payroll for the last pay period takes place during a period of furlough, the minimum number of payroll staff necessary for this process will receive excepted status from furlough for the minimum time required to issue checks.

If an employee’s pay is insufficient to permit all deductions to occur, what is the order of precedence that deductions will occur from any salary check that the person may receive?

In general terms, the following deductions are taken from the employee's pay in this order:

1. Retirement
2. Social Security tax
3. Medicare tax
4. Federal income tax
5. Health insurance under Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB)
6. Life insurance under Federal Employees' Group Life Insurance (FEGLI)
7. State tax
8. Local tax
9. Debts owed to the federal government
10. Court-ordered debts
11. Optional benefits, such as the Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP), Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program (FLTCIP), Flexible Spending Accounts (FSA) and Thrift Savings Plans (TSP)
12. Other voluntary deductions, such as Combined Federal Campaign
13. IRS paper levies

How does the government shutdown affect my pay?

If a lapse occurs on September 30, 2025, excepted and non-excepted employees will receive full payment for the September 30 pay date (pay period 20, September 7- September 20). If the lapse continues, employees will receive partial pay for the October 14 pay date (pay period 21, September 21 – October 2). Exempt employees will continue to receive pay as normal throughout the lapse.

What if there is something wrong with my paycheck? When and how can I have it corrected?

If your timekeeper is not available, contact FAA’s payroll provider, the Department of Interior, Customer Support Center:

Telephone: 1-888-367-1622

Hours: 8 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. ET, Monday through Friday

Please note that the Customer Support Center is closed on holidays. The staff is on a reduced staffing level, so responses may be delayed. Some issues may require timecard adjustments and approval of an FAA management official. If those employees are in furlough status, the issue may not be resolved until the government shutdown ends.

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U.S. Department of Transportation

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