

# Emergency Local Aid Checklist: Navigating the Federal Shutdown

Provided by 2nd Look Services – The Financial Equalizer

**Mission Statement:** In times of crisis, the most vulnerable should not be left to navigate the complexity alone. Use this checklist to pivot from frozen federal programs to reliable, operational local, state, and private resources to find **local financial aid** immediately.



## Section A: Immediate Aid for Single Parents and Families

The federal shutdown causes immediate delays in essential benefits (like SNAP/WIC or housing assistance). Use these steps to secure continuity of care and support.

Need/Program Status	Action: Where to Look Instead of Federal	Next Steps (High Priority)
<b>Housing/Rent Assistance</b> (Federal programs frozen)	<b>Local/County Housing Authority:</b> Immediately contact your local county or city housing commission. Many run <b>Homeless Prevention or Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA)</b> programs with pre-allocated local or state funds.	Call your county's 211 service or visit your city/county website for their specific ERAP intake number. <b>Ask specifically about "shutdown emergency funds."</b>
<b>Utility/Heating Bills</b> (Federal LIHEAP funds delayed)	<b>State/Private Utility Assistance:</b> Contact your energy (gas/electric) and water providers directly. Most have <b>Financial Hardship Programs</b> or access to state-managed utility funds that are often protected from the federal shutdown.	Ask the utility provider about their <b>arrears management programs</b> or <b>shutoff protection</b> policies for crisis situations. <b>Do not wait for a shutoff notice to call.</b>

<p><b>Food Security</b> (SNAP/WIC delays possible)</p>	<p><b>Hyper-Local Food Network:</b> Bypass federal lines. Contact local <b>food banks, soup kitchens, and school districts</b>. Local food banks and pantries are largely funded by private donations and local grants, ensuring their supply remains consistent during a shutdown.</p>	<p>Check your local school district's website for information on <b>emergency meal distribution sites</b> for children, or call your local United Way for local pantry hours.</p>
<p><b>Healthcare/Prescriptions</b> (Certain federal health programs at risk)</p>	<p><b>Community Health Clinics:</b> Use <b>Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs)</b> and local free clinics. They often operate on a sliding-scale fee model and can help manage prescriptions and acute care needs during a federal freeze.</p>	<p>Contact your pharmacy immediately. Check if they offer a <b>30-day emergency refill</b> while federal processing or insurance verification is delayed due to the <b>government shutdown assistance</b> lapse.</p>

## Section B: Financial Survival Strategies for Nonprofit Organizations

Nonprofits are the community's **Financial Equalizers**, but they face an immediate **nonprofit funding crisis**. Use these tactics to bridge the cash flow gap caused by delayed government payments.

Cash Flow Challenge	Action: How to Bridge the Funding Gap	Goal & Metric (Time is Critical)
Frozen Federal Grants/Reimbursements	<b>Launch a "Shutdown Bridge Fund"</b> : Contact your most loyal <b>local donors</b> and corporate partners immediately. Be specific: ask for a smaller, time-bound donation to cover one specific cost (e.g., "Covering our payroll for the next 30 days").	<b>Goal</b> : Raise 60 days of operational cash flow from local sources within 14 days.
High Demand, Limited Reserves	<b>Community Crowdfunding Pivot</b> : Use platforms like GoFundMe or Givebutter. Emphasize the <b>immediate human impact</b> of the shutdown on your beneficiaries to drive grassroots local support.	<b>Metric</b> : Secure 50 new, small-dollar (under \$100) donors from your local service area to show broad community support.
Expense Overhang	<b>Review Vendor/Contractor Agreements</b> : Contact key vendors (e.g., software, outsourced services) and negotiate <b>temporary deferrals or discounts</b> . Explain the shutdown crisis—many local partners will be willing to help.	<b>Goal</b> : Defer or reduce non-programmatic expenses by 15% for the next 45 days without impacting direct services.

## **Provided by 2nd Look Services – The Financial Equalizer**

We provide clarity in complex financial situations. We are committed to helping you level the financial playing field, whether you are a business fighting the IRS or an individual navigating a national crisis.