

**Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars
Contingency Plans for Lapse in Appropriation
Revised August 2023**

Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars	
Lapse Plan Summary Overview	
Estimated time (to nearest half day) required to complete shutdown activities:	1/2 day
Total number of agency employees expected to be on board before implementation of the plan	57 Federal & 108 Trust
Total number of employees to be retained under the plan for each of the following categories:	
Compensation is financed by a resource other than annual appropriations:	108 Trust FTEs
Necessary to perform activities expressly authorized by law:	
Necessary to perform activities necessarily implied by law:	5 Federal FTEs
Necessary to the discharge of the President's constitutional duties and powers:	
Necessary to protect life and property:	3 Federal FTEs
Brief summary of significant agency activities that will continue during a lapse:	
Approximately two-thirds of the staff, most of which are not funded by the Wilson Center Federal appropriation, will continue to perform services to meet the legislative mission. The facilities will be open and appropriate excepted staff will oversee the protection and security of property. Resident fellows fully funded by available multi-year appropriation will continue their research. Activities will continue as scheduled as long as they do not require the Wilson Center to incur incidental current-year federal expenses, which cannot be covered with carryover appropriation funding.	
Brief summary of significant agency activities that will cease during a lapse:	
Fellowship evaluation and award processing related to the lapse in funding; some financial management, human resources, and technology services; specialized leadership within several of the regional and thematic programs.	

Overview and Open Status

The Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars (aka Woodrow Wilson Memorial and Wilson Center) is a trust instrumentality of the United States established by Congress in 1968 within the Smithsonian Institution (82 Stat. 1356).

Given the Wilson Center has facilities and personnel not funded by the current year appropriation, and the prior year appropriation has funded some activities including residential fellowship, the Woodrow Wilson Memorial will remain open during a lapse in appropriation. The Wilson Center will also continue activities deemed “excepted” by Office of Management and Budget (OMB) guidance (details below).

The Wilson Center’s facilities at the Ronald Reagan International Trade Center Building are under a GSA lease agreement that waives any payment of rent through August 2028, and the facility’s management office has advised that the Ronald Reagan Building will not close during a government shutdown, but instead will operate with reduced service levels.

Trust-funded activities will continue as scheduled in the event of a federal government shutdown as long as they do not require the Wilson Center to incur incidental current-year federal expenses that

carryover appropriation funding may not cover (e.g. an event requiring after-hour guard services may need to be canceled, re-scheduled or funded through non-appropriated resources).

Federal purchase orders (POs) and contracts which have commenced and are fully obligated will continue in effect provided supervision is not required by a furloughed employee. Delay in payment to contractors may occur depending on the length of a lapse in appropriation.

During a government shutdown this plan will be reviewed periodically and updated as needed.

Employees Status and Reporting for Duty

All federal and trust employees should report to work on the first business day following the lapse in appropriation. Normal business hours shall be observed as duty hours for all employees on this day (i.e. a one-day hiatus in alternative work schedules).

Excepted employees are those Federal employees that will be performing excepted activity during a government shutdown. Notification to excepted employees will take place on or before the first business day following the lapse in appropriation. Excepted employees will not receive a furlough notice unless the excepted activity is eliminated during the lapse in current year appropriation.

As part of the orderly partial shutdown process, federal employees not excepted will convey to a staff counterpart (federal excepted employees and/or trust employees) knowledge and status of work that will continue when federal funded activities cease during the government shutdown period.

Furlough notifications will be issued to federal employees not excepted on the first business day following a lapse in appropriation. Prior to departure from work on furlough status, Federal employees should validate their T&A in webTA for the current pay period. Up to 4 hours of regular time is allowed for orderly shutdown procedures and all remaining time for the current pay period should be marked furlough leave (code 74).

Federal employees in leave status will be notified via email and telephone (or overnight mail when unable to reach via email and telephone) that their leave status has been changed to furlough status.

Federal employees on travel status shall return home as soon as practicable even when travel authorization is not funded by appropriated funds. Supervisors must notify employees on travel status of the following: 1) They must return to their regular duty station as soon as practicable; 2) their travel status will change to furlough status as of the completion of the Wilson Center's orderly shutdown procedures; and 3) a furloughed federal employee may not perform work for the Wilson Center and may not volunteer time or service to the Wilson Center.

Information regarding pay and employee benefits is available on the OPM website. The OPM website should be watched for government status of "open," to confirm all Federal employees shall return to work following a government shutdown.

While many employees on furlough may be willing to continue to carry out their work, research or other duties, from their usual office, another site, or from home, without pay, through independent means, mobile devices, access to work email and/or network services, the Wilson Center, in accordance with guidance, may not legally accept these voluntary services and the furloughed federal

employee may not legally provide these services. Personal liability may result if a federal employee on furlough provides voluntary services to their usual place of work.

Operations

The Wilson Center will follow guidance from the Office of Management and Budget as well as the Office of Personal Management in an effort to effect an orderly partial shutdown of Wilson Center's Federal operating activities.

OMB guidance allows for "excepted" Federal activities to continue during a government shutdown. These "excepted" activities at the Wilson Center include the protection of life or property, orderly shutdown of operations, and performing contractual obligations under multi-year funds. OMB guidance also allows for the use of prior-year carryover funding for operations during a government shutdown due to a lapse in current year appropriation. The Wilson Center will engage this guidance to the extent necessary and will not exceed available carryover funding before ceasing federally funded activities. The Wilson Center Director or designee will notify all department heads regarding which personnel are designated as being "excepted" from the shutdown, not to exceed 8 federal employees (approximately 6% of Wilson Center's current employees and approximately 20% of the Wilson Center's current federal employees). Department heads from the following Departments and designated staff are to be excepted from furlough: Scholar and Academic Relations; Financial Management, Information Technology, and Support Operations.

Wilson Center Federal employees performing the following Wilson Center activities will be "excepted from a furlough due to lapse in current year appropriation:

Employees responsible for the care, custody, and protection of National Collections, archival materials, and the library;

Employees responsible for the care, custody, and protection of the facility that house the National Collections, archival materials, and library;

Employees providing for the security and safety of the staff and other individuals in the Wilson Center's facility, including the care and safety of excepted employees;

Employees responsible for the preservation and security of the physical plant and essential communications and information technology systems, including staff who support excepted employees;

Employees fulfilling obligations/activities under existing contracts necessary to protect life or property or necessarily implied by law; and

Financial Management Office staff performing activities related to the furlough, service to nonfurloughed staff, payroll validations and certifications for both furloughed and non-furloughed staff, and the continuation of human resource services and financial services for the excepted activities.