

## Language & Messaging around Government Shutdown – Updated 10.24.25

See social media graphics [here](#).

### *Impact on individuals and families*

- When the government shuts down, federal workers, active-duty military members, and federal contract employees could find themselves temporarily without a paycheck and facing food insecurity.
- A government shutdown means uncertainty for thousands of families in Texas.
  - Though federal employees will eventually receive back pay after a shutdown ends, many are just one paycheck away from needing support and will depend on their local food bank during this time.
  - People who work for federal contractors will not receive back pay. Disruptions in their income could put their finances in jeopardy for months, beyond just the length of the shutdown.
- Texas has 333,992 federal employees and 117,567 armed forces that could be impacted by a government shutdown. That number does not include their family members and all the people who depend on their support. It also does not include federal contract employees.
  - [Federal Government Workers by County Map](#)
  - [Workers in Armed Forces by County Map](#)
  - *Note: We suggest talking about the specific needs of your community and centering those who will be impacted most by the shutdown. Who are the federal employees in your service area? Are they customs and border patrol agents? Air traffic control? Do you have a federal prison in your area?*

### *Impact on Partner Agencies*

- Local food banks, pantries, and service providers are already struggling to meet sustained and heightened demand amid rising costs and limited supply.
- A shutdown threatens to delay SNAP and WIC benefits, forcing more families to seek emergency food assistance and stretching the capacity of local partners.
- Early childhood programs such as Head Start and nonprofits with federal contracts or reimbursements could face funding delays or temporary closures, affecting staff, families, and community stability.
- While frontline organizations will continue doing all they can, their resources and capacity are limited—especially if the shutdown extends.

### *Role of United Ways*



- Local United Ways play a vital role as community conveners and connectors, helping coordinate local responses and ensure families know where to turn for help.
- 2-1-1 Texas is a critical lifeline during this time—connecting Texans with local food, housing, and financial assistance resources.
- United Ways across Texas are working closely with food banks, childcare providers, local governments, and other nonprofits to align communication, share information, and identify gaps in support.
- United Ways are also engaging funders and donors to mobilize resources that help stabilize families and sustain critical services during the shutdown.

### *The Need for Government Action*

- Charitable organizations cannot replace federal support.
- While local United Ways and their partners will do everything possible to respond, federal funding and timely policy action are essential to ensure Texans can access food, housing, and basic needs without interruption.
- Sustained collaboration between government, philanthropy, and community organizations is the only way to prevent lasting harm to families and communities across Texas.

### **Social Media Language**

#### Facebook Post A:

A government shutdown means uncertainty for thousands of families in Texas. United Way is here to help.

If you need help, start with **2-1-1 Texas** or visit **211texas.org** to connect with local resources for food, housing, and more. You can also find your nearest United Way at [uwtexas.org/find-your-uw](https://uwtexas.org/find-your-uw) to see how your community is supporting families right now.

#### Facebook Post B:

If the government shutdown continues past October 27th, November SNAP benefits could be delayed—leaving many Texas families struggling to make ends meet.

United Ways across Texas are working closely with community partners to connect families with resources and support during this uncertain time.

You can help ensure our neighbors don't go without the essentials. **[Insert donation or volunteer link to a partner agency or your local UW]**



#### Instagram Post A:

A government shutdown creates uncertainty for thousands of Texas families. But you're not alone — United Way is here to help.

📞 Call 2-1-1 or visit [211texas.org](http://211texas.org) to connect with local support for food, housing, and more.

📍 Find your local United Way at [uwtexas.org/find-your-uw](http://uwtexas.org/find-your-uw) and see how your community is stepping up.

#TexasStrong #UnitedWay #211Texas #CommunitySupport #GovernmentShutdown  
#TexasFamilies #HereToHelp

#### Instagram Post B:

If the government shutdown continues past October 27, November SNAP benefits could be delayed—leaving many Texas families struggling to make ends meet.

💙 United Ways across Texas are working with community partners to connect families with food, housing, and support during this uncertain time.

United, we can make sure our neighbors don't go without the essentials.

👉 [Insert donation or volunteer link]

#UnitedWay #TexasUnited #211Texas #SNAP #CommunitySupport #EndHunger  
#LiveUnited