

West Virginia Resources During a Federal Government Shutdown

Audience: Federal employees (furloughed or excepted/working without pay), federal contractors, and WV households affected by federal program delays.

Start here: Call **2-1-1 (WV 211)** for real-time referrals to food, housing, utility help, and local assistance.

1

Immediate Steps (All Households)

Food today: Check local distributions via [Facing Hunger Foodbank](#) and [Mountaineer Food Bank](#) calendars. Schools may have student meal options.

Bills & creditors: Proactively call your bank/credit union, landlord, mortgage servicer, and utility to ask for shutdown-related hardship options (payment deferrals, late-fee waivers, short-term loans).

Keep documentation: Save furlough/excepted-status letters, recent paystubs, and any shutdown notices—useful for UI, assistance, or payment-plan requests.

2

Employment & Income

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE (UI) — WORKFORCE WEST VIRGINIA

Who may qualify: Furloughed and not working federal employees may qualify under UCFE.

Who likely does not: Excepted/essential employees working without pay are generally not UI-eligible.

If back pay arrives: You must repay any UI benefits that overlapped with back pay.

Action: Apply online with [WorkForce West Virginia](#) and certify weekly. Bring federal employment details (agency, duty station, SF-8/SF-50 if available).

CAREER SERVICES

[WorkForce WV](#) career centers provide job search help, resume workshops, and counseling.

3

Food & Basic Needs

WV 211: One-call access to nearby pantries, hot meal sites, diaper banks, and other basics.

Food banks: [Facing Hunger Foodbank](#) (western WV & tri-state); [Mountaineer Food Bank](#) (statewide network).

4

Utilities & Energy Assistance

If you receive a shutoff notice: Contact the utility immediately to set up a payment arrangement; mention any shutdown hardship.

LIHEAP / Emergency LIHEAP (E-LIHEAP): Watch for application windows for heating assistance, crisis help, and related programs via DoHS.

Weatherization & repairs: Ask about state/partner programs that can help reduce bills and fix unsafe equipment.

5

Housing

HOMEOWNERS

WV Homeowners Rescue Program (HAF): May assist eligible homeowners with mortgage/related housing costs (availability varies by funding). Contact **WV Housing Development Fund (WVHDF)** or your servicer for options.

RENTERS

Mountaineer Rental Assistance is closed to new applications, but **WVHDF** maintains housing-stability referrals and information for Project-Based Section 8. If you get an eviction notice, seek **Legal Aid of West Virginia** immediately.

6

Legal Help

Legal Aid of West Virginia: Free help for eligible residents with evictions, debt/collections, consumer issues, and utility disputes. Ask your county FRN for a referral if you aren't sure where to start.

7

Seniors, Disabilities, Caregivers, Veterans & Military Families

Bridging Resources West Virginia: For aging adults, people with disabilities, caregivers, and veterans seeking health and community resources and support. **BR-WV.org** or call the **WV Aging & Disability Resource Specialists** at **866-981-2372**.

WV Department of Veterans Assistance: Claims support and connections to emergency resources.

Nonprofit & national relief: Military-affiliated banks/credit unions and veteran nonprofits often offer grants, 0% bridge loans, or bill-pay assistance—ask about shutdown assistance specifically.

8

Banking & Credit Unions

Many institutions operating in WV offer fee waivers, due-date extensions, skip-a-pay, or short-term low/0% loans during shutdowns. Call your institution's hardship or member services line and request "federal shutdown assistance." Bring your furlough/excepted letter.

9

Family Resource Networks (FRNs) — Local Navigation Hubs

What FRNs do: County-based coalitions that maintain resource guides and coordinate referrals for food, housing stability, utilities, parenting supports, childcare navigation, and more. Use the Quick Directory for the most current contacts.

FRNS BY REGION (WITH COUNTIES):

Northern Panhandle: Brooke, Hancock, Ohio, Marshall, Wetzel, Tyler

Mid-Ohio Valley: Wood, Wirt, Pleasants, Ritchie

North-Central WV: Monongalia, Marion, Harrison, Taylor, Preston, Barbour, Tucker, Doddridge, Lewis, Upshur, Gilmer

Kanawha Valley / Metro: Kanawha, Putnam, Boone (Regional FRN covers these); plus county FRNs in Cabell, Wayne, Mason

Eastern Panhandle: Berkeley, Jefferson, Morgan

Potomac Highlands: Grant, Hardy, Hampshire, Pendleton (Eastern Regional FRN)

New River / Greenbrier Valley: Fayette, Raleigh, Summers, Nicholas, Greenbrier, Pocahontas, Monroe, Mercer

Southern Coalfields: Logan, Mingo, McDowell, Wyoming

Central / Appalachian Plateau: Braxton, Clay, Calhoun, Roane, Jackson, Webster, Randolph, Pocahontas, Nicholas

Find contacts fast:

WVFRN Quick Directory (county contacts) — <https://wvfrn.org/quick-directory/> **WVFRN Counties page** — <https://wvfrn.org/counties/>

Quick Links & Phone Numbers (save/bookmark these)

WV 211: Dial **211** or **1-833-848-9905**

- **Online:** <https://wv211.org>

Bridging Resources West Virginia: BR-WV.org or call the WV Aging & Disability Resource Specialists at **866-981-2372**

WorkForce West Virginia (UI & Career Services): <https://workforcewv.org>

- **Initial/UI claims:** **304-558-8739**
- **Federal/Military claims (UCFE):** **304-558-8739**
- **Appeals (Board of Review):** **304-558-2636**

WV Department of Human Services (DoHS): <https://dhhr.wv.gov/humanservices>

- **Client Services Hotline:** **1-800-642-8589**
- **Customer Services (report changes):** **1-877-716-1212**

SNAP: <https://bfa.wv.gov/page/snap>

WIC: <https://dhhr.wv.gov/wic>

- **State WIC phone:** **304-558-0030**

WV Housing Development Fund (WVHDF);

- **Homeowners Rescue (HAF):** <https://grants.wv.gov/resources/constituent/Pages/WV-Homeowners-Rescue-Program.aspx>
- **WVHDF borrower help:** **1-800-933-1272** · <https://www.wvhdf.com/current-customers/help-for-homeowners>

Legal Aid of West Virginia: **866-255-4370** · <https://legalaidwv.org/get-help/apply-for-help/>

Facing Hunger Foodbank: **304-523-6029** · <https://facinghunger.org/get-help/>

Mountaineer Food Bank: <https://www.mountaineerfoodbank.org/>

WV Family Resource Networks

- **Quick Directory:** <https://wvfrn.org/quick-directory/>
- **Counties page:** <https://wvfrn.org/counties/>

WV Department of Veterans Assistance: <https://veterans.wv.gov/>