

November 22, 2019

Federal Government Stopgap Funding Bill Passed through December 20

The U.S. House and Senate passed legislation, signed by the President, to extend federal government operations through December 20 of this year. Funding bills continue to languish in the respective chambers, necessitating previous legislation to fund the government through November 21. [HR 3055](#) largely continues current funding levels through the extension, with the exception of a 3.1 percent military pay raise and allocation of additional funding for 2020 Census operations. The bill also extended multiple federal programs set to expire under the first extension.

Federal government operations will continue unabated, meaning, for now at least, there will not be interruptions in release of SNAP benefits, procurement of food for food banks and other issues that arose in the partial shutdown earlier this year. However, the pressure continues for federal leaders to come to agreement on the 12 pending funding bills. Remember that the federal fiscal year ended September 30, so programs have been running on temporary authorizations since; full fiscal year funding measures still need to be enacted across the spectrum of government services. As the funding debates continue, we will keep you posted of actions, including if any possibility of another shutdown arises.

Census Bureau Launches Updated 2020 Census Website

The U.S. Census Bureau launched a new version of www.2020census.gov that adds features, resources and materials to help inform the public about the 2020 Census. The site includes:

- New Statistics in Schools materials, ranging from 67 specific classroom activities to videos for students in grades K-12; as well as updated classroom maps with census statistics and a new activity book for children ages two to five.
- A "Fighting 2020 Census Rumors" page designed to share facts about the 2020 Census and fight misinformation. Users can report false information to rumors@census.gov or visit the webpage to learn 2020 Census facts. This page may be useful for food pantries and others on the front line of relief efforts as they come into contact with constituencies who may be targeted for misinformation or be reluctant to participate.
- A webpage to share facts about the 2020 Census and information on applying for jobs as well as frequently-asked-questions (FAQs) documents.
- The updated site also has full translation into Spanish, resources in other common languages and supports efforts to increase electronic and mobile census outreach.

Advocacy Contacts

For questions or information, contact your advocacy team: Tim White, Advocacy Manager: (614) 317-9480 or twhite@midohiofoodbank.org; or, Marilyn Tomasi, Vice President, Marketing, Communications and Public Affairs (614) 317-9446 or mtomasi@midohiofoodbank.org. Access [advocacy resources and FAN e-blasts](#) here; or, for federal advocacy information, visit the [Feeding America](#) and the [Food Research and Action Center \(FRAC\)](#) advocacy sites.