



City of Seattle

Office of the Mayor
City of Seattle

Executive Order 2019-01: Support for People Impacted by the Federal Government Shutdown

An Executive Order directing City of Seattle departments to immediately develop a plan to offer a deferral of utility bill payments to federal employees and other community members impacted by the partial shutdown of the United States federal government and to support furloughed federal employees.

WHEREAS, a healthy environment is beneficial to Seattle's residents, employees, and visitors, and it is the responsibility of the City of Seattle to steward the natural ecosystems in the City's care to provide clean water, clean air, biodiverse habitats, and address climate change; and

WHEREAS, the United States Federal Government has been under partial shutdown since midnight of December 22, 2018; and

WHEREAS, as of today, January 22, 2019, the United States Federal Government has been partially shutdown for 32 days with no readily apparent solution on the near-term horizon; and

WHEREAS, overall, it is estimated that 800,000 federal employees across the country are working without pay or are currently on furlough; and

WHEREAS, according to an analysis by Governing Magazine (1/4/19) relying on personnel data from the Office of Personnel Management, the state of Washington has over 54,000 federal employees and approximately 11,000 work in agencies currently without appropriations; and

WHEREAS, the City of Seattle values the daily contributions made by public servants at all levels of government; and

WHEREAS, the City of Seattle has long recognized the critical importance of ensuring residents of all income levels are able to afford basic services such as water, sewer, garbage and electricity through programs such as the utility discount program offering up to a 60% reduction on City Light bills and 50% reduction on Seattle Public Utilities bills to income eligible customers as well as payment plans, payment deferrals, and Emergency Low Income Assistance for any eligible households; and

WHEREAS, the City of Seattle has a program, Project Share, that assists eligible low income and struggling senior citizens, children, and disabled residents in paying their bills and keeping their

lights on and homes warm, and this program is funded by donations from City Light employees, customers and other supporters; and

WHEREAS. Project Share's one-time emergency assistance grants provided assistance to 1,000 people in 2018; and


WHEREAS, with many Seattle households facing financial challenges resulting from the ongoing Federal Government shutdown, the City shall identify opportunities to provide relief through utility payment deferrals and other tools and strategies;

Now therefore, I, Jenny A. Durkan, Mayor of Seattle issue the following Executive Order:

1. Building on the City's ongoing assistance programs to help households pay for utility services, Seattle City Light (SCL), Seattle Public Utilities (SPU), the City Budget Office (CBO) and the Human Services Department (HSD) are hereby directed to immediately develop and offer a utility bills deferral payment plan for customers of Seattle City Light and/or Seattle Public Utilities who are impacted by the federal government shut-down. The program shall include a phone number for these impacted residents to call for enrollment and information and a plan for publicizing the program on the City's webpage and through other means. The program will also include a path to enroll eligible customers for the City's Utility Discount Program and other forms of assistance. The four agencies are to develop a plan for initial execution no later than January 25, 2019.
2. The City shall also explore other ways that it can support furloughed workers during this time, including benefits and employment opportunities.

Any questions about this Executive Order should be directed to Senior Deputy Mayor Mike Fong.

Dated this 22nd day of January, 2019


Jenny A. Durkan
Mayor of Seattle