



January 31, 2019

### **Government Shutdown FAQs**

The Housing Authority of the County of San Joaquin intends to conduct business as usual during the partial government shutdown. As we learn more, we will continue to provide updates on our website and social media outlets.

To help our community understand our position during this time, we have assembled a list of FAQs that address some of the most common questions that we have received.

#### **What is a government shutdown?**

A government shutdown occurs when Congress fails to pass sufficient appropriation bills or continuing resolutions to fund federal government operations and agencies, or when the President refuses to sign such bills or resolutions into law.

#### **How are the Housing Assistance Payments affected by the shutdown?**

Our rental assistance programs are federally funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Our representatives has advised us that they expect Housing Assistance Payments for February 2019 through March 2019 to be funded on time. We are currently working on a plan for April if the shutdown continues. Lawmakers will have to pass a law for funds to be released for April 2019 and beyond. Negotiations are currently underway.

#### **Will I be evicted if the Housing Authority cannot make the housing payment?**

No. It is against federal law to evict a participant of the Section 8 program for nonpayment of the Housing Authority's portion of rent. Participants are still required to make their payment portion to the landlord on time, in accordance with the lease agreement.

#### **Will participants of the Section 8 program be responsible for paying the Housing Authority's portion of rent?**

No. The Housing Assistance Payment is bound by the Housing Assistance Payment Contract between the Housing Authority and the owner/landlord. Tenants are only responsible for their rent portion and are expected to pay on time. We hope that landlords are understanding and will work with tenants during this time.

#### **Can the landlord charge me for late fees due to a missed or partial Housing Assistance Payment?**

The landlord may not charge tenants for missed or partial housing payments. If a shutdown occurs and the housing payment is missed, we will cover the late fees incurred as soon as the funds are released by HUD.

#### **Will those who have received a voucher but have not located a unit, lose their voucher?**

No. Vouchers that have been issued will not be rescinded due to the government shutdown.

**Will the Housing Authority close the offices or minimize services?**

The Housing Authority anticipates conducting business as usual without closing offices and minimizing services. Scheduled appointments, inspections, maintenance services, and other business obligations will be kept.

**Where will I be able to locate updates on government shutdown as it relates to the Housing Authority of the County of San Joaquin?**

You may check our website at [www.hacsj.org](http://www.hacsj.org) or follow our Facebook and Instagram pages at SJCHousingAuthority