

# The Impact of 2019 Government Shutdown in America, & 10 Ways to Personally Affect Change

Tonya Kinlow

UGottaEat (UGE)  
A Social Enterprise

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## **The Impact of the Government Shutdown of Food Insecurity & 10 Ways to Personally Affect Change**

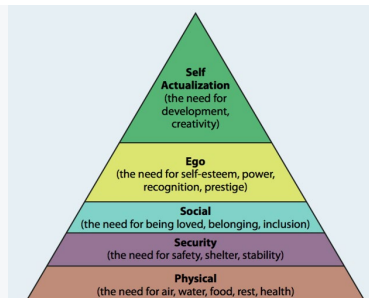
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## Summary

This paper is being provided for the millions of Americans who are not aware, or don't really understand what the problem is in the US Government at this time which caused it to partially shut down on December 18, 2018. And who want a plain, keep it simple explanation of all the hullabaloo.

I am not a politician or lobbyist. I am a regular citizen like you who is extremely concerned and can see the magnitude of the crisis hitting in our everyday lives like a tsunami or an earthquake. I don't want you to wake up and say, "Well I didn't see that coming!" This is a wakeup call. Written in simple and nonpartisan terms to 1) inform you about what's behind the US Government shut down and what I am calling the United States Crisis of 2019, 2) alert you to the impact this shut down will have on your day to day life and why you should care, and 3) provide a call to action as to what you can do to at an individual and grassroots level to proactively effect change in your community to avert or preempt the devastation.

This crisis is the first in my lifetime since 911, that has me truly scared. The twin towers fell in a matter of hours. This unwinding will happen over days and potentially months given the current state of affairs. Its devastation will be far reaching and sadly, self-inflicted. This tsunami is on its way and I want to let you know why you should be scared too...



Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs  
Source: Neel Burton

## Why Is The US Government Shutdown?

The US Government partially shut down beginning on December 22, 2018 after President Donald J. Trump and Congress could not agree on funding for the southern border wall with Mexico.

### *Funding Government Operations—*

The normal government funding cycle is extremely complex and convoluted. But I am going to use every iota of my God-given talent to explain it in 5 sentences. Ready for it? Here we go...

The budget is broken into 1) Mandatary (such as entitlement programs) and 2) Discretionary and 3) Other funding legislation such as emergency funding in response to natural disasters or national security and can occur outside of the standard process.

Each year, Congress is responsible for producing a fiscal budget with 12 appropriations bills which begins on October 1. The President submits a Funding Request (only a request) earlier in the February timeframe for how he would like to see things get done, and proposed funding for new policies and programs. The Congress picks up this mantel, confers with its constituency and passes bipartisan bills, budget resolutions and appropriations that get signed off by the President and enacted into law. Well, this is how it is supposed to happen...

### *Issue: President vs Congress and the Border Wall*

I am not going to even attempt to bring you up to date on the 2016 Presidential election, 2018 mid-term elections, the Independent Council, nor my speculation on the drivers that are widening the divide between the Conservative and Liberal positions on just about everything. I will just use my

version of what children of divorcing parents say...the President and Congress are not getting along very well.

The President, a Republican, is in solidarity with the part of Congress which is Republican. For a little Government 101 refresher, Congress is made up of the Senate and the House of Representatives. Currently, the Senate has a Republican majority and must approve all bills submitted from the House of Representatives, which is as of January 2019, has a Democrat majority. The Democrat-led House puts forth a bill, that the Republican-led Senate will not take to the Republican President unless it has what he wants in it. The President let them know he will not approve it. Those are the basic facts. Hang on and stay with me...

Now, what does the President want? A wall. A border. A barrier. Whatever term suits you the best. President Trump won the 2016 election in part on this promise to secure the border with Mexico with a wall, and he is determined to make good on it. The President confirmed that he said he would... *"keep the government closed for a very long period of time, months or even years."* [New York Times]. *"He said that if Congress did not approve funding for the wall, he would 'probably... I would almost say definitely' declare a national emergency to bypass lawmakers."* [BBC]

The Democrats do not believe it is proper use of funds and vow not to even put such a bill onto the floors. Rep. Nancy Pelosi, Democrat Speaker of the House said, *"We're not doing a wall. Does anybody have any doubt about that? We're not doing a wall."* [FOX]

Again, which side you are on, and who you believe is not the point of this paper. We are here to accept the fact of the shutdown, understand the magnitude of its implications and determine what we, as everyday citizens, can do. The indisputable fact is that as of this writing, we have reached an impasse. The President will not approve a 2019 Federal spending request put forth by Congress that does not include \$5.7 billion for a physical barrier with Mexico. In plain English, this means that the budget to fund many other operations of the government was not approved as well—mandatory, discretionary or otherwise.

Ipso facto, there is no money to pay people, and the unfunded parts of the government are now CLOSED.

### **Government Agencies Impacted—**

There are 15 Executive Agencies in the US Government and 6 of them have been funded in prior appropriation requests. You can find out more about all departments at <https://www.usa.gov/executive-departments>.

The 9 Departments that are not funded are listed below with website links for your reference. Reminder—these sites are not being updated due to the shutdown.

Department	Mission (Source Website)	Website
<b>Agriculture</b>	We provide leadership on food, agriculture, natural resources, rural development, nutrition, and related issues based on public policy...	<a href="https://www.usda.gov">https://www.usda.gov</a>
<b>Commerce</b>	The mission of the Department is to create the conditions for economic growth and opportunity.	<a href="https://www.commerce.gov">https://www.commerce.gov</a>
<b>Justice</b>	To enforce the law and defend the interests of the United States according to the law; to ensure public safety against threats foreign and domestic; ...	<a href="https://www.justice.gov">https://www.justice.gov</a>
<b>Homeland Security</b>	With honor and integrity, we will safeguard the American people, our homeland, and our values.	<a href="https://www.dhs.gov">https://www.dhs.gov</a>
<b>Housing &amp; Urban Development</b>	HUD's mission is to create strong, sustainable, inclusive communities and quality affordable homes for all. HUD is working to strengthen the housing market to bolster the economy and protect consumers; ...	<a href="https://www.hud.gov">https://www.hud.gov</a>
<b>Interior</b>	The Department of the Interior manages public lands and minerals, national parks, and wildlife refuges and upholds Federal trust responsibilities to Indian tribes and Native Alaskans. ...	<a href="https://www.doi.gov">https://www.doi.gov</a>
<b>State</b>	The Department of State advises the President and leads the nation in foreign policy issues. The State Department negotiates treaties...	<a href="https://www.state.gov">https://www.state.gov</a>
<b>Transportation</b>	Ensure our nation has the safest, most efficient and modern transportation system in the world...	<a href="https://www.transportation.gov">https://www.transportation.gov</a>

<b>Treasury</b>	The U.S. Department of the Treasury's mission is to maintain a strong economy and create economic and job opportunities by promoting the conditions that enable economic growth...	<a href="https://home.treasury.gov">https://home.treasury.gov</a>
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## How Will This Impact Me?

Let's start with the positive. There are some critical services that are functioning. The US Passport and the Postal Services are self-funded, meaning its revenue funds its operating costs, not taxes. Medicaid, Medicare, health Insurance Marketplace, Social Security, disability checks and veterans' benefits are still rolling. This is good.

Now, the 9 Government Agencies that are shutdown will impact every corner of your life. There are 800,000 employees who are not getting paid. Of which 380,000 are furloughed. This means no work and no pay. The remaining 420,000, get this, are considered essential personnel and are required to come to work, yet still don't get paid.

Did you hear me? What would you tell your boss if he said, "you have to come to work but I'm not going to pay you. Now to be fair, it's supposed to be viewed more as a leave of absence, so you still have a job until we raise some capital, but until then if you want a job you need show up." That's something I guess. But there is a trickle-down effect to the economy. If you think that you're not impacted, then think again. These people provide critical services that impact your day to day that we explore just a few in the following sections. By no means is this list exhaustive. But before we go there, let's take a look at some US statistics on pay and poverty.

*Stats You Should Know—*

<b>US Population</b>		330,000,000		
<b>Impacted Federal Workers</b>		800,000	0.2%	
<b>Essential Workers (work w/o Pay)</b>	420,000			
<b>Non-essential Workers</b>	380,000			
<b>SNAP</b>		40,000,000	12%	of US Population
<b>Children</b>	29,000,000		9%	
<b>Elderly</b>	4,800,000		0%	
<b>Veterans</b>	1,400,000		0%	
<b>People on SNAP and Employed</b>		17,600,000	44%	of SNAP
<b>Full Time US Workers</b>		126,000,000	38%	
<b>Impacted Employees by Location</b>		800,000		
<b>Washington DC</b>	102,200		13%	of Impacted
<b>California</b>	41,500		5%	of Impacted
<b>Texas</b>	35,700		4%	of Impacted
<b>Virginia</b>	34,300		4%	of Impacted
<b>Maryland</b>	28,300		4%	of Impacted
<b>People Living in Poverty</b>		40,590,000	12%	of US Population
<b>Stats on living paycheck to Paycheck</b>		98,280,000	78%	of Workers

In the following sections, I broke down the sections using A Theory of Human Motivation, commonly referred to as Maslow's Hierarchy. It's a framework by psychologist Abraham Maslow that proposes healthy human beings have a certain number of needs, and that these needs are arranged in a hierarchy, with some needs (such as physiological and safety needs) being more primitive or basic than others (such as social and ego needs)



Then let's start with what's fundamental—food, and go from there...

### **Food Quality & Supply—**

**Food Inspections:** The FDA is responsible for the safety of our food and has suspended inspections of food processing facilities. *Beware of where and what you eat.*

**Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (Food Stamps), also known as SNAP:** The Department of Agriculture will run out of funding before the end of February. That's 39 million Americans, over 10% of the US population who will be hungry.

*Anticipate increased stress and sickness at your schools, places of business and services. Our food is our health.*

### **Safety & Security—**

**TSA Employees** 51,000 are a part of the Department of Homeland Security, and are considered essential. Think of this when you're traveling through the airport, that the screeners are required to come to work and not get paid on top of already being among the lowest paid federal workers. *Expect long TSA lines and Security to be substandard.*

**The Coast Guard** is also under Homeland Security. There are 42,000 essential personnel. The unpaid Coast Guard leads the search and rescue missions. *Try not to get lost or trapped in a storm.*

**Air Traffic Controllers.** There are 3,000 essential employees guiding and protecting our airspace that required to come to work without pay. Is their head in the game? There are 13,000 **FBI Agents** that protect our national security, and investigations are on hold.

**CRIME** increases when you have millions of people not getting paid, or receiving enough to make ends meet. It's called survival. Note in the chart the number of people already living in poverty.

*Even if you think this shut down will not impact you, it will.*

### ***Social, Esteem & Self-Actualization—***

**The Arts & National Parks.** All Smithsonian Museums are closed. The parks are open but do not have rangers or park services and our national treasures are being trampled. Overflowing trash and unmanned restrooms. *Tourism, family vacations and school trips will suffer.*

**Washington DC**, our nation's capital and my hometown, is a city that suffers Taxation without Representation in Congress. Yet while the government "lives" there, they let the city know they will not be paying its local Water \$5m utility bill during the shutdown. Note in chart that DC has the highest percentage of federal workers directly impacted by the shutdown. *Who's calling in about the federal employees' water bills?*

## **Why Should I Care?**

I hope you were able to connect with on a fairly basic level how some of these services will impact you deeply. Your food supply, your safety, your societal ties and self-actualization. When you get down to it, what else really matters? I want to take it a step further to really convince you that your help is needed. No, it is *required*. Not just as a US Citizen, but as a human being and a citizen of the world.

Even if the shutdown stops today, how long will it take to clean things up? President Trump said this could take months. He is considering calling a State of Emergency and bypassing Congress approval to get the Southern Barrier built. This would not open the government, and would immediately get challenged in the courts. I'm basically saying it's going to take time. How many paychecks can you miss without assistance, government or not?

Basically folks, we have a stalemate and our future is at stake unless we take action as independent enlightened citizens. No one wants crime rampant on our streets, sickness and hunger in our families. Did you know that there is

more than enough food on this planet so that no one should go hungry? Ever? Most countries that have hunger and famines is not because there is a real lack of food. It's because of politics and the economic greed of a ruling class. It's due to not funding agriculture where it's needed, a corrupt infrastructure, a taxation system that protects the rich and turns a blind eye to the poor. Ultimately it's a funneling of money to causes that do not address the basic hierarchy of Human needs. We are on a very slippery slope America.

Your race and religion do not matter when you do not have food to eat and you fear for your safety. These are basic human needs. It's the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. If you see someone drowning, wouldn't you help them? You wouldn't stop to say, "They should have learned how to swim. Too bad." Or "Where are their parents?"

If you see someone hungry, you don't say, why can't you find food? Go grow a garden!" You would help them. Hunger or the current day euphemism, food insecurity, is the biggest travesty and the saddest little secret that we don't talk about in this great rich country. So this paper is here to blow the lid off of it. And so we have come to my Call to Action.

You can look at this list and check off the things you will do to make a difference. Please email me more ideas and we can start a grass roots movement to help our brothers and sisters in crisis, no matter the situation. We cannot continue to wait on the Federal Government to be the adult in the room. We have to do it ourselves.

The country is sick and will be getting sicker fast. The longer this shutdown lasts, the bigger the implications.

## What Can I Do?

### 10 Ways I Can Personally Affect Change—

- ✓ **1. Know the Facts.** Understand how the government shutdown impacts the community at large and ultimately you and your family.
- ✓ **2. Speak with your local politicians.** You can have a more direct impact immediately by supporting your local government.
- ✓ **3. Choose your “Thing”.** Is it Safety, Security, Hunger, Health, Housing, etc., etc.?
- ✓ **4. Get Involved.** Become a Champion. Do just one thing that you can be proud of that helps other people.
- ✓ **5. Think Critically.** There’s a lot of mis-information going around out there. Take time to question and form your own viewpoint.
- ✓ **6. Establish a Community Service Project.** You can volunteer, share your meals, make donations. The possibilities are infinite.
- ✓ **7. Ask for help.** So many are suffering in silence. We all need help with something or another at one time or another.
- ✓ **8. Be an Advocate.** Stand up for the weak, the hungry, the infirmed
- ✓ **9. Show compassion.** Everyone you encounter throughout the day has a story. Send them a smile. Extend kindness. Show patience.
- ✓ **10. Get Involved in a grassroots effort.** Revolutions always start with just a few small visionaries with a purpose and a passion.

*Let not the needy, O Lord be forgotten; nor the hope of the poor be taken away.*

--*The Book of Common Prayer*

## About UGottaEat

*UGottaEat (UGE) is an app platform that allows you to supply meals and your excess food to people needing assistance, residing in food deserts or relying on government aid for their next meal. At UGottaEat, we specialize in the mindful redistribution of food ensuring everyone has access to quality food daily to live a healthy life. We are a social enterprise that believes everyone should have access to fresh food, and that accessibility to nourishing meals is a right, not a luxury.*

*Our goal is food security using the UGottaEat App Platform to facilitate food-sharing from where there is excess to where there is a need. We aim to educate neighborhoods and society at large how to reach 100% Global Food Security by mindfully redistributing resources to those that need assistance, reside in food deserts or rely on government aid for their next meal.*

### *UGE VISION—*

*100% Global Food Security via a network of regular people like you and me who support one another's wellbeing by ensuring adequate access to food.*

### *UGE BELIEF—*

*We believe that everyone should have access to fresh (homemade) food, and that food security is the foundation for thriving communities. That accessibility to nourishing meals is a right not a luxury.*

### *UGE VALUES--*

*We value people and the planet. We seek to promote a healthy interaction and coexistence with our environment by responsibly utilizing food and food resources to improve overall wellbeing for every individual, and society at large.*

**UGottaEat is dedicated to connecting communities with home cooked meals, through regular people, local cooks, and food supplies from community organizations.**

You can accomplish a good 8 out of the 10 ways to help, just by getting involved in the UGE Movement. We strive to grow this grassroots effort to take our communities' wellbeing out of the hands of the Federal Government and place it in a place we can count on. Our own.





At UGE We strive to nurture a better environment for communities, and the world at large by providing a comprehensive food solution for everyday people. That's our *Thing*. So here is our ASK—

*We ask you to make helping people solve their food dilemma by sharing meals and finding food and opportunities or organizations that can be a resource.*

*We ask you to join the **UGE** Movement to engage everyday people around this conversation, and to get involved and Share your meals and any food for families in need daily, not just during the holidays.*

**Call to Action—**

We ask you to attend the **UGE** Webinar on January 29, 2019 where you will—

-  **Receive updates** in simple and plain English on the Government Shutdown's impact on society.
-  **Learn more about how to use the UGE** app platform to mobilize sharing food with those in need in your community.
-  **Learn how to join the UGE Grassroots effort** to Feed the world by sharing information on accessing needed food through Social Media.
-  **Sign up to learn how to start your own Community Service Campaign** and make a difference

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Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs  
Source: Neel Burton



