



U.S. AbilityOne Commission Operations in the Absence of Appropriations

January 29, 2026

Lapse Plan Summary Overview	
Estimated time (to nearest half day) required to complete shutdown activities	½ day
Total number of agency employees expected to be on board before implementation of the plan	34
Total number of agency employees expected to be furloughed under the plan (unduplicated count)	27
Total number of employees to be retained under the plan for each of the following categories (may include duplicated counts)	
Compensation is financed by a resource other than annual appropriations	0
Necessary to perform activities expressly authorized by law	0
Necessary to perform activities necessarily implied by law	0
Necessary to the discharge of the President's constitutional duties and powers	0
Necessary to protect life and property	7
Brief summary of significant agency activities that will continue during a lapse	
<p>The agency will act upon only those incoming contract requests and transactions that require immediate action to prevent interruptions in critical supplies or services, which may result in loss or serious injury. If it is necessary to complete or approve a funded or exempted contract action to prevent interruption of critical supplies or services, necessary steps may be taken.</p> <p>The Inspector General (IG) will virtually and periodically review incoming messages to ensure there are no urgent items that threaten public health, welfare, or safety that come to the IG's attention and that require immediate action. The Inspector General may take the necessary steps to prevent loss or serious injury.</p>	
Brief summary of activities that will cease during a lapse	
<p>Apart from the actions required to prevent interruptions in critical supplies or services, which may result in loss or serious injury, the remainder of U.S. AbilityOne Commission operations will discontinue for the duration of a shutdown. Operations to process nonprofit organizations' routine procurement transactions will cease during the shutdown period. This will cause administrative delays in documentation but will not impact AbilityOne performance of mission-critical services for Federal customers.</p>	

U.S. AbilityOne Commission Operations in the Absence of Appropriations

1. Purpose

To outline Agency policy guidance and instructions for actions to be taken when Congress fails to enact regular appropriations, a continuing resolution, or a needed supplemental, resulting in an interruption of funds availability.

In the absence of appropriations:

- a. Federal officers may not incur any obligations that cannot lawfully be funded from prior appropriations unless such obligations are otherwise authorized by law.
- b. Federal officers may incur obligations as necessary for orderly termination of an agency's functions.

2. Scope

This plan applies to all personnel including the two (2) Special Government Employees (Commission members who are private citizen Presidential appointees).

3. Policy and Procedures

To execute an orderly shutdown, the following information is provided:

- a. Estimated time to complete shutdown: One half-day.
- b. Number of on-board employees prior to execution: 34 (includes OIG).
- c. Number of employees retained under plan: The Commission will retain a total of seven (7) employees to perform only those work functions necessary during a shutdown and who may need to take critical actions to make decisions or provide guidance regarding protection of life or property:
 - One (1) Special Government Employee who is a Private Citizen member of the Commission (i.e., the Commission Interim Chairperson)
 - Five (5) Agency staff members
 - Executive Director
 - Deputy Executive Director
 - General Counsel
 - Director of Business Operations
 - Business Operations Product Manager
 - One (1) Office of Inspector General staff member
- d. Executive Director will notify OMB that shutdown procedures have been initiated.
- e. Chief of Staff will notify building management of shutdown status.



- f. Chief of Staff will notify all agency personnel of shutdown status.
- g. Chief of Staff will initiate action to issue furlough notices and other instructions as appropriate.
- h. Chief of Staff will direct the Contracting Officer to notify agency contractors of shutdown status and other instructions as appropriate.
- i. Chief Information Officer will ensure IT equipment is secured.
- j. Brief summary of significant work activities that will continue during a lapse in appropriations:

Agency:

The excepted designation applies to certain work functions performed by the Interim Chairperson, Executive Director, Deputy Executive Director, General Counsel, Director of Business Operations, and Operations Product Manager to ensure the completion of necessary contract actions for requirements across the AbilityOne Program that are not subject to the lapse in funding or are excepted from the lapse in funding.

These employees must periodically review incoming contract requests and transactions, to determine whether they require immediate action to prevent interruptions in critical supplies or services, which may result in loss or serious injury.

If it is necessary to complete or approve a funded or exempted contract action to prevent interruption of critical supplies or services, necessary steps may be taken.

Office of Inspector General:

The excepted designation applies to the Inspector General, who virtually and periodically reviews incoming messages to ensure there are no urgent items that threaten public health, welfare, or safety that come to the Inspector General's attention and that require immediate action. The Inspector General may take the necessary steps to prevent loss or serious injury.

- k. Contracting efforts not impacted by the shutdown will continue.
- l. Brief summary of significant agency activities that will cease during a lapse:

Apart from the work being performed by the employees identified in 3(c) of this plan, who will be working during a shutdown, the remainder of U.S. AbilityOne Commission operations will discontinue for the duration of a shutdown. Operations to process nonprofit organizations' routine procurement transactions will cease during the shutdown period. This will cause administrative delays in documentation but will not impact AbilityOne performance of mission-critical services for Federal customers.

- m. Resuming operations:

The Chief of Staff will notify agency personnel when the shutdown ends and employees are due back to work.

When directing employees to close down their individual and group work functions, the Commission will provide information to employees to monitor the status of appropriations. This information may include links to OMB websites that will provide updates on the status of agency appropriations.



Employees will be informed that they are expected to return to work on the workday following resolution of conditions that led to the shutdown.

After the resumption of orderly operations, supervisors will be informed of their ability to offer leave flexibility to employees who may not have returned to work as scheduled due to extenuating circumstances.

4. References

- a. OMB Circular No. A-11 (August 2025), Section 124
- b. OPM [Guidance for Shutdown Furloughs](#)

5. Review

This plan for Operations in the Absence of Appropriations, also known as a Section 124 Plan, has been prepared and reviewed by the undersigned. It complies with guidance provided in the reference documents and is approved.

**KIMBERLY
ZEICH**

Kimberly M. Zeich
Executive Director

Digitally signed by
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