



## **FISE Fights Back: October 1, 2025**

Read on for important information about the federal government shutdown and other important updates.

### **Federal Government Shutdown: How it Affects FISE Members**

For many of the FISE members, the threat of a shutdown is something we have endured over the years. However, many of you are new to the federal government and may have questions about how a federal shutdown affects us. Below is information we have as of today -- please note that this situation changes daily, sometimes more than once a day. Our employer has not shared any additional information with FISE as of today.

Please share with colleagues!

The Department of Interior put their Shutdown plans on line late yesterday afternoon, September 30th. You can [read them here](#). Some notes on the plans.

\*\*BIE is exempt from furloughs because of forward funding. This includes 2,961 employees in 55 BIE schools, 15 Education Resource Centers, Haskell and SIPI as well as Central Office East (Washington, D.C.), and Central Office West (Albuquerque)

\*\*In the three remaining FISE Bureaus (AS-IA, BIA and BTFA) there are a total of 1,653 employees who are on furlough and 2,087 employees working without pay. These are not all in the bargaining unit. (DOI doesn't break them down)

\*\*All employees were to receive communication from DOI as to their status.

\*\*Employees were "allowed" to bring their computers home to check work email no more than twice a day. This is not mandatory as far as we are aware.

\*\*Furloughed employees are expected to monitor the news and return to regular duty the next workday immediately following the end of the shutdown.

## Key Shutdown Information

Democracy Forward has filed a lawsuit on behalf of federal employees, challenging the administration's threats of increased reduction-in-force plans during the shutdown. You can [read the complaint here](#).

You can find information pertaining to the shutdown on the [AFT Government Shutdown Watch page](#).

## Articles of Interest

- [Advance Appropriations Shield Indian Health Service from Shutdown](#) but Tribal Healthcare Will Feel the Freeze.
- What a government [shutdown means for Tribal nations](#).

You are receiving this update at your personal email address as a member of the FISE bargaining unit. Federal workers and our unions under attack by this anti-worker administration, and FISE is adapting to the changing national landscape. **We can not sit on the sidelines.**

If members you work with are NOT receiving this communication, please encourage them to email Jackie Spencer to give her their personal email address. [JSpencer@fise-aft.org](mailto:JSpencer@fise-aft.org) We strengthen our union work by expanding our solidarity, and organizing a strong membership across the country, in the 26 states where our members work and live.

Please contact us in Albuquerque with questions or concerns. We will continue to update our website with news and will email you regularly as things unfold.

In Solidarity,

Sue Parton, FISE President

Jim Gertner, FISE Secretary Treasurer

Christina Bennett, FISE BIA Representative

Cameron Johnson, FISE BIE Representative

Federation of Indian Service Employees

AFT Local 4524

1218 Lomas Blvd. NW

Albuquerque, NM 87102

Work phone: 505-243-4088

Sue Cell Phone: 505-414-6891

Jim Cell Phone: 505-414-6892