



FISE Fights Back: October 30, 2025

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

Judge Extends Ban on Shutdown RIFs

[On Tuesday, October 28, a federal judge extended](#) a temporary order blocking the Trump administration's plans to fire thousands of federal employees during the government shutdown. The original temporary order was put in place on October 15, but only covered employees represented by AFGE and AFSCME. [On October 21, an amended filing](#) asked the court to expand the lawsuit to include federal employees represented by the AFT, our national union. **Due to Tuesday's ruling and the AFT's entry into the case, FISE members are protected by court order from RIFs during the shutdown.**

Key Shutdown Information and News

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

- [Federal Shutdown Brings Worry to Member of Cherokee Nation](#). As a member of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma, Christina Bennett has worked for 11 years at the Miami, Okla., tribal courts, which serve five tribes. She built a seemingly stable career as a federal employee in the Bureau of Indian Affairs, where she also discovered a union home in the Federation of Indian Service Employees, a nationwide affiliate of the AFT. But now—as a single mom with two grown children and three teenagers at home—Bennett has been furloughed from her federal job.
- [Communities Across Indian Country Brace for Potential SNAP Loss](#). Over 24 percent of American Indian and Alaska Native households use SNAP. Community groups aim to address upcoming gaps in food insecurity when funding lapses.

- [Shutdown, Federal RIFs Crippling Native Programs and Violating Trust Obligations, Leaders Tell Senate](#). During a committee hearing, witnesses testified that furloughs and reductions in force, or RIFs, have emptied the offices charged with carrying out the federal treaty and trust obligations, leaving tribes to fill gaps in food, health care, education and economic development.
- [The Government Shutdown Shows the Need to Reform How the Federal Government Funds Native American Tribes and Communities](#). While trust and treaty obligations with Tribal Nations are the United States' oldest continuous legal commitments, they continue to be chronically underfunded and uniquely vulnerable to government shutdowns compared to other federal funding to which communities are entitled by law.
- [Democratic Senator Ben Ray Luján \(D-AZ\) Leads Entire Senate Democratic Caucus in Effort to Stop Trump Administration from Illegally Withholding Funding for Nutrition Assistance Programs](#). The food-aid cliff has split Republicans between those who want to make sure the program is funded any way possible and GOP leaders and others who don't want to ease pressure on Democrats to fully reopen the government.

You are receiving this update at your personal email address as a dues-paying FISE member. 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 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

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