



FISE Fights Back: September 25, 2025

Federal Government Headed for a 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 plans with FISE as of today.**

Please share with colleagues!

1. BIE school employees are not affected by the shutdown as schools are forward funded for the entire school year.
2. Employees in BIA, BTFA and AS-IA who are told that they are "essential" or "exempt" must report to work and will not be paid until the shutdown is concluded.
3. Other FISE represented employees will not work during the shutdown and will be on a furlough until the shutdown is resolved.

Articles and Information we have on the shutdown:

Federal News Network article on [White House Memo to Agencies](#) The Executive Branch continues scare tactics and posturing.

As shutdown looms, [federal agencies have no public plans](#).

Interior planning layoffs

In the backdrop of the shutdown discussions, the Interior Department [announced they are taking steps to implement RIFs](#). Depending on the shutdown events, these may take place as soon as early October. This is all of the information FISE has received.

Federal Employee National Town Hall TONIGHT

Join a [virtual town hall for federal workers](#) impacted by the deferred resignation program or recent reductions in force. This event, sponsored by Democracy Forward's Civil Service Strong Program, will cover crucial topics such as unemployment and health insurance, the role of the union, job search tools, mental health and other support and the [You are Not Alone Campaign](#).

WHEN:

Thursday, September 25, 2025

4:00 - 5:30 pm Mountain Time

RSVP HERE: <https://ourpublicservice.org/event/virtual-federal-worker-town-hall/#rsvp>

Indian Country and federal workforce...in the news

- [Op-Ed: Supreme Court must not abandon Native Americans](#). Fawn Sharp, the 23rd President of the National Congress of American Indians, reflects on the Supreme Court's refusal to hear the case of Apache Stronghold v. United States.
- [The Trump administration is redirecting nearly \\$500 million in federal funding toward historically Black colleges and tribal colleges](#), a one-time investment covered primarily by cuts to other colleges serving large numbers of minority students.
- [Haskell maintains high enrollment; interim president says funding for 2025-26 is secure](#). Interim President Mackie Moore did not elaborate on the U.S. Congress' budget work progress or how Haskell might later be impacted by the proposed cuts.
- [6 tips for covering tribal colleges and universities](#). Researchers, journalists and Indigenous student advocates share tips on covering tribal colleges and universities, which serve students from over 250 federally recognized tribal nations and a growing number of students with no tribal affiliation.
- [Op-Ed: Haskell Indian Nations University producing next generation of teachers](#). Read this piece from Jackie Boyd, dean of the College of Education and Health Sciences at Haskell.

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 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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