



Dear U.S. Department of Commerce Financial Assistance Award Recipient,

Should a lapse in appropriations occur on October 1, 2013, the U.S. Department of Commerce and its bureaus will be affected and required to shut down all but excepted operations. Departmental financial assistance awards may also be affected. Access to Department facilities will be limited and personnel necessary to administer financial assistance awards may not be available.

Recipients of Federal financial assistance awards for which funds have been obligated generally will be able to continue to perform and incur allowable expenses under the award during a funding hiatus. Recipients are advised that ongoing activities by Federal employees involved in grant administration (including payment processing) or similar operational and administrative work cannot continue when there is a funding lapse. Therefore, there may be delays, including payment processing delays, in the event of a shutdown.

All award actions will be delayed during a government shutdown; if it appears that recipients performance under a grant or cooperative agreement will require agency involvement, directions, or clearance during the period of a possible government shutdown, the Program Officer or Grants Officer, as appropriate, may attempt to provide such involvement, direction, or clearance prior to the shutdown or advise recipients that such involvement, direction, or clearance will not be forthcoming during the shutdown. Recipients should plan work with Grants Officers to request prior approvals in advance of a shutdown whenever possible. Recipients whose authority to draw down award funds is restricted may decide to suspend work until the government reopens.

The ASAP system should remain operational during a government shutdown. Recipients that do not require any grant office or agency approval to drawdown advance funds from their ASAP accounts should be able to do so during a shutdown. The 30 day limitation on the drawdown of advance funds will still apply notwithstanding a government shutdown and advanced funds held for more than 30 days will have to be returned with interest.