

Disability Matters – Advocacy Matters

Tuesday, January 8, 2019

Partial Federal Government Shutdown

Thank you, Joyce.

The impact of the partial federal government shutdown does have a direct impact on the lives of people with disabilities. The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission is closed, the Housing and Urban Development Office of Civil Rights is closed, and states will soon start running out of food stamp support.

This is a partial shutdown. Organizations like AUCD and Disability Rights Pennsylvania are open. Why? Our federal funding mostly comes the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. That appropriations bill passed Congress and was signed by the President in September 2018.

For people with disabilities who visit the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission or the Housing and Urban Development websites to file complaints of discrimination, we are greeted with a message that these offices are closed due to the partial government shutdown.

At the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, their toll-free hotline and ASL Video Phones are not available. All EEOC digital portals are closed.

The only way to file a complaint with the EEOC is to download the complaint form, fill it out, and mail it, drop it off or fax it to the EEOC office closest to you.

HUD

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development is closed, and their website will not be updated. However, the public can still file fair housing complaints online. HUD has not closed that portal at this time.

#AdvocacyMatters. There are statutes of limitations. If you think you have a complaint of employment or housing discrimination – file your complaint as soon as possible. Don't wait. The partial federal shutdown and closure of government offices does not toll the statute of limitations.