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Partial Federal Government Shutdown Frequently Asked Questions

When did the partial Federal Government shutdown occur?

The partial Federal Government shutdown began December 22, 2018.

What impact is the partial Federal Government shutdown having on meetings?

The shutdown is having a negative impact on the meetings industry and is hitting government meetings particularly hard. Of the government meetings planners, contractors and suppliers we serve, we are aware of numerous government and industry conferences that have been negatively impacted. A shutdown causes conferences to be cancelled or rescheduled, new meeting requests to remain on hold, venues relocated, speakers replaced or cancelled, and attendees to be unable to attend. A partial shutdown can be particularly confusing because some working in government meetings may not be affected, yet others may be furloughed without pay or required to work without pay.

Why are government meetings valuable?

In-person meetings and conferences are a valuable way that government and industry leaders collaborate, share knowledge and training, and build relationships that drive our nation's innovation and prosperity.

What are the consequences of a government shutdown?

More than a disruption, fewer conferences and meetings as a result of an extended government shutdown has a trickle-down effect that negatively affects businesses, contractors and suppliers, such as hotels, convention and visitors bureaus and restaurants to name a few. Small businesses may be at risk. It should be mentioned that businesses which serve government meetings are not likely to receive back pay when the government resumes.

What is the human impact of the partial Federal Government shutdown?

The human impact of the partial Federal Government shutdown should not be overlooked. Many news outlets are documenting personal accounts of families with difficulty paying bills and the stress of meeting their basic needs. Once the shutdown is resolved, there will be a heavier workload for everyone.

What is SGMP doing to help its members who may be negatively impacted by the shutdown?

SGMP has plans to conduct a survey of our members at the conclusion of the shutdown in order to document the impact and to collect advice to help our members better prepare for the challenges of any future shutdowns. SGMP will work individually with its members and chapters that reach out for assistance and/or support. For everyone's benefit, SGMP hopes a resolution is reached as soon as possible.

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