

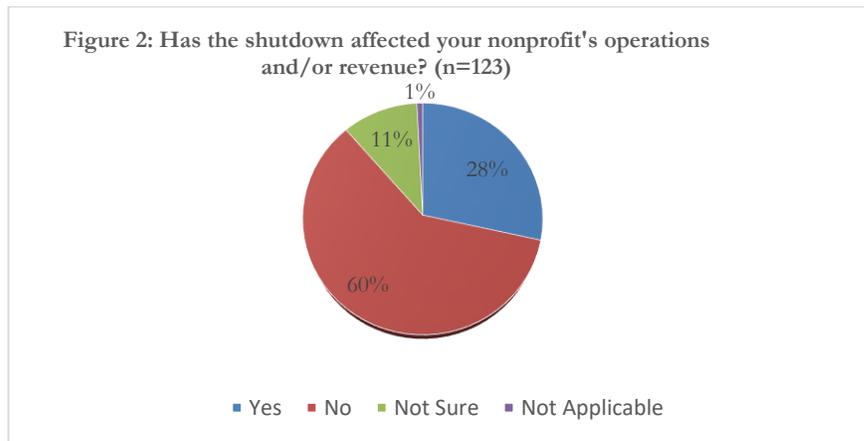
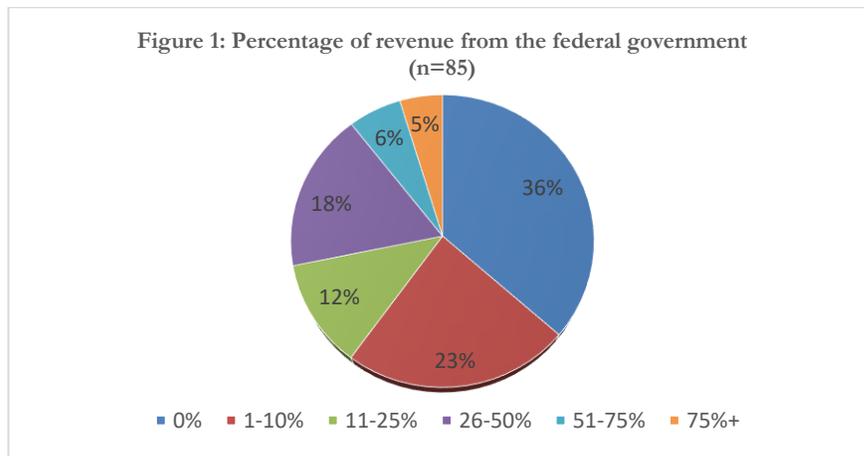


## Results of the Government Shutdown Survey

In response to the longest federal shutdown in U.S. history, and another shutdown possible on Feb 15, we surveyed Colorado’s nonprofits to determine if and how they have been impacted. In total, nonprofit staff and board members completed 123 surveys between the dates of January 23rd and 30th.

### Impacts on Colorado nonprofit organizations’ operations and revenue

- 64% of nonprofit leaders responding to the survey reported revenues from the federal government (Figure 1).



- 35% of leaders reported that the shutdown impacted their operations and/or revenue (Figure 2).
- About 30% of survey respondents elaborated on specific impacts of the shutdown on operations and/or revenue (Figure 3) and specific actions in response to the shutdown (Figure 4).

### Impacts on Operations and/or Revenue

"[our nonprofit]... has 17 separate Federal employment contracts that employ over 125 individuals - 34 are currently being furloughed." *Bayaud Enterprises, Inc., Denver*

"We don't work with federal agencies or employees on a regular basis and have not seen an impact on or constituents..." *Colorado Headwaters/Middle Park Land Trust, Granby*

"HUD grant pending grant approval and approved HUD grant funding in limbo." *Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity, Colorado Springs*

"We have staff anticipating a layoff March 1 if the government is not opened. Our (354) Section 8 landlords will not receive rent payment starting March 1...1600 of our WIC clients will lose their benefits, again a significant impact on private sector citizens." *Upper Arkansas Area Council of Governments, Canon City*

"All our giving is the same, our volunteers still volunteer, everyone is very optimistic." *Be the Gift, Loveland*

"Our regional science fair is approaching, and we have several federal employees that volunteer as judges and...do not have a way to contact these folks to see if they'll be able to judge or not." *SLV Regional Science Fair, Alamosa*

"We have not been allowed to patrol trails on Forest Service lands. Trails and related facilities are being trashed." *Poudre Wilderness Volunteers, Fort Collins*



<b>Figure 3. If yes, how? (check all that apply) (n=35)</b>	<b># responses</b>
Other	21
Federal payments on grants or contracts have been delayed or stopped entirely	13
Delay in consideration of application for federal grants or contracts	12
Delay in filing IRS tax exemption paperwork or receiving an IRS determination	3
Closure of agency that administers a grant or contract received by your organization	3
Inability to file Form 990 electronically because the IRS portal is shut down	1

### Themes of Impacts on Operations and/or Revenues (n=81)

*No effect on operations or revenue at all/currently.* Most organizations received no federal funds and had not experienced reduced donations attributable to the federal shutdown. Some received federal funds from agencies prior to the shutdown, or funds would have been affected if the shutdown continued beyond certain dates.

*Stoppages/delays in federal payment for services or pending federal grant/contract applications.* The shutdown required these nonprofits to stop sending requests for reimbursement on federal grants/contracts, hold off on negotiating indirect cost rates, or wait to hear about grant/contract applications. A few organizations waited for the IRS to process their applications for federal tax exemption or electronically file annual tax returns, especially Form 990-N.

*Services reliant on federal agencies have been undermined or put on hold.* Examples included annual wildfire mitigation activities, processing of federal housing discrimination complaints, visitor services at mountain huts, and use of E-Verify to confirm U.S. employment eligibility.

*Reduced donations/volunteering from families of federal employees.* This consisted of reduced donations from federal employees or reductions of volunteer/board service due to lack of income.

<b>Figure 4. What actions is your nonprofit taking to respond to these effects of the shutdown on your operations and/or revenue? (n=37)*</b>	<b># responses</b>
Other	17
Trying new fundraising strategies or seeking new sources of funding	13
Cutting expenses	9
Reducing programming	7
Eliminating program(s)	2
Reducing staff time	2

### Impacts on Operations and/or Revenue

“Although it's a negligible number of donors, but their contribution would mean us reducing some of our expenditures as these funds would never be given to us again.”  
*Restoration Project International, Aurora*

“We have raised money to help support the financial bridge needs of the individuals who have been furloughed - the single most important need is someone not losing their housing related to this situation - we have given out over \$4,200 to help individuals meet their expenses. In addition we have provided 4 of the individuals with other temporary employment; increased our food bank inventory; helped individuals navigate meeting other basic needs like transportation, food stamps etc.”  
*Bayaud Enterprises, Inc., Denver*

“Energy bills are different from other assistance since the energy bill lags the usage. The longer the shutdown goes on, the more need we anticipate for energy bill assistance. However, it will take a few more weeks for those arrears to show up on people's energy bills.”  
*Energy Outreach Colorado, Denver*

“We have not heard from any of our families that the shutdown has affected them.”  
*Early Connections Learning Center, Colorado Springs*

“Again, since we do not receive any federal, state, or city funds we probably won't see any effects.” -  
*Sox Place, Denver*



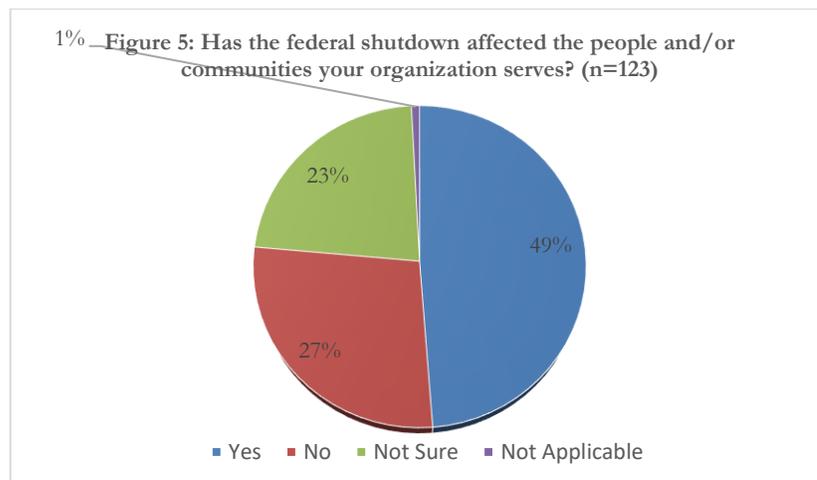
**Actions in response to effects on operations and/or revenue (n=26)\***

*Increasing public communications about available services or impacts of the shutdown including reaching out to identified affected families, developing FAQs, posting resources on social media, and participating in TV interviews.*

*Starting food drives to support nonprofits helping with food insecurity.* Several nonprofits held food drives to support food banks and pantries nonprofits in providing food assistance.

***Impacts on People and Communities Served by Colorado’s Nonprofits***

Nearly 50% of nonprofit leaders reported impacts on people and/or communities served.



**Figure 6: If yes, how? (check all that apply) (n=57)\***

	# responses
Temporary or permanent loss of federal assistance or benefits	40
Other	18
Increased demand for services from people who work for businesses that serve the federal government or employees	14
Requests for assistance with seeking new employment or job skills	5

***Themes of Impacts on People and/or Communities Served (n=65)***

*People/communities served have lost certain federal assistance/ benefits.* This included worries of clients’ future loss of SNAP benefits or Section 8 vouchers handled by local housing authorities. Federal agency closures halted permits for certain outdoor recreation activities on federal lands, publicity of free tax preparation sites, and federal data updates.

**Impacts on Operations and/or Revenue**

“We have had families who were unable to get their February re-determinations in prior to the January 15th cut off, and families who were not aware they were not going to receive February SNAP benefits because they didn't get the re-determination paperwork in. In addition, there is a lot of anxiety surrounding what will happen in February with TANF and school lunch benefits.” *Family Promise of Colorado Springs, Colorado Springs*

“Our organization runs 15 free tax preparation sites in the Metro Denver area. The locations and times for these sites are normally available through an IRS lookup tool. However, the shutdown has furloughed a number of IRS employees and as a result our sites are still not listed. As a result, we expect that we will have very low client traffic in February and exceedingly high traffic in March and April, which will result in clients being turned away for capacity reasons.” *Denver Asset Building Coalition, Denver*

“We serve Native Americans living on reservations in 8 western states including Colorado as well as urban Natives in Colorado. We are getting more phone call from the reservations we serve asking for additional help. There is desperation in their calls for help. Indian county is already dealing with food insecurity and hopelessness; we hear their cries but have little funding to send additional help.” *-One Nation Walking Together, Colorado Springs*



*Increased demand from families of federal employees* including increased provision of emergency housing assistance for rent/mortgage payments, increased visits to food pantries, and increasingly hearing from families struggling to pay other bills or buy consumer goods.

*People and/or communities served by my organization have not been affected.* These organizations had not heard requests for services from families of federal employees or did not collect data on whether clients are federal employees.

<b>Figure 7. What actions is your nonprofit taking to respond to the effects of the shutdown on the people and/or communities served? (n=53)*</b>	<b># responses</b>
Increasing public communications about programs/services available to those affected by the shutdown	20
Other	18
Increasing public communications about how the shutdown is affecting communities or people served by your organization	16
Offering a discount or special benefit for people affected by the federal shutdown	14
Offering new programs or services for people affected by the federal shutdown	6

**Actions in response to impacts on people and/or communities (conditional) (n=26).**

*Increasing public communications about available services or impacts of the shutdown* including reaching out to identified affected families, developing FAQs, posting resources on social media, and participating in TV interviews.

*Offering discounts or special benefits for families affected by the shutdown.* This includes deferred payment plans, fee discounts, zero interest loans, expanding hours of operation, and loosening restrictions on resources such as gas and grocery cards.

*Starting food drives to support nonprofits helping with food insecurity.* Several nonprofits held food drives to support food banks and pantries nonprofits providing food assistance.

**Impacts anticipated if the shutdown continues (n=99)**

*Increased needs from the community.* Loss of federal assistance could lead to increased evictions, food insecurity, mental health needs due to stress, and need for assistance with utility payments. Also, reduced income to pay for medications, consumer goods, and tourist activities.

**Impacts on People/Communities Served**

“Unanimous vote by PPCC Foundation Board to set aside reserves for interest-free loans to affected students.” *PPCC Foundation, Colorado Springs*

“We are in process of developing an FAQ document that we can share with our community as well as posting resources and updates on social media. We are ensuring consistent internal communication as well as sharing information with allies, so our communities are aware of available resources.” *-Atlantis Community, Denver*

“Our YMCA has suspended membership dues for all members affected by the partial federal shutdown.” *YMCA of PPR, Colorado Springs*

“We are responding directly to requests for help, and copying our membership, and publishing programs/services available to the membership.” *Daughters of the British Empire, Denver*

“I can foresee more dogs being surrendered as federal employees cannot afford the cost of vet care/supplies. French Bulldogs are expensive in their care. At the same time, we are already seeing donors unable to donate.” *Rocky Mountain French Bulldog Rescue, Boulder*

“None that we are able to tell at this time.” *Global Hope, Broomfield*



*No additional impacts expected.* Some organizations did not experience significant impacts from the shutdown and did not anticipate this would change if the shutdown continued.

*Continuing to help those in need.* Examples included supporting employment opportunities, raising funds to assist with basic needs, and raising public awareness of services.

*Reduced revenue for operations and programs.* Examples included:

- less income from rent, memberships, or event ticket sales
- increased expenditures to provide financial assistance for housing
- reduced programming - camping trips on federal lands, housing advocacy, etc.
- reduced staff time or potential layoffs

<b>Figure 8: Populations Served (n=126)</b>	<b># responses</b>
All populations	61
Children and Youth	38
Low income	36
Women and Girls	35
Families	33
People Living with Disabilities	33
Latino/Hispanic	31
Urban	28
African American	27
Men and Boys	26
Rural	26
Homeless	25
Elderly	25
Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender	24
Immigrants	24
American Indian/Native American	23
Asian American	18
Veterans	18
Other	8
Animals	6

**Other thoughts, questions, or concerns (n=62):**

- impact of the shutdown on federal tax refunds;
- when certain federal agencies will re-open;
- number of jobs impacted by the shutdown
- impacts on federal employees;
- impacts on populations served by organizations;
- opposition to the shutdown;
- criticisms of the President and/or Congress
- support for action on border wall funding and immigration due to the shutdown

**Impacts on People/Communities Served**

“We serve Native Americans living on reservations in 8 western states including Colorado as well as urban Natives in Colorado. We are getting more phone call from the reservations we serve asking for additional help. There is desperation in their calls for help. Indian county is already dealing with food insecurity and hopelessness; we hear their cries but have little funding to send additional help.” *One Nation Walking Together, Colorado Springs*

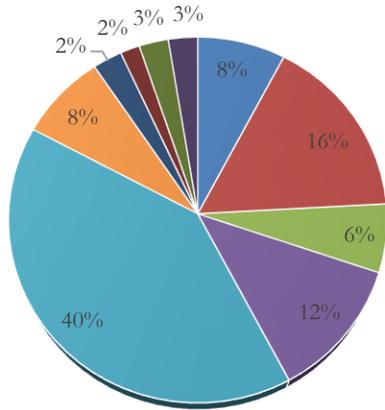
“If the shutdown recurs, we probably would want to boost communications regarding how the church can help. Make sure people know other community resources.” *Jefferson Unitarian Church, Golden*

“Homeless housed for the past 5 years could potentially be returned to homelessness. Our program focuses on homeless with progressing morbidities, such as cancer, Alzheimer's, and end-stage-chronic disease processes. So these individuals would be returning to the hospital at a tremendous increased rate of frequency.” *Ascending to Health Respite Care, Colorado Springs*

“Provide updates to our board to advocate on behalf of our patients by emailing, calling elected officials.” *Marillac Health, Grand Junction*

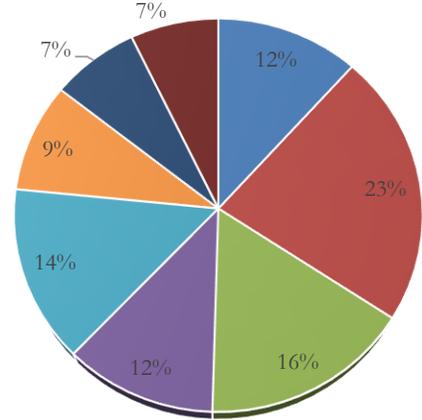


**Figure 9: Primary Area of Service (n=116)**



- Arts related
- Education
- Environment
- Health/Mental Health
- Human Services
- Civil rights and community benefit
- Philanthropy/Volunteerism
- Reilgion and Spirituality
- Other
- Animal related

**Figure 10: Annual Budget (n=116)**



- Under \$50,000
- \$50,000 to \$249,999
- \$250,000 to \$499,999
- \$500,000 to \$999,999
- \$1M to \$1.99M
- \$2M to \$4.99M
- \$5M to \$9.99M
- \$10M +

<b>Figure 11: Median number of employees</b>	<b>Number</b>
Full-time	17
Part-time	15

***About the Survey and the Respondents***

Colorado Nonprofit Association sent two emails to nonprofit members and nonmembers, inviting them to complete the survey on our website. Even though President Trump signed legislation reopening the government through Feb. 15, we encouraged nonprofits to respond through the Jan. 30 deadline as impacts of the shutdown may continue for some time beyond the end of the shutdown.

\*An asterisk indicates conditional questions. Although all respondents had the opportunity to answer most questions and enter text responses, conditional questions displayed to collect more details on specific impacts experienced or actions taken by survey respondents. Participants who responded “other” could use text responses to explain their answers. Several survey questions are retitled in this document for ease of summary.

Questions were developed based on anecdotes about nonprofits reported to Colorado Nonprofit Association and the network of state nonprofit associations, and from media stories. The survey collected contact information for respondents and characteristics of nonprofits represented by the respondents. Respondents quoted in this document indicated that their response could be shared publicly.

**Serving nonprofits. Strengthening communities.**