

From: ICE-Broadcast  
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Subject: Maintaining Financial Health During Partial Government Shutdown

A Message from the Office of Professional Responsibility

To All ICE Employees

January 24, 2019

### Maintaining Financial Health During Partial Government Shutdown

In tough financial times, especially when facing circumstances beyond our control, even the most diligent person can be pressed to meet their financial obligations, and such financial strains can certainly make things difficult at home. For employees holding security clearances, maintaining financial health and demonstrating responsible management of your finances takes on added importance.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) employees and other personnel who require security clearances may have questions about the impact their current ability to meet financial obligations will have on their eligibility to obtain or retain their security clearances. The following information is provided to help you better understand the requirement of financial responsibility by security clearance holders.

When adjudicating background investigations, the ICE Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR) is required to complete an overall assessment and determine whether a person has sufficient self-discipline and integrity to work in an environment where protecting national security is paramount. OPR weighs a variety of factors to assess an individual's trustworthiness in the context of each individual's own unique personal circumstances over a period of time. For example, an individual who is having difficulty due to factors beyond their control (e.g., an unexpected medical emergency, extreme family situation, lapse in appropriations, etc.) but who is nevertheless actively engaged in the management of those obligations may be evaluated differently from someone who has an extensive history of personal financial mismanagement.

Should you face a limited period of financial hardship, consider taking some affirmative steps to, for instance, limit unnecessary financial obligations; maintain communication with lenders to ensure they are advised of your furlough status; and leverage any available alternative arrangements for payments due. You are encouraged to maintain copies of any correspondence with service providers/financial institutions/collectors/etc., records of latency, letter(s) to creditor(s), and similar documents for submission to ICE Personnel Security as part of any subsequent background investigation and adjudication process, which would include a review of the employee's financial history. Demonstrating your commitment to responsibly manage your finances can go a long way during the adjudication process.

ICE employees are encouraged to review the January 9, 2019 Department of Homeland Security (DHS) broadcast message from (A) Deputy Secretary Grady, which listed some of the resources available to help DHS employees to address financial issues that may arise, as well as other concerns facing employees through the lapse in appropriation.

For further information, or if you have questions or concerns regarding this article, please contact the ICE OPR Personnel Security Unit at [ice-personnel-security@dhs.gov](mailto:ice-personnel-security@dhs.gov) and/or the Special Security Office at [icesso@ice.dhs.gov](mailto:icesso@ice.dhs.gov).

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U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement