



O. John Maduko
Interim Chancellor

September 30, 2025

The Honorable Jeffrey R. Beckham, Secretary
Office of Policy and Management
450 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106-1379

Re: Connecticut State Colleges & Universities – Federal Shutdown Impact Assessment

Dear Secretary Beckham,

In response to your September 24, 2025 request for federal shutdown impact assessments, I am providing the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities (CSCU) system's comprehensive response. This submission includes a detailed table (Exhibit A) that outlines the general impacts anticipated across all CSCU institutions, as well as institution-specific analyses that highlight potential areas of concern should a shutdown occur. Our intent is to ensure your office has a clear understanding of both the systemwide implications and the unique challenges that may emerge at each of our colleges and universities.

Central Connecticut State University

Central Connecticut State University receives funding through TRIO and GEAR UP grants. The University has been informed by the U.S. Department of Education that:

1. TRIO is forward funded, ensuring current operating funds are secure.
2. The federal grant drawdown system (G5) will remain operational.
3. Non-essential federal employees, including most TRIO and GEAR UP staff, will be furloughed.
4. Institutions with special conditions listed in their Grant Award Notification (GAN) must wait for U.S. Department of Education (ED) approval before drawing funds.

Expected Impact:

No further impacts are anticipated at this time.

Eastern Connecticut State University

Eastern Connecticut State University manages two federal grants:

- **NSF S-STEM (Murdoch – ZNSF01):** Provides student tuition support and faculty stipends.



- **Fish and Wildlife Grant (Connolly – ZDOI00):** A small-scale research grant.

Eastern has already completed its drawdowns for Pell, SEOG, and Direct Lending for the current period.

Expected Impact:

No further impacts are anticipated.

Southern Connecticut State University

As of September 30, 2025, Southern Connecticut State University holds 22 active federal grants with an outstanding reimbursement balance of \$803,712. An additional \$90,000 is pending from grants in close-out status due to outstanding drawdowns or pending Federal Financial Report (FFR) submissions.

Key points:

- Most grants are cost-reimbursable and not tied to the federal fiscal year.
- The next quarterly drawdown is scheduled during the week of September 29, 2025.
- As of August 21, 2025, federally funded positions include:
 - 24 full-time staff
 - 23 graduate assistants
 - 7 adjuncts
 - 7 university assistants
 - 13 student workers
 - 1 overtime assignment

Additional Notes:

- **Federal Tuition Assistance:** One student enrolled in a second 8-week course has applied for \$750 in assistance.
- **Veteran Readiness & Employment (VR&E):** 40 students are currently utilizing VR&E benefits.

**Expected Impact:**

No immediate service interruptions expected. Pending drawdowns and staffing concerns could arise if the shutdown is prolonged.

Western Connecticut State University

Western Connecticut State University anticipates minimal short-term impacts. However, several potential areas of concern have been identified:

- **FAFSA Processing:** Possible delays in current-year financial aid processing and preparation for the 2026–2027 academic year.
- **Title IV Reapplication:** Delays in finalizing approval for new academic programs (e.g., Climate and Environmental Science).
- **Student Support Services:** Increased inquiries and administrative burden related to financial aid concerns.
- **Public Health Emergencies:** If the Department of Public Health is impacted, response capacity to foodborne illness, water contamination, or infectious disease outbreaks may be diminished.
- **International Student Services:** Potential visa and immigration processing delays.
- **Veteran Services:** Delays in VA support services, affecting student veterans.
- **Grant Reimbursements:** Possible delay in reimbursement for ongoing federal grant-funded projects.
- **Student and Staff Well-being:** Increased demand for counseling, accessibility services, and emergency housing due to financial stress or job loss.
- **Federal Work Study:** Interruptions in student employment and administrative office operations.

Expected Impact:

Limited immediate disruptions; risk increases with the duration of a federal shutdown.

Connecticut State Community College (CT State)**Impacted Programs or Services:**

Currently, no federal grants are directly impacted. Federal guidance allows awarded and forward-funded grants to continue operations, including payroll and programming.



- **TRIO Student Support Services (SSS):**

Although forward-funded, budget approval by program officers is still required. Until approved, spending is restricted to salaries only.

- **CT State Manchester:** \$41,922 in pending non-salary spending
- **CT State Norwalk:** \$13,200 in pending non-salary spending
Program officer meetings are scheduled for October 15 (Norwalk) and October 20 (Manchester).

- **Department of Labor Grant – Equitable IT (CT State Capital):**

A monitoring visit is scheduled for October 14–16. A shutdown would delay this visit but not funding.

Timing of Changes:

No immediate changes to current grant operations.

Funding Reductions (SFY 2026):

No reductions anticipated at this time.

Proposed Response to Cutbacks:

If funding reductions or cancellations occur:

- Issue non-renewal notices for personnel contracts.
- Suspension student-facing grant activities.
- Attempt to cover critical student services through institutional operating budgets where feasible.

Charter Oak State College

Charter Oak anticipates no significant impacts from a federal shutdown, with one exception:

- **Financial Aid Processing:**

Potential delays due to furloughs at the U.S. Department of Education. While funds remain available, processing delays could affect disbursements.

We recognize that federal uncertainty poses significant challenges for Connecticut's students, families, and institutions. CSCU stands ready to provide any additional detail or clarification your office may need as you continue evaluating the potential implications of a federal shutdown. We greatly appreciate the time and attention you are dedicating to this matter, and we remain



committed to working in close partnership with OPM to safeguard continuity of services and minimize impacts on our students and campuses.

We also recognize that evolving federal decisions could alter the projected impacts outlined in this report, and we will keep your office promptly informed should any significant changes arise.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions you may have.

In partnership,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'O. John Maduko II'.

O. John Maduko, M.D.
Interim Chancellor

cc: Dr. Zulma Toro, President, Central Connecticut State University
Mr. Ed Klonoski, President, Charter Oak State College
Dr. Christina Royal, Interim President, CT State Community College
Dr. Karim Ismaili, President, Eastern Connecticut State University
Dr. Sandra Bulmer, Interim President, Southern Connecticut State University
Dr. Jesse Bernal, President, Western Connecticut State University
Dr. Lloyd Blanchard, Connecticut State Colleges & Universities
Mr. Adam Joseph, Connecticut State Colleges & Universities
Ms. Jessica Paquette, Connecticut State Colleges & Universities

EXHIBIT A

Impacted Programs	Description of Impacted Services	2 weeks shutdown	One month shutdown	90 days shutdown
Student Financial Aid Office	There will be a delay in the customer service aspects of the FAFSA from Department of Education. Students may not able to get assistance with FAFSA, long wait times, etc. There will be delays in receiving ISIRS and corrections for 26-27.	Increased email/phone for Student Financial Aid Office due to student's concerned about their aid and/or refunds.	Increased email/phone for Student Financial Aid Office due to student's concerned about their aid and/or refunds.	Increased email/phone for Student Financial Aid Office due to student's concerned about their aid and/or refunds.
Office of International Education (OIE)	1. Possible student visa (F-1/J-1) appointment, interview, issuance delays. 2. Inability to file Labor Condition Application for newly hired tenure-track faculty requiring H1-B visa sponsorship (No faculty hires for Spring 2025 that OIE has been notified of at this time.) 3. Delay in processing and adjudication of PERM Labor Certifications by Department of Labor, which in turn delays processing of sponsored EB-2 permanent residency applications.	1. Some potential impact on new international matriculated or exchange students (students from countries with long wait times). 2. Possible delay of Labor Condition Application (LCA) certification by Department of Labor, which delays submission of H-1B petition, potentially delaying a mid-January start date. 3. Depends on when PERM was submitted. PERM must be submitted within 18 months of date on initial offer letter. Particular circumstances of filing mean a delay in PERM processing could seriously complicate any application for permanent residency.	1. Leaves only small window for students to secure visa appointments for Spring 2026. 2. Likely delay of LCA & H-1B petition. Any hiring department would need to prepare to cover classes for 1-4 weeks. 3. Depends on when PERM was submitted. PERM must be submitted within 18 months of date on initial offer letter. Particular circumstances of filing mean a delay in PERM processing could seriously complicate any application for permanent residency.	1. Impossible to secure visas for new international matriculated and exchange students for Spring 2026. 2. Certain delay of LCA and LCA petition. Hiring department would need to prepare to cover classes for 4-8 weeks. 3. Depends on when PERM was submitted. PERM must be submitted within 18 months of date on initial offer letter. Particular circumstances of filing mean a delay in PERM processing could seriously complicate any application for permanent residency.
Sponsored Research (SPAR)		Drawdown capacities may be limited during a shutdown and their processing will be delayed, while different platforms may have limited or no function. We have several federal proposals to the NSF and NIH that faculty members are planning to submit, we expect but cannot guarantee that the federal portals will remain open and fully operational. We are also awaiting an award notice from the NIH that has been delayed.	Drawdown capacities may be limited during a shutdown and their processing will be delayed, while different platforms may have limited or no function. We have several federal proposals to the NSF and NIH that faculty members are planning to submit, we expect but cannot guarantee that the federal portals will remain open and fully operational. We are also awaiting an award notice from the NIH that has been delayed.	Drawdown capacities may be limited during a shutdown and their processing will be delayed, while different platforms may have limited or no function. We have several federal proposals to the NSF and NIH that faculty members are planning to submit, we expect but cannot guarantee that the federal portals will remain open and fully operational. We are also awaiting an award notice from the NIH that has been delayed.
Student Veterans	1. The federal tuition assistance program for TA requests processed after October 1 may not be awarded as scheduled. 2. VR&E will retain only a very small number of employees to process payments. Veteran Readiness and Employment (VR&E) is an education benefits program that specifically serves eligible disabled veterans. 3. GI Bill Hotline will be unavailable in the event of a shutdown. (Note: this should not impact the distribution of VA workstudy).	1. Student would not receive this assistance for the second 8-week term. 2. Students could be impacted by delayed processing. 3. Students would not be able to get answers to questions.	1. Students could be further impacted by delayed processing. 2. Students would not be able to get answers to questions.	1. Students could be further impacted by delayed processing. 2. Students would not be able to get answers to questions.
Student Accounts (Bursar)	Increased volume on calls/emails but we don't foresee having a significant impact in our operations. The only caveat would be if we lose access to drawdown funds from G5. We have to wait to draw funds from G5 until after financial aid is disbursed to happen on 10/2/25. We have not received anything about G5 not opening back on 10/1/25. But should G5 not come back up for some reason or the people in charge of it are furloughed then the implications would be.	Major implication would be interest revenue that would be lost if we were not able to draw down timely. The main STIF account has funds, so we would be okay in this scenario.	Possible cash flow issues but we assess they would be manageable.	This is where we would likely need to reply on the system office for support.