



City of
Bellevue

City Manager's
Office

DATE: December 9, 2025

SUBJECT: Federal Legislative Update, November 2025

OVERVIEW:

On November 12, a continuing resolution (H.R. 5371) was enacted, ending the longest government shutdown in history. The bill reopened the federal government by providing a short-term funding extension for most discretionary federal programs through January 30, 2026. With its passage, the bill offers longer-term stability for certain programs with full-year funding and signals that both parties are motivated to protect federal employees and keep the government funded and open. The continuing resolution (CR) includes the following:

- **Fiscal 2026 funding** for agencies and programs covered under three appropriations bills: Agriculture–FDA, Military Construction–Veterans Affairs, and the Legislative Branch. This provides certainty for the remainder of fiscal 2026 for food assistance programs such as SNAP and WIC and for veteran programs.
- **A short-term funding extension** for other discretionary programs at fiscal 2025 levels through January 30, 2026.
- **Back pay for federal employees**, including furloughed workers. Federal agencies are barred from reducing the number of full-time employees before January 30, and any workforce reductions planned or implemented since the start of the shutdown must be reversed.
- **Federal reimbursement** to states and other federal grant recipients that used their own funds during the shutdown to continue programs. This provision remains in effect through fiscal 2026.
- **\$88 million in supplemental funding** for security for government officials, in addition to funds provided in the Legislative Branch appropriations bill.
- **Program extensions** for authorizations under community health centers; public health; Medicare and Medicaid; veteran benefits; the 2018 Farm Bill; the National Flood Insurance Program; the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program; Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act authorities; the Defense Production Act; and the U.S. Parole Commission.

Passage of the CR sets up work for the remaining fiscal 2026 appropriations bills. In the Senate, a package covering Defense; Labor–HHS–Education; Transportation–HUD; and Commerce–Justice–Science programs is positioned for floor consideration. In the House, Speaker Mike Johnson and members of the Freedom Caucus have signaled a preference for full-year funding bills rather than another stopgap measure on January 30.

Passage of the CR also sets the stage for Senate debate and a vote on health care. As part of the deal to advance the CR, Senate Majority Leader John Thune, promised Senate Democrats a vote by early-December on the Affordable Care Act premium tax credits. Democrats have proposed extending the credits while Republicans are circulating ideas for their own changes to the program.