

January 14, 2019

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chapter Presidents

RE: Assistance for NTEU Members

SUMMARY: A list of resources is provided for employees impacted by the shutdown. This information will be shared with members in an upcoming message.

With the government shutdown now entering its fourth week, furloughed federal employees are feeling the stress of no paychecks and no certainty regarding when they will be called back to work. While we continue to work to persuade the Administration and Congress to end this shutdown, we have also been working to find resources to assist our members in need. Below are some resources that may be useful for NTEU members to help them get through this crisis.

United Way: “2-1-1” is a service maintained by the United Way around the country. 2-1-1 is committed to helping employees and communities impacted by the federal government shutdown. Furloughed federal employees in need of assistance should call 2-1-1 to get help.

2-1-1 specialists can help connect NTEU member to food pantries, health care services, utility and eviction prevention assistance and a wide variety of additional services. Callers also can also receive information on mental health counseling, transportation, substance abuse recovery services, and child care assistance.

2-1-1 is a free, confidential referral and information service that connects people to a specialist who can help find local health and human services, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. For more information visit www.211.org. There is a special section of the website dedicated to services available for federal employees impacted by the government shutdown. This section of the 2-1-1 website lists resources and support being offered from companies like AT&T, Bank of America, Chase, Wells Fargo, Sprint, T-Mobile, Verizon, Quicken Loans, and many federal employee credit unions around the country.

In addition, many local United Ways employ labor staff who work throughout their communities to assist union members in accessing local services. Local union members should contact their local United Way and ask to speak with a 2-1-1 representative or visit www.211.org. They should inform the 2-1-1 representative that they are a furloughed federal employee and inquire about services and assistance that may be available. To connect to local United Way labor staff, you may also contact Erkeisha Terry at: 313-330-6465.

Single Parent in Need (SPIN) Foundation: The Single Parent in Need (SPIN) Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization that provides temporary crisis relief and funding to single-parent families. Acting

as a one-time financial cushion, SPIN can relieve some of the intense financial pressure single parents endure.

NTEU members affected by the government shutdown may be able to get help from the SPIN Foundation. You can request an application by emailing SPIN at info@spinfoundation.org. Please be sure to mention you are a member of NTEU for immediate processing. SPIN staff are working around the clock to review applications to help as many families as they can. A SPIN Foundation application is attached as well. You can also contact the Foundation via their website at www.spinfoundation.org, or by phone at 818-849-5910.

Unemployment Insurance: Information about unemployment benefits for furloughed employees is available on the OPM website at <https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/pay-leave/furlough-guidance/#url=Unemployment-Insurance-Resources>. The Department of Labor's website provides links to individual State offices at <http://www.servicelocator.org/OWSLinks.asp>. Note that there may be some states that pay benefits to employees who are working as excepted employees but not being paid.

United Benefits: As an NTEU Member Benefit provider, United Benefits is reaching out to NTEU members who are clients and hold policies with the insurance carriers through United Benefits. If you know of members who have questions or concerns regarding policies they purchased via United Benefits, they should contact United Benefits directly at uboffice@unitedbenefits.com or call 866-558-2121.

We are continuing to work to bring this government shutdown to a close, get NTEU members back to work, and get our members paid. In the meantime, we will continue to pass along any additional resources that we find that may be of help to our members in need.

Anthony M. Reardon
National President

Attachment