As many of you are aware, Fiscal Year (FY) 2013 funding for the Federal Government expired at midnight on September 30, 2013. As a result, DHS is officially in a “shutdown” furlough status.

As a result of this status, many activities will cease because we no longer have the authority to incur further financial obligations, except those necessary to suspend operations. Employees who are associated with those activities are being temporarily furloughed.

Impacts that GFAD Grantees Can Expect During the Lapse in FY14 Appropriations:

Will the lapse affect my grant?

- Grant-funded projects for which funding has been awarded, obligated, and released by GFAD will not be affected by the lapse of FY14 appropriations and work can continue. However, most grantees will NOT be able to draw down funds from the Payment Management Smartlink System during the lapse. Only BioWatch and fee-based CIS and CHEP recipients will continue to have draw down capability during the lapse.

Do we still need to submit grant reports?

- Grantees are advised to make sure that all Performance Reports and Federal Financial Status Reports (SF-425) are submitted pursuant to the instructions and existing reporting schedules outlined in the Notice of Award.

What if I have questions or need help with my grant?

- Unfortunately, no GFAD grant staff will be available to answer grantee questions during a lapse in FY14 appropriations; however, we will work closely with grantees that have questions once the lapse has ended.

- During the lapse, GFAD grant staff will not be able to address rejected payment requests or problems related to holds, missing reports, or other issues related to the Smartlink system.

The budget uncertainties put our workforce in a difficult situation and many employees, as well as those we serve every day, may face hardships during this funding lapse. GFAD is committed to providing you with updated and timely information on any further developments.

Situations like this are always difficult and your hard work, dedication, and patience through this process are appreciated. Thank you for your continued service to our mission and to the Nation.

Questions?? – Contact Marsha Mathis, GFAD Director at marsha.mathis@hq.dhs.gov