



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**INDEPENDENCE VISITOR CENTER TO REDUCE DAILY OPERATIONS
DUE TO ONGOING FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN**

The visitor center will remain open through Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, and begin reduced operations the following day.

PHILADELPHIA, PA (January 17, 2019) – The Independence Visitor Center will remain open daily over the weekend and for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, on Monday, January 21.

On Tuesday, January 22, the Visitor Center will be closed, and will begin operating a reduced schedule due to the financial impact of the federal government shutdown, by ceasing its daily operations and implementing the following schedule:

- Tuesday – Saturday: **Open, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.**
- Sunday and Monday: **Closed**

This reduction in daily hours of operation is part of a large-scale cost-reduction initiative recently implemented by the Independence Visitor Center Corporation (IVCC), to offset the expenses that accrue every day the Visitor Center is open during a federal government shutdown.

The IVCC is a Pennsylvania nonprofit, 501(c)3 organization, which operates in cooperation with the National Park Service (NPS) to manage the Independence Visitor Center, a federal building located on federal property. As part of this agreement, the NPS makes a standard annual contribution of \$850,000 toward the building's operating costs.

During the current federal government shutdown, NPS buildings are closed and staff is furloughed. The Visitor Center is able to remain open through a special arrangement with the NPS, which requires that the IVCC cover all operating costs for the entirety of the shutdown.

The special arrangement also reduces the federal contribution the IVCC will receive by a proportionate amount each day the building is open during the shutdown. This per-day reduction in federal funding, totaling approximately \$2,400/day, will not be reinstated when the shutdown concludes.

From the start of the shutdown on December 22, the IVCC has covered these additional costs to allow the Visitor Center to remain open as a resource for visitors and partners in tourism and hospitality.



“We believe it is more important than ever that the Visitor Center remains open to provide visitors with information and encourage visitation to other attractions that remain open. However, with the shutdown approaching one month, the IVCC cannot continue to support daily operations and maintain financial stability,” said James J. Cuorato, IVCC President and CEO.

In an effort to keep the Visitor Center open as long as possible to this point, the IVCC has already implemented other cost-saving measures, including reducing hours open each day, canceling special programming, reducing hours for part-time staff, and asking all full-time employees to go unpaid one day per week.

“We are now in a position where we have no choice but to implement these drastic cost-cutting measures,” Cuorato said.

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About the Independence Visitor Center Corporation (IVCC):

The Independence Visitor Center Corporation (IVCC) is a Pennsylvania nonprofit, 501(c)3 organization, which operates in cooperation with the National Park Service, Visit Philadelphia, Philadelphia Convention and Visitors Bureau, the City of Philadelphia, and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The IVCC manages the **Independence Visitor Center**, the official visitor center for Greater Philadelphia and the primary point of orientation for Independence National Historical Park; and satellite visitor center locations, **City Hall Visitor Center**, **Fairmount Park Welcome Center in LOVE Park** (temporarily closed for renovations), and **Sister Cities Park Visitor Center** (open seasonally). The IVCC also manages the visitor-friendly public transit service, the **Philly PHLASH® Downtown Loop**. PHLvisitorcenter.com