

From: [Jen Covino, Simon and Company](#)
To: [Trai Her-Cole](#)
Subject: Federal Reserve Actions - April 9, 2020
Date: Thursday, April 9, 2020 9:50:15 AM



Federal Reserve Actions

April 9, 2020

This morning, the Federal Reserve Board of Governors and Chair **Jerome H. Powell** announced a series of actions to provide credit assistance to state and local economies impacted by COVID-19 pandemic. These steps follow the enactment of the *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act* (P.L. 116-136). See [this Press Release](#) for an overview for the monetary actions taken today. We have provided key details and fact sheets for your review below.

Municipal Liquidity Facility

The Federal Reserve established a Municipal Liquidity Facility. A Federal Reserve Bank will lend to a Special Purpose Vehicle (“SPV”) on a recourse basis and that SPV will be used to purchase Eligible Notes directly from Eligible Issuers. The Treasury Department will provide an initial equity investment of \$35 billion in the SPV using resources provided for the Exchange Stabilization Fund as authorized by the CARES Act. The Facility will purchase up to \$500 billion worth of short-term notes directly from Eligible Issuers.

Eligible Issuers are limited to: States; counties with a population of at least two million residents; and cities with a population of at least one million residents. Only one issuer per State, City, or County is eligible. Eligible State Issuers may use proceeds to offer support to additional cities and counties. The Federal Reserve notes that the SPV may purchase "Eligible Notes issued by or on behalf of a State, City, or County in one or more issuances of up to an aggregate amount of 20% of the general revenue from own sources and utility revenue of the applicable State, City, or County government for fiscal year 2017." It is worth noting that States may request the purchase of Eligible Notes in excess of the applicable limit to "assist political subdivisions and instrumentalities that are not eligible for the Facility."

Eligible Notes include: tax anticipation notes (TANs); tax and revenue anticipation notes (TRANs); bond anticipation notes (BANs), and other similar short-term notes provided that such notes "mature no later than 24 months from the date of issuance." Pricing will be determined by the Issuer's rating at time of purchase.

The Federal Reserve indicated that it will continue evaluating the primary and secondary markets, and it may undertake additional measures in support of States and local governments.

See this Fact Sheet provided by the Federal Reserve:

[Term Sheet: Municipal Liquidity Facility \(PDF\)](#)

Main Street Lending Program

The Federal Reserve will establish a Main Street New Loan Facility (“MSNLF”) and the Main Street Expanded Loan Facility (“MSELF”) to facilitate lending to small and medium-sized businesses by Eligible Lenders. The U.S. Department of Treasury will provide an equity investment of \$75 billion to the combined facilities to facilitate the Federal Reserve's intended purchase up to \$600 billion of loans.

The Main Street Lending Program will allow Eligible Lenders to offer four-year loans to small and medium-sized businesses with up to 10,000 employees or revenues of

less than \$2.5 billion in 2019 annual revenues. The Federal Reserve will purchase a 95 percent share of these loans, while the banks retain a 5 percent share. All principal and interest payments will be deferred for one year.

Eligible MSNLF loans will have:

1. 4 year maturity;
2. Amortization of principal and interest deferred for one year;
3. Adjustable rate of SOFR + 250-400 basis points;
4. Minimum loan size of \$1 million;
5. Maximum loan size that is the lesser of (i) \$25 million or (ii) an amount that, when added to the
6. Eligible Borrower's existing outstanding and committed but undrawn debt, does not exceed four times the Eligible Borrower's 2019 earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization ("EBITDA"); and
7. Prepayment permitted without penalty.

Eligible MSELF loans will have:

1. 4 year maturity;
2. Amortization of principal and interest deferred for one year;
3. Adjustable rate of SOFR + 250-400 basis points;
4. Minimum loan size of \$1 million;
5. Maximum loan size that is the lesser of (i) \$150 million, (ii) 30% of the Eligible Borrower's existing outstanding and committed but undrawn bank debt, or (iii) an amount that, when added to the Eligible Borrower's existing outstanding and committed but undrawn debt, does not exceed six times the Eligible Borrower's 2019 earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization ("EBITDA"); and
6. Prepayment permitted without penalty.

Firms seeking the Main Street loans must commit to maintain payroll, retain workers, and abide by certain restrictions outlined in the *CARES Act*. Those restrictions focus on compensation, stock repurchase, and capital distribution. Firms that have taken SBA PPP loans are still eligible for Main Street loans.

Eligible Lenders are U.S. insured depository institutions, U.S. bank holding companies, and U.S. savings and loan holding companies. Banks may originate new Main Street loans or provide credit assistance from the Main Street program to increase existing loans.

See these Fact Sheets provided by the Federal Reserve:

[Term Sheet: Main Street New Loan Facility \(PDF\)](#)

[Term Sheet: Main Street Expanded Loan Facility \(PDF\)](#)

Paycheck Protection Program Liquidity Facility

The Federal Reserve seeks to improve the effectiveness of the Small Business Administration (SBA) Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). It will supply liquidity to participating financial institutions through term financing backed by PPP loans to small businesses. The Paycheck Protection Program Liquidity Facility (PPPLF) will extend credit to eligible financial institutions that originate PPP loans by taking the loans as collateral at face value.

See this Fact Sheet:

[Term Sheet: Paycheck Protection Program Lending Facility \(PDF\)](#)

Primary and Secondary Market Corporate Credit Facilities (PMCCF and SMCCF) and the Term Asset-Backed Securities Loan Facility (TALF)

The Federal Reserve will seek to increase credit flow for households and businesses through capital markets. It will expand the size and scope of three programs: the Primary and Secondary Market Corporate Credit Facilities (PMCCF and SMCCF) and the Term Asset-Backed Securities Loan Facility (TALF). The U.S. Department will provide \$85 billion in credit protection to support up to \$850 billion worth of credit through these three facilities.

See these Fact Sheets provided by the Federal Reserve:

[Term Sheet: Term Asset-Backed Securities Loan Facility \(PDF\)](#)

[Term Sheet: Primary Market Corporate Credit Facility \(PDF\)](#)

[Term Sheet: Secondary Market Corporate Credit Facility \(PDF\)](#)

Public Comments

The Federal Reserve has asked for [comments](#) from lenders, borrowers, and other stakeholders. Those responses will be due next Thursday, April 16, 2020. Please let us know if you have any questions regarding the actions taken by the Chairman and the Board of Governors this morning.

This email was sent to traih@fresnocog.org

[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

Simon and Company, Inc. · 1660 L Street NW · Suite 501 · Washington, DC 20036 · USA

Trai Her-Cole

From: Jen Covino, Simon and Company <jennifer.covino@simoncompany.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 7:54 AM
To: Trai Her-Cole
Subject: Legislative Update on Interim Relief Package - April 9, 2020



Legislative Update on Interim Relief Package

April 9, 2020

Last night, Senate Majority Leader **Mitch McConnell** announced that he would seek to pass a standalone bill to provide more emergency funding for the Small Business Administration (SBA) Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). The Majority Leader's [two-page bill](#) would have provided an additional \$251 billion, bringing the total PPP funding to \$600 billion to be administered by the U.S. Small Business Administration. However, the Majority Leader's request to advance the Paycheck Protection Program Increase Act of 2020 by unanimous consent just failed following an objection by Senate Democrats. The Senate then adjourned until Monday.

Meanwhile, House Speaker **Nancy Pelosi** and Minority Leader **Chuck Schumer** released a draft of their *Interim Emergency COVID-19 Relief Act*. The legislative [framework](#) has five policy areas of focus: Funding for State and Local

Government; Small Business; SNAP Benefits; Healthcare; and Election Assistance.

Federal Funding for State and Local Government

This bill would provide an additional \$150 billion in fiscal relief for states, territories, local governments, and tribes. It clarifies that new funds can be used for lost revenues, and it also ensures that States and eligible localities can use the \$150 billion previously provided for the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF), which was established by the CARES Act (P.L. 116-136), to cover lost revenues. CRF eligibility is limited to state governments and units of local government with populations over 500,000 people. Congressional Democrats will prioritize 70% of the new proposed funding for local governments to communities over 50,000 people. See the breakdown of the additional \$150 billion outlined below:

- \$53.55 billion would be allocated localities based on the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) formula.
 - 70% of funds go to “entitlement areas,” which will be defined as either:
 - (a) cities of more than 50,000; or
 - (b) urban counties with more than 200,000, with any eligible cities removed from that total.
 - The other 30% goes to all other localities below these thresholds.
- \$65.45 billion would be allocated to States based on population with a floor of \$500 million.
- \$20 billion would be allocated to States based on the share of the national infection rate, according to CDC.
- \$8 billion is set aside for Tribes and \$3 billion is set aside for territories.

Treasury has 15 days to allocate the new funding for States, territories, localities, tribes.

During an [interview](#) on NPR's *All Things Considered* last night, Speaker Pelosi offered "The states and localities are bearing a tremendous, tremendous burden in all of this. And one of the things that I'm especially happy about that we will have in this next legislation is to compensate states and cities for what they have already spent, so

there is a relationship to where the money goes as to where the challenge is very significant."

Small Business

This bill would provide \$250 billion in new funding for our small businesses, including \$125 billion in additional PPP funding. The other \$125 billion in new funding would be divided as follows:

- \$60 billion in dedicated funding for community-based lenders, further divided as follows:
 - \$45 billion for small community-based lenders (CDFIs, minority depository institutions, certified development corporations, microlenders), and small banks and credit unions with less than \$10 billion in consolidated assets;
 - \$15 billion for community banks and credit unions with less than \$50 billion in consolidated assets, and also for community-based lenders;
- \$50 billion for SBA's Economic Injury Disaster Loans to support up to \$300 billion in direct lending; and
- \$15 billion for SBA's Emergency Economic Disaster Grant Program.

Health Providers

This bill would provide \$100 billion for a new program to provide grants to public and nonprofit entities, hospitals, and Medicare and Medicaid enrolled suppliers and institutional providers to cover unreimbursed health care related expenses or lost revenues resulting from the COVID-19 public health emergency.

The bill will require federal agencies to submit a report to Congress on testing and supplies, as well as a another report on patients' demographic information and proposed solutions to reduce health disparities.

SNAP Benefits and Flexibility

The proposal seeks to increase the maximum SNAP benefit by another 15% benefit, bringing the maximum to 115% of the thrifty food plan. Every beneficiary would see an increase of benefits increase with an average increase of approximately \$25 a month per person. It increases the minimum benefit from \$16 to \$30. It would

provide additional administrative flexibility for states and it would waive time limits and work requirements beginning May 1, 2020. The bill would allow work requirements to be waived for up to two years in anticipation of the economic fallout. It delays implementation of three of the Administration's rules: Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents; Broad Based Categorical Eligibility; and application of the Standards Utility Allowance.

Technical Fixes to Election Assistance funding

Finally, the bill would allow for technical corrections for Election Assistance funding provided by the CARES Act that have been requested by Secretaries of State.

Next Steps

Talks between the "Big 4" and Treasury Secretary **Steven Mnuchin**, speaking on behalf of the White House, will remain ongoing in the days ahead. We are engaging with your Congressional delegations, and we will be sure to make you aware of any significant developments regarding this interim relief package.

This email was sent to traih@fresnocog.org

[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

Simon and Company, Inc. · 1660 L Street NW · Suite 501 · Washington, DC 20036 · USA

Trai Her-Cole

From: Jen Covino, Simon and Company <jennifer.covino@simoncompany.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 3:45 PM
To: Trai Her-Cole
Subject: Federal Updates on Coronavirus - April 8, 2020



Federal Response to the Coronavirus Pandemic

April 8, 2020

Top Headlines

- Congress will likely consider an interim relief package by the end of this week, hoping to utilize an expedited legislative process without requiring Members to return to Washington, DC. We are awaiting an update from Senate and House leadership on how they plan to proceed in the hours ahead. Please review our [legislative update](#) from earlier today for a list of key provisions on the table.
 - As a reminder, House Speaker **Nancy Pelosi** and Senate Minority Leader **Chuck Schumer** have jointly called for: \$250 billion for Small Business Administration (SBA) Paycheck Protection Program

(PPP); \$150 billion for states and local governments through the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF); \$100 billion for hospitals and health centers; and a 15% increase in the maximum SNAP benefit. They have also asked for previous CRF dollars to be eligible to be used to mitigate revenue losses experienced by state and local governments with populations over 500,000 residents.

- Senate Democrats are threatening to hold up Senate Majority Leader **Mitch McConnell's** [draft bill](#). The proposal would only provide an additional \$251 billion for SBA PPP forgivable loans for small businesses, bringing the total PPP authorization to \$600 billion.
- **Dan Kowalski**, Counselor to Treasury Secretary **Steven Mnuchin**, reports that SBA has made 340,000 loans totaling more than \$90 billion through 3,500 participating lenders to date. Clearly, demand for this first-come, first-serve program will likely exceed the \$349 billion provided by the *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act of 2020* (P.L. 116-136).
- We will have another legislative update for you tomorrow.
- We joined a call hosted by the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs (IGA) featuring **President Donald J. Trump** and other senior officials earlier this afternoon. They did an agency-by-agency update on the Administration's implementation of the *CARES Act*. Please refer to this [call memo](#) for local leaders that could not successfully register to participate.
- Looking ahead to the fourth package that will likely be considered by Congress later this month, U.S. Representative **Joe Neguse** of Colorado has now introduced the *Coronavirus Community Relief Act*. This bill would establish a separate \$250 billion fund to cover COVID-19 related costs for communities with fewer than 500,000 residents. The legislation does not provide federal funding to mitigate state or local revenue losses. See Congressman Neguse's [Press Release](#) or the [Bill Text](#).

- Current co-sponsors are U.S. Representatives Nanette Barragan, Joyce Beatty, Ami Bera, Earl Blumenauer, Salud Carbajal, Kathy Castor, Judy Chu, David Cicilline, Gilbert Cisneros, Jr, Wm. Lacy Clay, Emanuel Cleaver, Angie Craig, Jason Crow, Madeleine Dean, Peter Defazio, Antonio Delgado, Ted Deutch, Veronica Escobar, Frederica S. William, Tulsi Gabbard, Ruben Gallego, Vicente Gonzalez, Josh Gottheimer, Raul M. Grijalva, Deb Haaland, Alcee Hastings, Jahana Hayes, Jared Huffman, Hank Johnson, Marcy Kaptur, Bill Keating, Joe Kennedy, Dan Kildee, Derem Kilmer, Ann McLane Kuster, Brenda Lawrence, Barbare Lee, Susie Lee, Ted Lieu, Dave Loebsack, Elaine Luria, James P. McGovern, Debbie Mucarsel-Powell, Grace Napolitano, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Ilhan Omar, Ed Perlmutter, Dean Phillips, Chellie Pingree, Mark Pocan, Ayanna Pressley, Jamie Raskin, Harley Rouda, Bobby L. Rush, Tim Ryan, Jan Schakowsky, Brad Schneider, Kim Schrier, Donna Shalala, Mikie Sherrill, Albio Sires, Darren Soto, Abigail Spanberger, Jackie Speier, Greg Stanton, Haley Stevens, Rashida Tlaib, Xochitl Torres Small, Lauren Underwood, Marc Veasey, Peter Welch and Susan Wild.

- The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) launched a map tracking for all [COVID-19 Grant Awards distributed by state](#). It provides data on the awards made by HHS using emergency supplemental appropriation funding provided by Congress in the first three bills: the *Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2020*; the *Families First Coronavirus Response Act of 2020*; and *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act of 2020*. The data also provides CFDA numbers for each grant award for administrative purposes.

- The HHS Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) [awarded](#) more than \$1.3 billion in *CARES Act* funding to 1,387 health centers across the country. The purpose is to help communities detect, prevent, diagnose, and treat COVID-19, while maintaining or increasing capacity and staffing levels. Individual awards are listed [here](#).

- The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) shared [guidance](#) on how it will implement \$75 million in funding they received through the *CARES Act* in support of arts organizations and jobs. See our [report](#) for more information.
- Please be aware that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) issued an [update](#) that cybercriminal and advanced persistent threat (APT) groups are using the COVID-19 pandemic as part of their cyber operations. Their activity includes using coronavirus-themed phishing messages or malicious applications, often masquerading as trusted entities that may have been previously compromised. Be sure to scrutinize any suspicious communications, especially from federal partners that do not regularly reach out! We are glad to help you verify any incoming correspondence from the Administration.
- The Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) provided this [fact sheet](#) on Accelerated and Advanced Payment Program for Medicare Part A providers and Part B suppliers. The agency distributed \$34 billion in the past week.
- The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) issued a [notice](#) reminding employers they cannot retaliate against workers who report unsafe conditions during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Reports [indicate](#) that U.S. Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is considering releasing detainees who may be vulnerable to coronavirus. We will let you know if and when they make an official announcement.
- We wanted to share the [presentation slides](#), in addition to our [call memo](#), from a webinar hosted by the U.S. Conference of Mayors and Bloomberg Philanthropies yesterday. The webinar focused on how cities can effectively access and administer Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funds to respond to COVID-19.
- The federal government has 8,644 total ventilators available as of 6:00pm this evening, including 8,044 in the Strategic National Stockpile and 600

from the Department of Defense.

- HHS [announced](#) its first ventilator production contract under the *Defense Production Act* with General Motors. The contract is valued at \$489.4 million for 30,000 ventilators to be delivered to the Strategic National Stockpile by the end of August 2020. The Administration expects that 6,132 ventilators will be delivered by June 1, 2020.
- HHS also [partnered](#) with DuPont to expedite the delivery of critical personal protective equipment (PPE) for frontline U.S. healthcare workers. HHS anticipates receiving 2.25 million TYVEK® suits over the next five weeks with an option to continue purchasing up to a total of 4.5 million TYVEK suits.
- The House Oversight and Reform Committee [shared](#) an HHS [document](#) demonstrating insufficient distribution of personal protective equipment and critical medical supplies to States from the Strategic National Stockpile.
- FEMA released additional resources on [supply chain stabilization](#) and the [distribution of medical supplies](#).
- A report published by the National Academies of Sciences Engineering and Medicine [concluded](#) that warm weather will likely not have a significant impact on coronavirus. This is an important consideration heading into the summer months.
- Another report from Harvard University [report](#) that the death rate for COVID-19 increases in areas with higher rates of air pollution..
- Insurers sent a [letter](#) to Congressional leaders outlining the industry's key areas of concern looking ahead to the fourth package.

Administration Resources

The White House

[Remarks by President Trump at America CARES: Small Business Relief Update](#)

Meeting

Memorandum on Providing Federal Support for Governors' Use of the National Guard to Respond to COVID-19

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Interim Guidelines for Collecting, Handling, and Testing Clinical Specimens from Persons for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Indian Health Service Expands Telehealth Services During COVID-19 Response

HHS Awards \$1.3 Billion to Health Centers in Historic U.S. Response to COVID-19

HHS to Provide Millions of TYVEK Protective Suits for U.S. Healthcare Workers

HHS Announces Ventilator Contract with GM under Defense Production Act

CMS Approves Approximately \$34 Million for Providers with the

Accelerated/Advance Payment Program for

Medicare Providers in One Week

Dealing with Stress, Anxiety, and Grief during COVID-19

Federal Emergency Management Agency

FEMA COVID-19 Supply Chain Task Force: Supply Chain Stabilization

FEMA-CBP Joint Statement on Defense Production Act for PPE

FEMA Letter to Distributors on Delivery of Medical Supplies

Federal Reserve

Federal Reserve Board announces, due to the extraordinary disruptions from the coronavirus, that it will temporarily and narrowly modify the growth restriction on Wells Fargo so that it can provide additional support to small businesses

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Arizona and California Added to Innovative SNAP Online Pilot Program

U.S. Department of Labor

U.S. Department of Labor Reminds Employers That They Cannot Retaliate Against

[Workers Reporting Unsafe Conditions During Coronavirus Pandemic](#)

[U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs](#)

[CARES Act helping VA boost protections for Veterans](#)

[U.S. Department of Commerce](#)

[Broadband is More Important Than Ever](#)

[U.S. Department of Defense](#)

[Defense Health Official Urges Personnel, Families to Wear Face Masks](#)

House and Senate Leadership Resources

[House Speaker Nancy Pelosi](#)

[Pelosi and Schumer Joint Statement on Interim Emergency Coronavirus Relief](#)

[Pelosi Statement on Sudden Removal of Head of CARES Act Oversight](#)

House and Senate Committee Resources

[House Budget Committee](#)

[Chairman Yarmuth Seeks White House Commitment that CARES Act Will Be Lawfully Implemented and Deliver Promised Relief to the American People](#)

[House Energy and Commerce Committee](#)

[Schakowsky, Cicilline, Pallone & Nadler Introduce Bill to Protect Americans from Price Gouging During COVID-19 Health Crisis](#)

[House Financial Services Committee](#)

[Chairwoman Waters Applauds World Bank Capital Increase Included in COVID-19 Stimulus Package](#)

[Committee Democrats Call on Regulators to Suspend CRA and Other Rulemakings Unrelated to COVID-19](#)

[House Foreign Affairs Committee](#)

[Engel & McCaul Urge Airlines to Work with State Department to Help Bring](#)

[Americans Home](#)

[House Administration Committee](#)

[Wisconsin Demonstrates Congress Must Act to Protect Safety and Integrity of Elections](#)

[House Oversight and Reform Committee](#)

[New Document Shows Inadequate Distribution of Personal Protective Equipment and Critical Medical Supplies to States](#)

[Chairs Maloney, Connolly, and Lynch Take Swift Action in Response to President's Removal of Chair of Pandemic Response Accountability Committee](#)

[Chairs Thompson and Maloney Write FEMA on Coronavirus Response Supply Chain Issues](#)

[House Small Business Committee](#)

[Velazquez Says Trump Administration Not Enacted COVID-19 Small Business Relief as Congress Intended](#)

[House Veterans' Affairs Committee](#)

[Chairman Takano, Subcommittee Chair Lee Statement on VA's Electronic Health Record Project Delay](#)

[Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee](#)

[Murkowski Welcomes EIA's Prioritization of Storage Data](#)

[Murkowski, Sullivan to Cosponsor Legislation to Fill Strategic Petroleum Reserve with U.S. Crude](#)

This email was sent to traih@fresnocog.org

[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

Simon and Company, Inc. · 1660 L Street NW · Suite 501 · Washington, DC 20036 · USA

Trai Her-Cole

From: Jen Covino, Simon and Company <jennifer.covino@simoncompany.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 2:37 PM
To: Trai Her-Cole
Subject: Federal Updates on Coronavirus - April 7, 2020



Federal Response to the Coronavirus Pandemic

April 7, 2020

Top Headlines

- The Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) shared new [COVID-19 projections](#), which assume full social distancing through May 2020. It is projected that peak resource use in the United States still occur on [Wednesday, April 15, 2020](#). IHME anticipates that deaths will total 81,766 by August 4, 2020. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Director **Robert Redfield** expressed optimism that the final death toll will be significantly lower than the upper range of 200,000 Americans outlined in the modeling previously released by the White House.

- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) just provided an update that the federal government has 8,644 ventilators available, including 8,044 in the Strategic National Stockpile and 600 available from the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD).
- FEMA also provided an update on Project Air Bridge. The agency is coordinating these daily flights to operational hubs, covering the cost of flights and reducing the shipping time to days. Thirteen flights have landed in the United States as of yesterday, Monday, April 6, 2020. Seven more will arrive today, and an additional 72 flights are scheduled to happen over the weeks ahead.
- Senate Majority Leader **Mitch McConnell** released a statement to announce that the Senate will seek to approve at least \$200 billion in additional funding for the Small Business Administration (SBA) Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) this Thursday. Treasury Secretary **Steve Mnuchin** requested \$250 billion from Congress in additional funding for this program. Leader McConnell hopes to approve the measure in the Senate by voice vote or unanimous consent. Meanwhile, House Republican Leader **Kevin McCarthy** urged swift passage in the House, while Congressional Democrats expressed openness to the idea.
- SBA published new PPP Frequently Asked Questions.
- The Federal Reserve Board of Governors released a revised interagency statement to encourage financial institutions to work more constructively with borrowers. It also plans to establish a facility to facilitate lending via the SBA PPP. More information will be forthcoming.
- Senate Democrats proposed a hazard pay plan for essential workers called the COVID-19 “Heroes Fund.” The proposal includes a \$25,000 pandemic premium pay increase for essential frontline workers and a \$15,000 recruitment incentive for health and home care workers and first responders.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provided a series of updated guidance today, from resources for businesses to guidance on travel in the United States. The agency has also started conducting antibody tests to

help determine how many people have been infected with the coronavirus, including those who never developed symptoms.

- The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) issued [implementation guidance](#) on the paid leave aspect of the *Families First Coronavirus Response Act*. The guidance details paid leave requirements for public and private employers, as well as the circumstances for certain exemptions.
- The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) [announced](#) it is purchasing the ID NOW COVID-19 rapid point-of-care test to be deployed to State and local public health labs, as well as the Strategic National Stockpile. The CDC-operated [International Reagent Resource](#) will procure these additional tests to support requests from public health labs.
- We participated in a call hosted by the U.S. Conference of Mayors and Bloomberg Philanthropies today. The organizations offered insight on how cities can best access FEMA funds to respond to COVID-19. Please see our [call memo](#) for more information.
- Attorney General **William Barr** told federal prosecutors Monday to take the COVID-19 pandemic into account when deciding whether to seek pretrial detention for criminal defendants.
- U.S. Surgeon General **Jerome Adams** acknowledged in an [interview](#) today that African Americans may be more adversely impacted by COVID-19. These racial disparities are already prevalent in [health data](#) from the City of Chicago and various states, including Louisiana.
- The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) [published](#) its Final Order (Order 2020-4-2) to establish parameters for air carriers receiving federal assistance through the CARES Act to continue providing minimum air service nationwide. The agency received 45 comments from stakeholders since it released its initial order last month.
- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will [donate](#) Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to a number of communities. EPA is in the process of developing a plan for rapid distribution to FEMA or state and local

governments in need.

- The National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC) released an [analysis](#) on the need for emergency rental assistance during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The [Independent Restaurant Coalition](#) sent a [letter](#) to congressional leadership with a series of legislative requests to fix the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act to better support independent restaurants. The coalition represents over 50,000 local restaurants nationwide.

Administration Resources

The White House

[By the Numbers: A Massive Nationwide Response](#)

[Readout from the Vice President's Video Teleconference with Governors on the Partnership to Prepare and Respond to COVID-19](#)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

[Prepare your Small Business and Employees for the Effects of COVID-19](#)

[Interim Additional Guidance for Outpatient and Ambulatory Care Settings: Responding to Community Transmission of COVID-19 in the United States](#)

[Older Adults](#)

[Other At-Risk Populations](#)

[Coronavirus and Travel in the United States](#)

[COVID-19 Infection Prevention and Control in Healthcare Settings: Questions and Answers](#)

[Resources for Businesses and Employers](#)

[What Transit Maintenance Workers Need to Know About COVID-19](#)

[Training for Healthcare Professionals](#)

[Resources for Hospitals and Healthcare Professionals Preparing for Patients with Suspected for Confirmed COVID-19](#)

[Interim Clinical Guidance for Management of Patients with Confirmed Coronavirus Disease \(COVID-19\)](#)

[Information for Healthcare Professionals: COVID-19 and Underlying Conditions](#)

[What to Do if You Are Sick](#)

[How to Protect Yourself](#)

[Running Essential Errands](#)

[Mitigate Healthcare Personnel Staffing Shortages](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions and Answers: Coronavirus Disease-2019 \(COVID-19\) and Children](#)

[For Child Care Programs That Remain Open](#)

[U.S. Department of Health and Human Services](#)

[HHS Supports State, Territorial and Tribal Public Health Labs with COVID-19 Rapid Point-of-Care Test](#)

[2021 Medicare Advantage and Part D Rate Announcement Fact Sheet](#)

[U.S. Department of Transportation](#)

[U.S. Department of Transportation Issues Final Order on Service Obligations for Air Carriers Receiving Financial Relief Through CARES Act](#)

[Federal Communications Commission](#)

[Chairman Pai Thanks Broadcasters for Their Response to COVID-19](#)

[Federal Reserve](#)

[Agencies issue revised interagency statement on loan modifications by financial institutions working with customers affected by the coronavirus](#)

[SR 20-10: Small Business Administration \(SBA\) and Treasury Small Business Loan Programs](#)

[Federal Reserve will establish a facility to facilitate lending to small businesses via the Small Business Administration's Paycheck Protection Program \(PPP\) by providing term financing backed by PPP loans](#)

[U.S. Environmental Protection Agency](#)

[EPA's Pacific Southwest Region Transfers N-95 Masks to California Office of Emergency Services](#)

[EPA to Donate Personal Protective Equipment to State and Local Responders Fighting COVID-19 Across the Country](#)

U.S. Department of Energy

[Statement on EIA Short Term Energy Outlook](#)

House and Senate Leadership Resources

House Republican Leader Kevin McCarthy

[McCarthy Statement on Additional Funding Needed for the Paycheck Protection Program](#)

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell

[McConnell Statement on Additional Funding for Paycheck Protection Program](#)

Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer

[Senate Democrats Unveil COVID-19 “Heroes Fund” Proposal to Provide \\$25,000 Pay Increase to Essential Workers on Frontline of Nation’s Pandemic Response](#)
[Schumer on CNN’s Anderson Cooper 360 Calls on President Trump to Appoint a Single Senior Military Official to Lead Production and Distribution of Medical Supplies and Equipment](#)

[Sen. Schumer Announces Appointment of Bharat Ramamurti to Serve on New Congressional Oversight Commission, One of the Key Transparency and Accountability Mechanisms Dems Built Into Bipartisan CARES Act](#)

House and Senate Committee Resources

House Judiciary Committee

[Nadler & Lofgren Renew Call on ICE to Protect Migrants & Staff During COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

House Natural Resources Committee

[Following Unusual White House Meeting with Big Oil, Chair Grijalva and 15 House Democrats Urge Sec. Bernhardt to Reject Calls for Royalty Cuts](#)

House Oversight and Reform Committee

[Chairs Maloney and Raskin Call on DHS to Release Non-Violent Migrant Detainees to Prevent Coronavirus Outbreak in Detention Facilities](#)
[Connolly, Lawrence, Maloney Urge Congressional Leadership to Include Meaningful](#)

[Relief for USPS in Next COVID Response Legislation](#)

[Chairwoman Maloney Issues Statement on President Trump's Removal of IG Glenn Fine from Pandemic Response Accountability Committee](#)

[Subcommittee on National Security Requests Information about Ventilators and PPE for Defense Department Personnel](#)

[House Ways and Means Committee](#)

[Neal, Grassley Call on U.S. International Trade Commission to Identify Imported Goods Related to COVID-19](#)

[Senate Finance Committee](#)

[Grassley Urges IRS Watchdog to Educate Public on CARES Act Scams](#)

[Senate Foreign Relations Committee](#)

[Chairman Risch Calls for Independent Investigation into WHO's Handling of COVID-19 Response](#)

This email was sent to traih@fresnocog.org

[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

Simon and Company, Inc. · 1660 L Street NW · Suite 501 · Washington, DC 20036 · USA

Trai Her-Cole

From: Jen Covino, Simon and Company <jennifer.covino@simoncompany.com>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 1:41 PM
To: Trai Her-Cole
Subject: Federal Updates on Coronavirus - April 6, 2020



Federal Response to the Coronavirus Pandemic

April 6, 2020

Top Headlines

- The White House will host another briefing for State and Local Officials this Wednesday, April 8, 2020 at 1:00pm Eastern Time. You can register [here](#).
- The Small Business Administration (SBA) [issued guidance](#) to ensure faith-based organizations can participate in the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) and Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) Program. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) also released updated [resources](#) and a list of [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#) for community- and faith-based

leaders.

- Today, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced it has obligated nearly \$4.1 billion worth of federal resources.
- The agency is now referring to its public-private partnership for distribution of critical supplies as "Project Air-bridge." To date, FEMA has facilitated 10 international flights delivering Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), including 5 million surgical masks, 83.5 million gloves, and 1.2 million gowns. FEMA is prioritizing items for medical distributors serving the areas of greatest need, then the U.S. supply chain as a whole. Hospitals, healthcare facilities, and nursing homes are being prioritized. There will be 23 additional flights taking place through Saturday, April 18, 2020.
- The Administration has adopted a process to manage distribution of ventilators from the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS), which accounts for urgent needs by state and the current capacity of the private sector to meet those demands. As of yesterday, FEMA noted that the federal government had 9,800 total ventilators available, including 9,054 SNS ventilators and 900 others at the Department of Defense (DoD).
 - By Saturday, April 4, 2020, FEMA or HHS had delivered SNS ventilators to the following states:
 - New York (4,400);
 - New Jersey (850);
 - Washington (500);
 - Illinois (450);
 - Michigan (400);
 - Florida (200);
 - California (170);
 - Georgia (150);
 - Louisiana (150);
 - Oregon (140);
 - Maryland (120);
 - Alaska (60); and

- Connecticut (50).
 - DoD was expected to deliver another 300 ventilators to New Jersey yesterday.
 - FEMA and HHS are processing requests for additional allocations. Those include:
 - a 250 bed Federal Medical Station, a Public Health strike team, and an additional 300 ventilators for Michigan;
 - a 50 bed Federal Medical Station for the Metro DC area;
 - an additional 200 ventilators for Louisiana;
 - an additional 200 ventilators to New Jersey;
 - 100 ventilators for Massachusetts; and
 - 30 ventilators for Guam.
- The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [announced](#) an additional \$186 billion worth of direct [funding](#) to [States](#) most impacted by COVID-19. The funding will support the efforts of state and local public health departments for activities like "lab equipment, supplies, staffing, shipping, infection control, surge staffing, monitoring of individuals, and data management." Please coordinate with your appropriate State agency to see how they plan to utilize these funds.
- Although Congress is in recess, discussions continue on a fourth stimulus package. House Speaker **Nancy Pelosi** [distributed](#) a "Dear Colleague" letter over the weekend. It read: "CARES 2 must go further in assisting small businesses including farmers, extending and strengthening unemployment benefits and giving families additional direct payments. We must also provide the desperately needed resources for our state and local governments, hospitals, community health centers, health systems and health workers, first responders and other providers on the frontlines of this crisis." The Speaker hopes to bring a package to the floor later this month.
- The Senate and House are anticipated to return to the nation's capital the week of [Monday, April 20, 2020](#); however, Washington Mayor **Muriel Bowser** has implemented a "Stay at Home" [Order](#) through [Friday, April 24](#),

2020, . The local restrictions may impact the ability of Members to travel back or conduct business as usual, including votes.

- The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) published new guidance over the weekend on the [Pandemic Unemployment Assistance \(PUA\)](#) and [Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation \(FPUC\)](#) programs.
- Pursuant to the *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act*, the U.S. Department of Education (ED) [authorized](#) new flexibilities for schools to repurpose federal education funds for distance learning activities. States can receive flexibility for funds allocated under the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965* (ESEA), including the Title I, Parts A-D, Title II, Title III, Part A, Title IV, Parts A-B, and Title V programs.
- Bicameral leaders from the House of Representatives and Senate send a [letter](#) to the President advocating for the creation of a Special Enrollment Period (SEP) so that individuals impacted by the coronavirus can sign up for health insurance.
- The HHS Office of the Inspector General (OIG) released a [report](#) on hospital experiences responding to COVID-19. Hospitals reported that their most significant challenges centered on testing and caring for patients with known or suspected COVID-19 and keeping staff safe.
- The U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) shared [guidance](#) on Do It Yourself (DIY) cloth face coverings, following up on [guidance](#) issued by the CDC.
- The CDC [launched](#) a COVID-19 Surveillance Report, which will provide weekly virus updates, outpatient and emergency department visits, and severe disease information.
- President **Donald Trump** [nominated](#) **Brian Miller**, the current White House counsel, to serve as Special Inspector General for Pandemic Recovery. This is a new position and it will require confirmation by the Senate.
- The U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM) and Bloomberg Philanthropies will host a [webinar](#) tomorrow, Tuesday, April 7, 2020, at 1:00 p.m. Eastern

Standard Time (EST), featuring officials from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to discuss how cities can track costs and administer federal funds for the COVID-19 response.

Administration Resources

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

[Global case numbers are reported by the World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#)

[Resources for Community- and Faith-Based Leaders](#)

[FAQs for Administrators and Leaders at Community- and Faith-Based Organizations](#)

Small Business Administration

[SBA Clarifies Eligibility of Faith-Based Organizations to Participate in Paycheck Protection and Economic Injury Disaster Loan Programs](#)

U.S. Department of Education

[Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos Authorizes New Funding Flexibilities to Support Continued Learning During COVID-19 National Emergency](#)

Food and Drug Administration

[Webinar: Enforcement Policy for Personal Protective Equipment \(PPE\) During COVID-19: Immediately in Effect Guidance](#)

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

[HHS Announces Funding Action to Provide \\$186 Million for COVID-19 Response](#)

U.S. Department of Labor

[U.S. Department of Labor Publishes New OSHA Poster Aimed at Reducing Workplace Exposure to the Coronavirus](#)

[U.S. Department of Labor Publishes Guidance on Pandemic Unemployment Assistance](#)

[U.S. Department of Labor Publishes Guidance on Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation](#)

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

UPDATED: What They Are Saying: Public Officials and Stakeholders Voice Support for EPA's Discretion Policy for COVID-19 Pandemic

U.S. Department of Defense

Instructions for DIY Cloth Face Coverings

DOD Guidance on the Use of Cloth Face Coverings

DOD Coronavirus Response Webpage

Federal Reserve

Agencies announce changes to the community bank leverage ratio

House and Senate Leadership Resources

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi

Dear Colleague to All Members on Electronic Submission of Floor Documents

Dear Colleague to All Members on Next Steps on CARES Act and CARES 2

Pelosi Statement on Nomination of White House Lawyer as Inspector General for Treasury Department Implementation of CARES Act

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell

Pelosi Retreats Again After Senate Republicans Put Brakes on Liberal Wish List

House and Senate Committee Resources

Senate Finance Committee

ICYMI: Grassley Answers Questions about the Historic CARES Act

This email was sent to traih@fresnocog.org

[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

Simon and Company, Inc. · 1660 L Street NW · Suite 501 · Washington, DC 20036 · USA



HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS

Congresswoman Nita Lowey | Chairwoman

@AppropsDems
appropriations.house.gov

H.R. 6074, CORONAVIRUS PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2020

Title-By-Title Summary

This \$8.3 billion package will fully fund a robust response to coronavirus, including vaccine development, support for state and local governments, and assistance for affected small businesses.

DIVISION A – Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2020

Prepared by the Democratic staff of the House Appropriations Committee

Title I – Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies

Food and Drug Administration – \$61 million to facilitate the development and review, both pre-market and post-market, of medical countermeasures, devices, therapies, and vaccines to combat the coronavirus. This funding will help FDA maintain our national drug and device product inventory through extensive outreach to medical product manufacturers to identify and mitigate potential supply chain interruptions. Funds will also assist FDA’s enforcement work against counterfeit and misbranded products and its review of emergency use authorizations for medical products, such as diagnostics. Additionally, these resources will enable FDA to build on its efforts to strengthen the U.S. medical product manufacturing sector by supporting efforts to foster more investment and innovation in advanced manufacturing methods for drugs, devices, vaccines, and other therapies.

Title II – Financial Services and General Government

Small Business Disaster Loans – Allows \$1 billion in loan subsidies to be made available to help small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, small aquaculture producers, and non-profit organizations which have been impacted by financial losses as a result of the coronavirus outbreak. This funding could enable the Small Business Administration to provide an estimated \$7 billion in loans to these entities. In addition, provides \$20 million to administer these loans.

Title III – Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – \$2.2 billion to support federal, state, and local public health agencies to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus, including:

- \$950 million, of which \$475 million must be allocated within 30 days, to support States, locals, territories, and tribes to conduct public health activities such as:
 - surveillance for coronavirus;
 - laboratory testing to detect positive cases;
 - contact tracing to identify additional positive cases;
 - infection control at the local level to prevent additional cases;
 - migration in areas with person-to-person transmission to prevent additional cases; and
 - other public health preparedness and response activities
- \$300 million to replenish the Infectious Diseases Rapid Response Reserve Fund, which supports immediate response activities during outbreaks.
- At least \$300 million for global disease detection and emergency response.

In addition –

- The supplemental supports CDC's repatriation and quarantine efforts, laboratory testing, emergency operations, epidemiological investigations, public information, and surveillance and data analysis.

Furthermore, the supplemental includes –

- A general provision to reimburse State or local costs incurred for coronavirus preparedness and response activities between January 20 and the date of enactment of this emergency supplemental.
- A proviso to allow funds to be used for construction or renovation of facilities to improve preparedness and response capabilities at the State and local level.

Vaccines, Therapeutics, and Diagnostics – More than \$3 billion for research and development of vaccines, therapeutics, and diagnostics to prevent or treat the effects of coronavirus, including:

- More than \$2 billion for the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA) to support advanced research and development of vaccines, therapeutics, and diagnostics, prioritizing platform-based technologies with U.S.-based manufacturing capabilities.
- \$826 million for the National Institutes of Health to support basic research and development of vaccines, therapeutics, and diagnostics.
- \$300 million in contingency funding for procurement of vaccines, therapeutics, and diagnostics.

In addition –

- Requires that vaccines, therapeutics, and diagnostics developed using taxpayer funds must be available for purchase by the Federal government at a fair and reasonable price.
- Allows the Secretary of Health and Human Services to ensure that vaccines, therapeutics, and diagnostics developed using taxpayer funds be affordable in the commercial market.

Healthcare Preparedness, Pharmaceuticals and Medical Supplies, Community Health Centers – Nearly \$1 billion for procurement of pharmaceuticals and medical supplies, to support healthcare preparedness and Community Health Centers, and to improve medical surge capacity:

- Approximately \$500 million for procurement of pharmaceuticals, masks, personal protective equipment, and other medical supplies, which can be distributed to state and local health agencies in areas with a shortage of medical supplies.
- \$100 million for health services through Community Health Centers, which will support smaller health clinics across the country in under-served urban and rural areas.
- Continues support for healthcare preparedness, including the National Ebola and Special Pathogens Training and Education Center (NETEC), regional, State and local special pathogens treatment centers, and hospital preparedness cooperative agreements.
- In addition, the bill allows funding for medical surge capacity, which will increase the supply of biocontainment beds at additional health facilities.

Additional Items

- Requirement to reimburse \$136 million to programs across the Department of Health and Human Services that were temporarily transferred to support emergency preparedness and response activities at the CDC and the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response.
- \$10 million for worker-based training through the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences to prevent and reduce exposure of hospital employees, emergency first responders, and other workers who are at risk of exposure to coronavirus through their work duties.
- \$2 million for the HHS Office of Inspector General to conduct oversight of activities related to coronavirus preparedness and response.
- Authority for HHS to hire public health experts, as expeditiously as necessary, to perform critical work relating to coronavirus.

Title IV – State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs

State Operations – \$264 million for consular operations, emergency evacuations of State Department staff and dependents, and other emergency preparedness needs at embassies around the world. Increases transfer threshold for emergency evacuations from \$10 million to \$100 million.

Global Health Response – \$435 million to support health systems overseas to prevent, prepare and respond to the coronavirus, of which \$200 million is for the Emergency Reserve Fund.

Humanitarian Assistance – \$300 million to respond to humanitarian needs arising in countries coping with a coronavirus disease outbreak.

Economic and Security Stabilization – \$250 million to protect against the effects of an outbreak including economic, security, and stabilization requirements.

Oversight – \$1 million for the USAID Inspector General to perform oversight of coronavirus response activities.

In addition –

- Allows for increased flexibility to transfer funds to respond to the coronavirus.
- Requires a comprehensive strategy to respond to the coronavirus outbreak and regular reporting on the use of funding.

Title V – Bill-Wide

Technical budgetary provisions.

In addition –

- Ensures that the President cannot use funds appropriated in this bill for any other purpose, except for repayment of transfers within the Department of Health and Human Services.
- Requires enhanced Government Accountability Office oversight of funds appropriated in this bill.
- Defines coronavirus.

DIVISION B – Telehealth Services During Certain Emergency Periods

Prepared by the Committee on Ways and Means and the Committee on Energy and Commerce

Emergency Telehealth Waiver: Allows the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) to waive certain Medicare telehealth restrictions during the coronavirus public health emergency. These waivers would allow Medicare providers to furnish telehealth services to Medicare beneficiaries regardless of whether the beneficiary is in a rural community. This provision would also allow beneficiaries to receive care from physicians and other practitioners in their homes. This provision is estimated to cost \$500 million.



H.R. 6201, FAMILIES FIRST CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE ACT

Title-By-Title Summary

The legislation provides paid leave, establishes free testing, protects public health workers, and provides important benefits to children and families.

DIVISION A – Second Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2020

Prepared by the Democratic staff of the House Committee on Appropriations

Title I – Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies

Food and Nutrition Service – Includes funding to ensure the domestic nutrition assistance programs have adequate resources to help those impacted by the COVID-19 public health emergency. Funding is provided for:

- **The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women Infants and Children (WIC)** – \$500 million to provide access to nutritious foods to low-income pregnant women or mothers with young children who lose their jobs or are laid off due to the COVID-19 emergency.
- **The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)** – \$400 million to assist local food banks to meet increased demand for low-income Americans during the emergency. Of the total, \$300 million is for the purchase of nutritious foods and \$100 million is to support the storage and distribution of the foods.

In addition –

- The legislation includes a general provision that allows the Department of Agriculture to approve state plans to provide emergency SNAP assistance to households with children who would otherwise receive free or reduced-price meals if not for their schools being closed due to the COVID-19 emergency. In order to be eligible, the child’s school must be closed for no less than 5 consecutive days.
- Nutrition Assistance for U.S. Territories – \$100 million for USDA to provide nutrition assistance grants to Puerto Rico, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Title II – Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies

Emergency Paid Sick Days Program – Includes \$5 million for the Department of Labor to administer the emergency paid sick days program.

Senior Nutrition Program – Includes \$250 million for the Senior Nutrition program in the Administration for Community Living (ACL) to provide approximately 25 million additional home-delivered and pre-packaged meals to low-income seniors who depend on the Senior Nutrition programs in their communities.

This funding will provide meals to low-income seniors:

- who are home-bound;
- who have disabilities;
- who have multiple chronic illnesses;
- as well as caregivers for seniors who are home-bound.

ACL's Senior Nutrition grants are provided to States, territories, and eligible tribal organizations and serve more than 2.4 million individuals annually.

Nearly two-thirds of recipients of home-delivered meals report these meals as more than half of their food intake for the day.

Title III – Bill-Wide

Technical budgetary provisions.

DIVISION B – Nutrition Waivers

Prepared by the Democratic staff of the House Agriculture Committee

Title I – Maintaining Essential Access to Lunch for Students Act

Section 101. Short Title. The short title for the bill is the Maintaining Essential Access to Lunch for Students Act or the MEALS Act.

Section 102. Waiver Exception for School Closures Due to COVID-19. Provides the Secretary of Agriculture the authority to issue nationwide school meal waivers during the COVID-19 emergency, which will eliminate paperwork for states and help more schools quickly adopt and utilize flexibilities.

Title II – COVID-19 Child Nutrition Response Act

Section 201. Short Title. The short title for the bill is the COVID-19 Child Nutrition Response Act.

Section 202. National School Lunch Program Requirement Waivers Addressing COVID-19. Allows all child and adult care centers to operate as non-congregate (i.e. they can serve outside the school or in individual settings) and waive all meal pattern requirements if there is a disruption to the food supply as a result of the COVID-19 emergency.

Title III – SNAP COVID-19 Response Waivers

Section 301. SNAP Flexibility for Low-Income Jobless Workers. Suspends the work and work training requirements for SNAP during this crisis.

Section 302. Additional SNAP Flexibilities in a Public Health Emergency. Allows states to request special waivers from the Secretary to provide temporary, emergency CR-SNAP benefits to existing SNAP households up to the maximum monthly allotment, as well as give the Secretary broad discretion to provide much more flexibility for States in managing SNAP caseloads. Additionally, this language requires the Secretary to make State requests for waivers and the USDA response, as well as any USDA guidance on State flexibilities, publicly available online.

DIVISION C – COVID-19 Health Care Worker Protection Act of 2020

Prepared by the Democratic staff of the House Committee on Education and Labor

Section 1. Short Title. The short title for the bill is the COVID-19 Health Care Worker Protection Act of 2020.

Section 2. Findings. This section includes Congressional findings related to COVID-19.

TITLE I – COVID-19 Emergency Temporary Standard

Section 101. COVID-19 Emergency Temporary Standard. This section requires the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to issue an Emergency Temporary Standard (ETS) within 30 days, requiring employers within the health care sector -- and any other sectors which either OSHA or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) designate at elevated risk -- to develop and implement a comprehensive infectious disease exposure control plan to protect health care workers from exposure to the SARS-CoV-2 virus that causes COVID19. The ETS shall be based on the CDC’s 2007 “Guideline for Isolation Precautions: Preventing Transmission of Infectious Agents in Healthcare Settings” that was issued to protect health care workers against Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS). In addition, the ETS may not be less protective than the infectious disease precautions for novel pathogens issued by any OSHA state plan.

OSHA shall issue a permanent health and safety standard, which the Occupational Safety and Health Act stipulates shall be issued 6 months after the ETS has been issued.

TITLE II – Amendments to the Social Security Act

Section 201. Application of COVID-19 Emergency Temporary Standard to Certain Facilities Receiving Medicare Funds. This section requires that hospitals and skilled nursing facilities operated by state or local government agencies, which are not otherwise subject to the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 or a State occupational safety and health plan, shall comply with the ETS and the permanent OSHA standard required in this Act as a condition of receiving Medicare funds. A facility that fails to comply with the OSHA standards is subject to a civil monetary penalty in an amount similar to the amount OSHA may impose under the OSHA Act for a violation of a standard, but such facility is not subject to termination of an agreement with Medicare.

DIVISION D – Emergency Paid Leave Act of 2020

Prepared by the Democratic staff of the House Committee on Ways and Means

Section 101. Short Title. The short title for the bill is the Emergency Paid Leave Act of 2020.

Section 102. Emergency Paid Leave Benefits. *Amends the Social Security Act by inserting after title V the following: Title VI-Emergency Paid Leave Benefits.* This section creates a new federal emergency paid leave benefits program as Title VI of the Social Security Act, consisting of the following Social Security Act sections.

Section 601. Definitions. This section defines an “emergency leave day” as a day in which an individual is unable to work due to one of four qualifying reasons related to COVID-19:

- The worker has a current diagnosis of COVID-19.
- The worker is quarantined (including self-imposed quarantine), at the instruction of a health care provider, employer, or government official, to prevent the spread of COVID-19.
- The worker is caring for another person who has COVID-19 or who is under a quarantine related to COVID-19.
- The worker is caring for a child or other individual who is unable to care for themselves due to the COVID-19-related closing of their school, child care facility, or other care program.

It also defines other key terms including “eligible individual,” which is someone who was working in the thirty days before they were impacted by COVID-19.

Section 602. Emergency Paid Leave Benefits. This section creates a new federal emergency paid leave benefit program. Eligible workers will receive a benefit for a month (up to three months) in which they must take 14 or more days of leave from their work due to the qualifying COVID-19-related reasons. Days when an individual receives pay from their employer (regular wages, sick pay, or other paid time off) or unemployment compensation do not count as leave days for purposes of this benefit.

The program will be administered by the Social Security Administration (SSA). Specifications include the following:

- Benefit amount: Two-thirds of the individual’s average monthly earnings (based on the most recent year of wages or self-employment income for which records are readily available), up to a cap of \$4,000.
- Program and benefit period: The benefits will be available for leave that occurs from January 19, 2020 (the date of the first U.S. COVID-19 diagnosis) through one year after the bill’s enactment.
- Retroactive benefits: Benefits can be paid retroactively, and applications can be filed up to 6 months after enactment.
- Application: Applications will be taken online, by phone, or by mail. Individuals will not visit SSA field offices to apply. Payments will in most cases be issued electronically.
- Program integrity: Applicants must attest that they meet the criteria for eligibility and existing penalties for fraud or misrepresentation with regard to Social Security benefits are applied to the federal emergency paid leave benefits program.

The program will operate in coordination with other relevant benefits and leave programs, including:

- Protection of existing benefit rights: Existing benefit rights are protected, including any rights to State or local paid leave benefits, and greater benefits are allowed including under a contract, collective bargaining agreement, or other employment benefit program.
- Reduction based on receipt of state or private paid leave: Benefit amounts are offset (reduced) dollar-for-dollar by the amount of any state or private paid leave benefit the individual also receives.
- Reimbursement grants to States: States will be reimbursed for the total amount of these offsets that are due to state-run or state-mandated paid leave programs.
- No effect on eligibility for SSI: Benefits paid under this program do not count as income or resources for the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program.

Section 603. Funding and Expedited Implementation Authority. SSA will receive additional direct (mandatory) funding for both the cost of the benefits and the cost of administering the program. Treasury will receive additional direct (mandatory) funding for reimbursement of states.

Section 604. Protection of Social Security Trust Funds. Social Security’s Trust Funds and regular administrative budget will be kept separate from this new program and cannot be used to administer or fund it.

Section 605. Taxation of Emergency Leave Benefits. Benefits paid under this program are not subject to federal income taxes.

DIVISION E – Emergency Unemployment Insurance Stabilization and Access Act of 2020

Prepared by the Democratic staff of the House Committee on Ways and Means

Section 101. Short Title. The short title for the division is the Emergency Unemployment Insurance Stabilization and Access Act of 2020.

Section 102. Emergency Transfers for Unemployment Compensation Administration. This section provides \$1 billion in 2020 for emergency grants to states for activities related to processing and paying unemployment insurance (UI) benefits, under certain conditions.

\$500 million would be used to provide immediate additional funding to all states for staffing, technology, systems, and other administrative costs, so long as they met basic requirements about ensuring access to earned benefits for eligible workers. Those requirements are:

- Require employers to provide notification of potential UI eligibility to laid-off workers
- Ensure that workers have at least two ways (for example, online and phone) to apply for benefits
- Notify applicants when an application is received and being processed and if the application cannot be processed, provide information to the applicant about how to ensure successful processing.

States would be required to report on the share of eligible individuals who received UI benefits and the state's efforts to ensure access within one year of receiving the funding. The funding would be distributed in the same proportions as regular UI administrative funding provided through annual appropriations.

\$500 million would be reserved for emergency grants to states which experienced at least a 10 percent increase in unemployment. Those states would be eligible to receive an additional grant, in the same amount as the initial grant, to assist with costs related to the unemployment spike, and would also be required to take steps to temporarily ease eligibility requirements that might be limiting access to UI during the COVID-19 outbreak, like work search requirements, required waiting periods, and requirements to increase employer UI taxes if they have high layoff rates. Depending on the state, those actions might require changes in state law, or might just require changes in state policy. This section also provides temporary federal flexibility regarding those UI restrictions which are also in federal law.

Section 103. Temporary Assistance for States with Advances. This section provides states with access to interest-free loans to help pay regular UI benefits through December 31, 2020, if needed.

Section 104. Technical Assistance and Guidance for Short-Time Compensation Programs. This section requires the Secretary of Labor to provide technical assistance to states that want to set up work-sharing programs, in which employers reduce hours instead of laying employees off, and then employees receive partial unemployment benefits to offset the wage loss.

Section 105. Full Federal Funding of Extended Unemployment Compensation for a Limited Period. For states that experience an increase of 10 percent or more in their unemployment rate (over the previous year) and comply with all the beneficiary access provisions in section 102, this section provides 100 percent federal funding for Extended Benefits, which normally require 50 percent of funding to come from states. Extended Benefits are triggered when unemployment is high in a state and provide up to an additional 26 weeks after regular UI benefits (usually 26 weeks) are exhausted.

DIVISION F – Paid Sick Days for Public Health Emergencies and Personal and Family Care Act

The emergency paid sick days legislation:

- Requires all employers to allow employees to gradually accrue seven days of paid sick leave and to provide an additional 14 days available immediately in the event of any public health emergency, including the current coronavirus crisis;
- Requires all employers to provide an additional 14 days of paid sick leave, available immediately at the beginning of a public health emergency, including the current coronavirus crisis;
- Ensures paid sick leave covers days when your child’s school is closed due to a public health emergency, when your employer is closed due to public health emergency, or if you or a family member is quarantined or isolated due to a public health emergency;
- Reimburses small businesses—defined as businesses with 50 or fewer employees—for the costs of providing the 14 days of additional paid sick leave used by employees during a public health emergency;
- Enables construction employees to receive sick pay based on hours they work for multiple contractors; and
- Makes the bill effective immediately so that employees in areas covered under a qualifying Public Health Emergency, upon the date of enactment, can take 14 days of paid sick leave in order to address COVID-19.

DIVISION G – Health Provisions

Prepared by the Democratic staff of the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means, and Education and Labor

Section 101. Coverage of Testing for COVID-19. This section requires private health plans to provide coverage for COVID-19 diagnostic testing, including the cost of a provider, urgent care center and emergency room visits in order to receive testing. Coverage must be provided at no cost to the consumer.

Section 102. Waiving Cost Sharing Under the Medicare Program For Certain Visits Relating To Testing For COVID-19. This section requires Medicare Part B to cover beneficiary cost-sharing for provider visits during which a COVID-19 diagnostic test is administered or ordered. Medicare Part B currently covers the COVID-19 diagnostic test with no beneficiary cost-sharing.

Section 103. Waiving Cost Sharing Under the Medicare Advantage Program for Certain Visits Relating to Testing for COVID-19. This section requires Medicare Advantage to provide coverage for COVID-19 diagnostic testing, including the associated cost of the visit in order to receive testing. Coverage must be provided at no cost to the beneficiary.

Section 104. Coverage at No Cost Sharing of COVID-19 Testing Under Medicaid and CHIP. This section requires Medicaid to provide coverage for COVID-19 diagnostic testing, including the cost of a provider visit in order to receive testing. Coverage must be provided at no cost to the beneficiary. It would also provide states with the option to extend Medicaid eligibility to uninsured populations for the purposes of COVID-19 diagnostic testing. State expenditures for medical and administrative costs would be matched by the federal government at 100 percent.

Section 105. Laboratory Reimbursement for Diagnostic Testing for COVID-19 in Uninsured Individuals. This section requires the National Disaster Medical System to reimburse the costs of COVID-19 diagnostic testing provided to individuals without insurance.

Section 106. Treatment of Personal Respiratory Protective Devices as Covered Countermeasures. This section requires certain personal respiratory protective devices to be treated as covered countermeasures under the PREP Act Declaration for the purposes of emergency use during the COVID-19 outbreak and ending October 1, 2024.

Section 107. Application with Respect to TRICARE, Coverage for Veterans, and Coverage for Federal Civilians. This section ensures that individuals enrolled in TRICARE, covered veterans, and federal workers have coverage for COVID-19 diagnostic testing without cost-sharing.

Section 108. Coverage of Testing for COVID-19 At No Cost Sharing for Indians Receiving Contract Health Services. This section ensures that American Indians and Alaskan Natives do not experience cost sharing for COVID-19 testing, including those referred for care away from an Indian Health Service or tribal health care facility.

Section 109. Emergency FMAP Increase. This section provides a temporary increase to states' federal medical assistance percentage for the duration of the public health emergency for COVID-19. It requires states to maintain eligibility standards that are no less restrictive than the date of enactment.

DIVISION H – Budgetary Effects

Technical budgetary provisions.



Senate Passes the *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act* (S. 3548) by a Unanimous Vote of 96–0

March 25, 2020

The Senate finally released the [bill text](#) of *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act* (S.3548) or "CARES Act" a few hours ago, after nearly a week of deliberation about its provisions here in Washington, DC. The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions provided this helpful [Section-by-Section Summary](#). The legislation will provide nearly \$2 trillion in financial relief as the United States tries to mitigate the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19).

The Senate passed the bill by a unanimous vote of 96–0 a few minutes ago. Majority Leader Mitch McConnell offered some reflections on the bipartisan legislative process, saying "The Senate has pivoted from arguably one of the most contentious, partisan periods in our history to passing this [\$2 trillion] rescue package [nearly] 100–0 all in one quarter this year. It says a lot about the United States Senate as an institution and our willingness to do something to help the country."

The House will convene this Friday, March 27, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. to consider the bill. House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer indicated that the chamber expects to pass the measure by a voice vote because of state mandated stay-at-home orders, limited flight options, and Members participating in self-quarantine. The President has indicated he will sign it immediately thereafter.

Speaker Nancy Pelosi already forewarned that "this is not going to be the last bill"

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

not be until Monday, April 20, 2020, although his colleagues may need to be recalled to Washington before that time.

For now, we look forward to President Donald J. Trump signing this third package into public law. Items of concern to local government are highlighted below for your review. My colleagues and I will be there to support your team throughout the implementation of this historic legislation. We sincerely hope it offers some relief in your community. Thank you again for your patience as lawmakers arrived at this bipartisan compromise.

Coronavirus Relief Fund for State and Local Government

Section 601 of the Act will establish a \$150 billion Coronavirus Relief Fund for state, territorial, tribal and local governments. Local governments with a population of 500,000 residents are eligible to apply directly to the U.S. Department of Treasury for direct funding. Counties and cities with populations under 500,000 residents may seek resources available under the sum provided to the state government. State allocations will be determined using a formula based on population. Each state will receive at least \$1.25 billion as a floor, including a 45% set-aside of funds for local governments. Population will be determined by the most recent year for which data are available from the U.S. Census Bureau.

The Fund will offer financial relief by covering costs incurred due to the COVID-19 emergency response as revenue decline. Payments will be made within 30 days of enactment of the law. Those funds will cover: "(1) necessary expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency with respect to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19); (2) were not accounted for in the budget most recently approved as of the date of enactment of this section for the State or government; and "(3) were incurred during the period that begins on March 1, 2020, and ends on December 30, 2020."

Public Health and Emergency Response

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) will receive \$140.4 billion, including \$127 billion for the Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund. The Act will provide \$100 billion for hospitals in need of assistance and \$1.32 billion in immediate supplemental funding for our Community Health Centers. The bill will infuse \$16 billion into the Strategic National Stockpile; however, without greater availability of supplies, it is not clear how effective this major investment will be in the short-term response. The bill provides another \$1.5 billion to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to provide to state and local governments to purchase Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). When combined with the first supplemental, the total amount provided is \$2.5 billion for CDC State and Local Preparedness Grants. The measures seeks to increase the supply of PPE,

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

treatment and vaccinations. The Act also provides a 20% increase in the payment made to any hospital for treating a patient admitted with COVID-19. Finally, it calls for Public Health Data Surveillance and Infrastructure Modernization with a \$500 million investment to help build federal, state, and local public health data infrastructure.

The CARES Act will provide \$45 billion for the Disaster Relief Fund administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to support state and local efforts, including medical response and purchasing PPE, under emergency and major disaster declarations. The funding will be used to support FEMA facilities and information technology (IT). The bill also includes \$400 million for grants that can be disbursed in a timely manner for firefighters, emergency managers, and other providers of emergency food and shelter.

The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) will provide \$850 million of Byrne JAG assistance for state, local, and tribal officers responding to coronavirus. Funds will go directly to state and local governments to support criminal justice needs related to coronavirus, including "overtime for state, local, and tribal officers; personal protective equipment and supplies; and medical needs and other supplies for inmates in state, local, and tribal prisons, jails, and detention centers." There will be no match requirement.

Food Assistance

The bill will waive the *Older Americans Act* (OAA) nutrition requirements for its meal programs to ensure that meals are available and accessible for seniors when certain food supplies are not available. It also reauthorizes Healthy Start Program to provide grants to improve access to services for women and their families. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) will receive appropriations including \$8.8 billion for Child Nutrition Programs for food purchases and demonstration projects to increase flexibility for schools; \$15.51 billion for the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) to cover new waiver authorities and anticipated increases in participation; and \$450 million for the Emergency Food Assistance program for commodities and distribution through community partners, including food banks.

"Recovery Rebates"

All U.S. residents with adjusted gross income up to \$75,000 per individual or \$150,000 per married household) will be eligible for a rebate of \$1,200 per person or \$2,400 per married couple. Americans will be eligible for an additional \$500 per child. This is true even for those who have no income, as well as those whose income comes entirely from non-taxable means-tested benefit programs, such as SSI benefits. The rebate amount is reduced by \$5 per \$100 of income exceeding the

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

\$198,000 for joint filers with no children."

Unemployment Insurance

The Relief for Workers Affected by Coronavirus Act creates a temporary Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program. It authorizes payments for individuals who not traditionally eligible for unemployment benefits, including self-employed Americans, independent contractors, and others who cannot work as a direct result of this emergency through December 31, 2020.

The bill authorizes an emergency increase in unemployment compensation benefits, providing an additional \$600 per week payment to each recipient of unemployment insurance or Pandemic Unemployment Assistance for up to four months.

The Act also provides emergency unemployment relief for governmental entities and nonprofit organizations. Payments will be made to states to reimburse government agencies, nonprofits, or tribes for half of their costs incurred through December 31, 2020 to pay unemployment benefits.

The measure will offer an additional 13 weeks of benefits through December 31, 2020 for those who are unemployed after state unemployment benefits are depleted. Funding will be provided to states that choose to pay unemployment benefits for recipients as soon as they become unemployed instead of waiting one week before the individual is eligible to receive benefits.

Labor Provisions

The CARES Act provides \$345 million for the Dislocated Worker National Reserve for states and communities to respond to the workforce impacts and layoffs resulting from the coronavirus.

The bill establishes a limitation on Paid Leave so that an employer shall not be required to pay more than \$200 per day and \$10,000 in the aggregate for each employee under this section. Under Section 3602, the bill establishes a limitation on Emergency Paid Sick Leave so that an employer shall not be required to pay more than \$511 per day and \$5,110 in the aggregate for sick leave or more than \$200 per day and \$2,000 in the aggregate to care for a quarantined individual or child for each employee.

Section 3603 of the Act establishes that applications for unemployment compensation and assistance with the application process, when possible, must be accessible in two ways: in person, by phone, or online.

instances if they are rehired by the employer.

Employers can receive an advance tax credit as the bill establishes the necessary regulatory authority to implement the tax credit advances.

The Act also establishes rules to provides single employer pension plan companies with additional time to meet their funding obligations by delaying the due date for any contribution otherwise due during 2020 until January 1, 2021.

The bill will provide a refundable employee retention credit for 50 percent of wages paid by employers subject to closure due to COVID-19. This is available to employers if their operations were fully or partially suspended because of a shut-down order or if their gross receipts declined by more than 50 percent compared to the same quarter last year. The credit -- provided up to the first \$10,000 of compensation including health benefits -- will be based on qualified wages paid to the employee and incurred March 13 through December 31, 2020. The measure would allow employers and self-employed individuals to defer payment of the employer share of the Social Security tax.

Student Loans

Employers can provide a student loan repayment benefit of up to \$5,250 annually to employees on a tax-free basis. The payment would be excluded from the employee's income. It will apply to student loan payments made by an employer on behalf of an employee before January 1, 2021.

The CARES Act will provide temporary relief for Federal Student Loan Borrowers by instructing the Secretary of Education to defer student loan payments, principal, and interest for 6 months without penalty to the borrower for all federally owned loans until September 30, 2020.

Small Business Administration (SBA) Resources

The bill provides \$562 million for SBA for administrative expenses and program subsidy for the SBA Disaster Loans Program.

The Act will provide \$350 billion to create the Paycheck Protection Program to provide up to eight weeks of cash flow assistance for small businesses to cover payroll, employee salaries, paid sick leave, health insurance premiums, mortgages, and other debts. The program would provide 100% federally guaranteed loans for employers who maintain their payroll during the emergency. If employers maintain their payroll, the loans would be forgiven.

The measure creates a \$10 billion program to enable expedited access to capital for

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

maintain payroll, offer paid sick leave to employees, and cover other debt obligations.

It will provides \$17 billion to cover a new requirement that SBA will pay principal, interest and fees on new and existing SBA loan products including 7(a), Community Advantage, 504, and Microloan programs for six months.

The measure waives affiliation rules for hospitality and restaurant industry businesses, franchises approved on the SBA Franchise Directory, and small businesses with Small Business Investment Company (SBIC) program financing.

The bill also provides \$265 million in grants for SBA resources partners to offer counseling, training, and assistance to small businesses affected by COVID-19. Those include Small Business Development Centers, Women's Business Centers, Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) Minority Business Centers, and Minority Chambers of Commerce.

Charitable Contributions

The bill will allow Americans to deduct up to \$300 of cash contributions to charitable organizations or churches, regardless of whether or not the taxpayer itemizes deductions. The bill increases the cap for individuals who itemize, suspending the 50% of adjusted gross income cap for 2020, and the cap for corporations from 10% to 25% of taxable income. Deductions for contributions of food inventory will be increased from 15% to 25% this year.

Education

The bill will provide provide the Secretary of Education with new authorities to implement waivers for accountability and academic testing in K-12 settings under the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act*, except civil rights laws. The measure provides \$30.9 billion in education stabilization funding, including \$13.5 billion in formula grants for states. The funding will be provided directly to states, local school districts, and institutions of higher education to help schools, students, teachers, and families address needs resulting from COVID-19 related closures, including purchasing technology to facilitate online learning.

The bill appropriates \$3.5 billion in Child Care and Development Block Grants to states for immediate assistance to child care providers to "prevent them from going out of business and to otherwise support child care for families, including for healthcare workers, first responders, and others playing critical roles during this crisis." It appropriates \$750 million in federal grants for Head Start programs to address the coronavirus-related needs of children and families, including lost

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

With higher education, the bill allows students to defer student loan payments for 6 months. It enables students to maintain eligibility for future Pell grants and to keep unspent money from Pell grants or student loans. Finally, universities and colleges can continue to pay students for work-study programs despite being unable to work because of COVID-19 closures.

Economic Development

The U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC) Economic Development Administration (EDA) will receive \$1.5 billion to provide grants for states and communities suffering economic injury resulting from COVID-19.

Community Development

The bill appropriates \$5 billion in flexible formula assistance for local governments and states under the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program to address the COVID-19 pandemic. Grantees may services for senior citizens, the homeless, and public health purposes.

Housing and Homelessness

The bill appropriates \$4 billion for Homeless Assistance Grants to state and local governments to address coronavirus among the homeless population. It provides additional waiver authority for these grants. Grantees can provide effective, targeted assistance to contain the spread of coronavirus among homeless individuals and undertake activities to prevent homelessness for individuals and families who would otherwise become homeless due to coronavirus.

The Act provides \$1.25 billion for Tenant-Based Rental Assistance to preserve Section 8 voucher rental assistance for seniors, the disabled, and low-income working families, who will experience loss of income from the coronavirus.

The Public Housing Operating Fund will receive \$685 million to provide Public Housing Agencies (PHAs) with additional operating assistance to make up for reduced tenant rent payments and contain the spread of coronavirus in public housing properties.

The bill provides \$1 billion for Project-Based Rental Assistance to make up for reduced tenant payments as a result of coronavirus. There is \$50 million in Section 202 funding for Housing for the Elderly to maintain stability and services for low-income seniors. It provides \$15 million for Section 811 Housing for Persons with Disabilities and \$65 million for Housing Opportunities for Person with Aids (HOPWA) to be provided to local communities, states, and nonprofits for projects that benefit low-income persons living with HIV/AIDS and their families. There is

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

youth. Finally, the bill includes \$2.5 million for additional fair housing enforcement.

The Act prohibits foreclosures on all federally-backed mortgage loans for a 60-day period beginning March 18, 2020. It provides up to 180 days of forbearance for borrowers of a federally-backed mortgage loan due to the COVID-19 emergency. Applicable mortgages are purchased by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac or insured by HUD, VA or USDA insured.

The bill also provides up to 90 days of forbearance for multifamily borrowers with a federally backed multifamily mortgage loan who have experienced a financial hardship. Borrowers receiving forbearance may not evict or charge late fees to tenants for the duration of the forbearance period.

The Act improves a temporary moratorium on eviction filings for 120 days after enactment of this law. Landlord cannot initiating legal action to recover possession of a rental unit or to charge fees, penalties, or other charges to the tenant related to such nonpayment of rent. This applies if the landlord's mortgage is insured, guaranteed, supplemented, protected, or assisted in any way by HUD, Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, the rural housing voucher program, or the *Violence Against Women Act* of 1994.

Creditworthiness

The bill requires that furnishers to credit reporting agencies who agree to account forbearance, or agree to modified payments with respect to an obligation or account of a consumer that has been impacted by COVID-19. This credit protection will be available beginning January 31, 2020 and ending within 120 days of enactment of the bill or 120 after the date the national emergency declaration is terminated, whichever is later.

Community and Social Services

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) will receive \$1 billion for Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) funding for local community-based organizations to provide a wide-range of social services and emergency assistance for those who need it most.

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program will provide \$900 million to states with grants to support immediate home energy assistance for low-income households affected by coronavirus.

Congress provided \$45 million for Family Violence Prevention and Services to provide additional support to family violence shelters, and \$2 million in additional support for the National Domestic Violence Hotline.

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

disability services programs, including senior nutrition, home and community-based supportive services, family caregivers, independent living, and elder justice programs.

Transportation

The U.S. Department of Transportation will receive \$31.1 billion. That figure includes \$10 billion for Federal Aviation Administration to provide to our nation's airports through the Airport Improvement Program (AIP). The AIP funds will be distributed by formula. Another \$56 million is provided for Existing Air Service to rural communities. The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) will receive \$25 billion for transit providers, including states and local governments, for operating and capital expenses through existing FTA formulas.

Arts and Humanities

The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) will receive \$75 million for grants to help local, state, and regional communities provide continued access to cultural organizations and institutions of learning, while the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) will also receive \$75 million for grants, including funding to help local, state, and regional communities provide continued access to cultural organizations and institutions of learning.

Elections

The Election Assistance Commission will receive \$400 million for Election Security Grants to states for the 2020 election cycle.

Treasury Exchange Stabilization Fund

The Act will provide \$500 billions of authority for the U.S. Department of Treasury to provide loans, loan guarantees, and other investments. The authority will be distributed as follows:

(1) Direct lending, including:

- a. \$25 billion for passenger air carriers, eligible businesses that are certified under part 145 of title 15, Code of Federal Regulations, and approved to perform inspection, repair, replace, or overhaul services, and ticket agents;*
- b. \$4 billion for cargo air carriers; and*
- c. \$17 billion for businesses important to maintaining national security.*

(2) \$454 billion, as well as any amounts available but not used for direct lending, for loans, loan guarantees, and investments in support of the Federal Reserve's lending facilities to eligible businesses, states, and municipalities. Federal Reserve 13(3)

households, businesses, and the U.S. economy.

All direct lending must meet the following criteria:

- (1) Alternative financing is not reasonably available to the business;*
- (2) The loan is sufficiently secured or made at an interest rate that reflects the risk of the loan and, if possible, not less than an interest rate based on market conditions for comparable obligations before the coronavirus outbreak;*
- (3) The duration of the loan shall be as short as possible and shall not exceed 5 years;*
- (4) Borrowers and their affiliates cannot engage in stock buybacks, unless contractually obligated, or pay dividends until the loan is no longer outstanding or one year after the date of the loan;*
- (5) Borrowers must, until September 30, 2020, maintain its employment levels as of March 24, 2020, to the extent practicable, and retain no less than 90 percent of its employees as of that date;*
- (6) A borrower must certify that it is a U.S.-domiciled business and its employees are predominantly located in the U.S.;*
- (7) The loan cannot be forgiven; and*
- (8) In the case of borrowers critical to national security, their operations are jeopardized by losses related to the coronavirus pandemic.*

Treasury will endeavor to implement a special 13(3) facility through the Federal Reserve targeted specifically at nonprofit organizations and businesses between 500 and 10,000 employees, subject to additional loan criteria and obligations on the recipient, such as:

- (1) The funds received must be used to retain at least 90 percent of the recipient's workforce, with full compensation and benefits, through September 30, 2020;*
- (2) The recipient will not outsource or offshore jobs for the term of the loan plus an additional two years;*
- (3) The recipient will not abrogate existing collective bargaining agreements for the term of the loan plus an additional two years; and*
- (4) The recipient must remain neutral in any union organizing effort for the term of the loan.*

The Act also establishes a Congressional Oversight Commission charged with oversight of the actions of the Department of the Treasury and the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

[Subscribe](#)

[Past Issues](#)

[Translate ▼](#)

Simon and Company, Inc. · 1660 L Street NW · Suite 501 · Washington, DC 20036 · USA



★ FAMILIES FIRST ★

COVID-19 CONSTITUENT SERVICE RESOURCES TOOLKIT



NANCY PELOSI
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE



INTRODUCTION

Our nation is facing one of the gravest health and economic emergencies in over 100 years. The coronavirus pandemic has had a deep impact on every aspect of American life – and bold action is required to address the health emergency, mitigate the economic damage and provide for a strong recovery.

Since the beginning of the epidemic, House Democrats have focused on ensuring our nation's response puts workers and families first: their health, their wages and their well-being.

We have already passed and signed into law three sweeping pieces of legislation:

- The Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act
- The Families First Coronavirus Response Act
- The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

Together, these laws dramatically expand critical financial lifelines for families, establish new benefits and protections for workers, create new tools for small businesses to meet payroll and other expenses, and provide relief for students and schools.

This Families First Coronavirus Constituent Service Resource Toolkit will help you understand all the benefits that are available to you and your community – and how to access them.



NANCY PELOSI
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

INDIVIDUALS & FAMILIES



UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

- More laid-off and furloughed workers than ever before (including those new to the job market) will be eligible for Unemployment Insurance and will see an additional \$600 per week to match the average paycheck for up to 4 months of benefits. These benefits will be available immediately.
- Residents seeking more information about UI benefits should contact the state unemployment insurance program. For a list of unemployment offices by state please click [here](#).



ADDITIONAL RESOURCE:

- [***Committee on Ways & Means fact sheet & FAQ on unemployment compensation***](#)

DIRECT PAYMENTS TO INDIVIDUALS & THEIR FAMILIES

- Individuals making up to \$75,000 (\$150,000 for married workers) will receive payments of \$1,200 with an additional \$500 payment per minor child. The payments decrease ratably and stop altogether for single workers making more than \$99,000 (\$198,000 for married workers and \$218,000 for a family of four.)
- These payments will be issued by the IRS via direct deposit and will be based on 2019 or 2018 tax return or 2019 Social Security statement.
- If someone has not filed a tax return in 2018 or 2019 and does not receive Social Security benefits, the [IRS recommends](#) filing a 2018 return to receive payment. If the IRS does not have the taxpayer's bank account information, the taxpayer should look for a letter from the IRS detailing how to receive their payment.
- If you receive Social Security, retirement or other social safety net benefits, you may still qualify for direct payments. These payments will not be taxable nor represent "resources" for program eligibility purposes. Click here for more information from the [IRS](#).



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

- [***Committee on Ways & Means fact sheet & FAQ on direct payments***](#)
- [***Committee on Ways & Means FAQ on Social Security and direct payments***](#)

FOOD ASSISTANCE

• Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), more commonly known as food stamps, ensures that Americans receive the food they need, especially if they are newly unemployed. Congress has invested in SNAP in the last three bills to help Americans put food on the table during this crisis.

• **In order to apply for SNAP, contact your [state SNAP office](#) or the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food & Nutrition Services [regional offices](#) near you.**



ADDITIONAL RESOURCE:

• [***Committee on House Agriculture Fact Sheet and FAQs on anti-hunger programs***](#)

• The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women Infants and Children (WIC) provides access to nutritious foods to low-income pregnant women or mothers. **To see if you are eligible for WIC benefits [click here](#). To learn more about how to apply for WIC [click here](#). To learn about WIC in your state, [click here](#).**



ADDITIONAL RESOURCE:

• [***U.S. Department of Agriculture's Coronavirus Nutrition Response***](#)

FOOD BANKS

• Congress has now secured \$850 million in emergency funding for The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) to help food banks face increased utilization and demand in countless communities across the country due to the coronavirus. [Click here](#) for your state contacts or [find](#) a local food bank near you.

• **To find food assistance near you, call the USDA National Hunger Hotline 1-866-3-HUNGRY/1-877-8-HAMBRE**

HOMEOWNER & RENTERS PROTECTIONS

• **Mortgage Forbearance:** Homeowners with FHA, USDA, VA, or Section 184 or 184A mortgages (for members of federally-recognized tribes) and those with mortgages backed by Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac have the right to request forbearance on their payments for up to 6 months, with a possible extension for another 6 months without fees, penalties, or extra interest. **Homeowners should contact their mortgage servicing company directly.**

• **Eviction Protections:** Renters residing in public or assisted housing, or in a home or apartment whose owner has a federally-backed mortgage, and who are unable to pay their rent, are protected from eviction for 4 months. Property owners are also prohibited from issuing a 30-day notice to a tenant to vacate a property until after the 4-month moratorium ends. This protection covers properties that receive federal subsidies such as public housing, Section 8 assistance, USDA rural housing programs, and federally-issued or guaranteed mortgages. **Renters whose landlord is not abiding by the moratorium should contact the relevant federal agency that administers their housing program or their local Legal Aid office.**

ENERGY ASSISTANCE FOR LOW INCOME FAMILIES

• This legislative package includes \$900 million to help low income Americans and their families heat and cool their homes. **To learn more about the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) in your state, click [here](#).**

EMERGENCY PAID LEAVE



- Many workers in America currently have no paid leave and are being forced to choose between their paycheck, their health, and the health of the people around them.
- The emergency paid leave provisions passed by Congress and signed into law by the President are a critical step toward protecting families' financial security and mitigating the spread of the coronavirus.

Below is information on eligibility for emergency paid sick leave and paid family leave.



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

- Committee on Education and Labor Fact Sheet: Who is Eligible for Leave [link](#)
- U.S. Department of Labor [Fact Sheet for Employees](#)
- U.S. Department of Labor [Fact Sheet for Employers](#)
- U.S. Department of Labor [Questions and Answers](#)
- U.S. Department of Labor poster for [federal workers](#) and one for all [other employees](#)
- U.S. Department of Labor [questions & answers](#) document about employer posting requirements, as well as a [Field Assistance Bulletin](#) describing the 30-day non-enforcement policy.
- Treasury, IRS & Department of Labor Announcement [link](#).

SMALL BUSINESSES



SMALL BUSINESS FORGIVABLE LOANS AND GRANTS

- Congress secured \$350 billion in forgivable loans and \$10 billion in grants to small businesses, tribal business concerns, and certain nonprofits.
- Loans through a new SBA 7(a) Paycheck Protection Program can be forgiven when used for payroll costs (including paid leave, health care, and other costs) to retain workers, and other expenses such as rent, mortgage interest, and utilities. Independent contractors, sole-proprietors, and other self-employed persons are eligible for these loans.
- Small businesses can also apply for up to \$10,000 in grants to retain workers and pay for debt obligations.
- **Small businesses, tribal business concerns, 501(c)(3) nonprofits, and 501(c)(19) veterans organizations in your district should contact their lender and the Small Business Administration office directly. For a list of SBA offices by state with contact information please [click here](#).**



ADDITIONAL RESOURCE:

- [Committee on Small Business fact sheet & FAQ on provisions in the CARES Act](#)

PAID SICK AND FAMILY LEAVE TAX CREDIT

- Employers who provide required leave to their employees and who employ less than 500 employees are eligible for a tax credit to offset the costs of such leave. This tax relief will be provided against quarterly payroll taxes (those paid in connection the Form 941). **For additional guidance, please refer to the [IRS's website](#).**



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

- [Small Business Owner's Guide to the CARES Act](#)
- [Committee on Small Business: SBA State and Regional Lenders](#)
- [Lead Small Business Development Centers \(SBDCs\) by State or Region](#)
- [Women's Business Centers Master Contact List](#)
- [Committee on Small Business: The CARES Act for Small Businesses Flow Chart](#)

MEDIUM-SIZED BUSINESSES



Included in the bill is a fund administered by Secretary Mnuchin designed to provide low-interest bank financing to medium-sized businesses and nonprofits with 500 to 10,000 employees.

As of now, we do not have information about the protocols for the administration of this fund. As soon as we have this information we will provide it to you.

This toolkit will be updated with new information as we receive it.

STUDENTS & EDUCATORS



STUDENT LOAN RELIEF FOR BORROWERS

- If you have student loan debt, Congress secured **several options** outlined below for borrowers that help provide relief through September 30, 2020. During this period, a borrower will be able to:
 - Pause payments for federal student loan borrowers who have Direct Loans and Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL), which means these borrowers will not be required to make any payments toward outstanding interest or principal balance.
 - Suspend interest accrual for such loans so that these balances don't accrue.
 - Avoid forced collections such as garnishment of wages, tax refunds, & Social Security benefits.
 - Halt negative credit reporting.
 - Ensure a borrower continues to receive credit toward Public Service Loan Forgiveness, Income-Driven Repayment forgiveness, and loan rehabilitation.
- **For additional guidance on how to apply and learn about next steps as this critical relief becomes available, please refer to the U.S. Department of Education [website](#).**



ADDITIONAL RESOURCE:

- [Student Aid FAQ for COVID-19](#)

SCHOOL MEALS

- As more schools close due to coronavirus, Congress has provided emergency funding for Child Nutrition Programs to ensure students can still receive their free or reduced-price school meals during this time. **To learn more, [click here](#) to learn more about your state is doing during this time.**



ADDITIONAL RESOURCE:

- [Committee on Education & Labor FAQs on school meals](#)

STABILIZATION FUNDING FOR EDUCATION

- Congress secured \$30.75 billion in funding for school districts, states and higher education institutions to ensure state resources and investments are not diverted from life-long learning. **For additional guidance on how to apply and learn about next steps as this critical relief becomes available, please refer to the U.S. Department of Education [website](#).**

INDIAN COUNTRY



- **Indian Health Service:** Congress secured over \$1 billion in critically needed resources to the Indian Health Service (IHS). **Information on the federal response in Indian Country can be found on the [IHS website](#).**
- **Coronavirus Relief Fund:** Democrats secured an \$8 billion relief fund at the Department of Treasury to assist tribes with costs incurred in the response to the coronavirus pandemic. **For additional guidance on how to apply and learn about next steps as this critical relief becomes available, please refer to the U.S. Department of Treasury [website](#).**
- **Tribal Governance:** The legislative package provides \$453 million to the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) for essential tribal governmental and to aid individual Native Americans. **For resources and information on school closures, please visit the BIA [website here](#).**
- **Housing:** This legislative package provided \$300 million for programs within the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Office of Native American Programs. **Resources can be found [here](#).**
- **Small Business:** The legislative package makes tribal business concerns eligible for SBA loans of up to \$10 million and SBA grants of up to \$10,000 for payroll costs to retain workers (including paid leave, health care, and other costs), and other expenses such as rent, mortgage interest, and utilities.
- **Unemployment Benefit Costs:** Congress is also allowing for tribes to be reimbursed for one-half of incurred unemployment benefit costs through December 31, 2020.



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

- [*Natural Resources Committee Coronavirus Resource Center, which includes coronavirus tribal funding information*](#)
- [*Appropriations Committee fact sheet on CARES Act investments to protect the health, economic security and well-being of Native Americans*](#)

VETERANS



• Congress provided robust emergency funding to ensure the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has the equipment, tests, and support services – including setting up temporary care sites, mobile treatment centers and increasing telehealth visits to allow more veterans to get care at home – necessary to provide veterans with the additional care they need. **For further guidance as this funding and initiatives are implemented, please refer to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs [website](#).**



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

- *Additional Resource:* [VA FAQ on COVID-19](#)
- *Additional Resource:* [List of all VA Medical Centers](#)
- *Additional Resource:* Veterans Crisis Line 1-800-273-8255

SIMON AND COMPANY

INCORPORATED

Intergovernmental Affairs

1660 L Street, NW • Suite 501 • Washington, D.C. 20036

Office: (202) 659-2229 • Fax: (202) 659-5234 • www.simoncompany.com

**FROM: Jen Covino
Silvana Caldera
David Gellman**

SUMMARY: White House Coronavirus Briefing Call for State and Local Leaders

DATE: April 8, 2020

Earlier today, the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs held a coronavirus briefing call with President Donald J. Trump and other senior Administration officials for State and Local Leaders. We have summarized key takeaways from each speakers' remarks below for your review. Please let us know if you have any questions.

White House

Doug Hoelscher, Deputy Assistant to the President & Director of Intergovernmental Affairs

We encourage State, local, and tribal leaders to continue amplifying the White House "30 Days to Slow the Spread" guidance. There are initial signs that cases are leveling out but that means, as Dr. Fauci says, we need to redouble our efforts on social distancing. We have a new team member who will help to oversee the implementation of the *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act*. President Trump directed the federal government to fund 100 percent of National Guard costs. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is working hard to reduce the time it takes for States to receive personal protective equipment (PPE). As of yesterday, 20 flights have landed, and 72 flights are scheduled over the next weeks. We thank you for your hard work and partnership on fighting coronavirus.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

Eric Hargan, Deputy Secretary

As you know, we remain under 30-day social distancing guidelines extended through April 30. We appreciate the State and local leaders that have issued additional guidelines. Yesterday, HHS unveiled new steps to deploy \$100 billion in funding to support health care providers directly. We will begin an initial distribution this week based on how much relative revenue providers have received for Medicare. We anticipate that approximately 500,000 providers will receive funding in this distribution. The next allocation of funds will be for providers who do not prioritize Medicare patients and more details about those distributions will be forthcoming soon. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is working to push out \$1.5 billion in State and local

preparedness grants and put out new funding earlier this week for testing and surveillance activities. Set-asides are included in the CARES Act for tribal health needs. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) posted a Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOIA) for flexible emergency funding to State and tribal governments for mental health services. The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) is working to get their funding out the door, and the Administration for Community Living (ACL) has already disbursed some of the funds it received under the *CARES Act*.

U.S. Department of the Treasury

Dan Kowalski, Counselor to the Secretary

The Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) launched last Friday. Over 340,000 loans totaling \$90 billion have been made to date with more than 3,500 lenders participating. The Administration requested more money (+\$251 billion) yesterday out of concern that there may not be enough funds available, and we hope Congress will approve this soon through unanimous consent. Regarding Economic Impact Payments, we anticipate checks will be sent out on or around April 15, 2020. We have banking information for north of 60 million taxpayers who have already filed returns, so they will get the earliest rebate checks. We have also worked out a way to directly deposit the checks to social security recipients who would not have otherwise filed tax returns. We are establishing a “Where’s My Rebate?” portal for those not a part of the first tranche of funds, where individuals can provide their information and Treasury can speed checks to them. We are figuring out a way to use payment cards or some other mechanism for the underbanked. And, on the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF), we are in the process of developing a portal for governments that are eligible to receive payments. This will be up and running as early as Saturday of this week. We will provide guidance on eligible expenses. We are trying to be as flexible as possible. The funding will go out by April 24, 2020. Additionally, the *CARES Act* provides a refundable payroll tax credit equal to 50 percent of qualified wages that eligible employers pay their employees, with a maximum credit of \$5,000 per employee. We are also working with the Federal Reserve to develop a Main Street Business Lending Program and a State lending facility.

U.S. Department of Education (ED)

Frank Brogan, Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education

ED is currently reviewing the *CARES Act* and working on implementation, with more information to come shortly. Secretary DeVos recently announced a streamlined process for States to receive flexibility for *Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)* funds, pursuant to the *CARES Act*, for distance learning activities. States will receive initial determinations in one business day. See ed.gov/coronavirus for more information. The waiver template should be completed by the chief State school officer and emailed to ED at oes.title1-A@ed.gov. We have already received 28 state waiver requests that have been approved and returned. ED also announced state waivers for certain testing requirements, and Secretary DeVos approved waivers for all 50 states and the District of Columbia. ED published guidance for flexibilities and regulatory relief for institutions of higher education (IHEs) and students through June 30, waiving

requirements on academic terms, approved leaves of absence, distance education, and student aid verification. Any grants or loan aid will not be counted against students when determining eligibility for needs-based aid programs. Please reach out to Covid-19@ed.gov if we can answer any additional questions.

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

Brian Montgomery, Assistant Secretary for Housing

HUD recently announced \$3 billion in supplemental housing funding through the CBDG, ESG, and HOPWA programs, as well as an additional \$200 million in Indian Housing Block Grants (IHBG). We are providing flexibility in how grantees can utilize HOME, CDBG, and other funds, so please work with HUD on any of these efforts. Section 8 housing assistance funds will continue to operate during this time of uncertainty. Project-based rental assistance contracts, Section 202 contracts, and Section 808 contracts were fully funded before the outbreak. The *CARES Act* enables payment forbearance for federally-backed mortgages, requires a foreclosure and eviction moratorium for homeowners with such mortgages, and imposes an eviction moratorium for renters in federally-supported housing. Homeowners have the right to receive forbearance relief for six months, with an additional six-month extension available. FHA has prioritized standalone partial claims, and lenders are required to provide other loss mitigation options. We are also allowing new originations virtually for lenders and homeowners. Finally, Ginnie Mae has developed a facility for liquidity issuers, which will be active later today or tomorrow.

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)

Joby Young, Chief of Staff

USDA developed a matrix in its rural development mission area for rural communities, which will be up shortly on the Rural Development (RD) coronavirus website. The food supply chain has remained resilient, and it has been labeled as a critical infrastructure sector. See [USDA.gov/coronavirus](https://www.usda.gov/coronavirus) for Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on the PPP related to the agriculture industry. On the *CARES Act* front, we are working to put together the enacted relief program for farmers. We extended the application window for the ReConnect program to April 15 and will augment grant awards for qualified applicants. We will administer the increases to rural businesses in April and May. The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) Distance Learning and Telemedicine program received a plus up, and we will open that opportunity on April 13 with a three-month application window. Along with our colleagues at HUD, we also provided a 60-day window of relief on forbearances for eligible entities under our jurisdiction.

U.S. Department of Labor

John Pallasch, Assistant Secretary for Employment and Training

DOL has deployed \$465 million for increased unemployment insurance (UI) payments under the *Families First Coronavirus Response Act*. We put out an initial UI program letter (UIPL), and 52 states and territories have taken advantage of these flexibilities. We recently

published guidance on the Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) and Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUC) programs. Federal partners will pay for States with a waiving week and local UI offices will have staffing flexibilities under the *CARES Act*. Over 10 million individuals have filed for UI over the last two weeks, and federal funds will be provided for individuals that have exhausted their benefits. Grants and benefits will be made for short-time compensation programs. The Office of Inspector General (OIG) is using *CARES Act* funds for audits and investigations. We have put out additional UIPLs on *CARES Act* UI guidance. Funding is available for States to begin making payments from the Treasury and can draw down those funds to do so. There will be a webinar at 3:00 p.m. Eastern Time (ET) tomorrow to go over the UIPL. We received applications for dislocated worker grants and will release the first \$131 million installment of those funds this week to 26 states. Finally, we are engaged on IT issues and are working with three States already on this front.

President Donald J. Trump

I would like to thank the State, local, and tribal leaders on this call for their hard work. It has been a military campaign to vanquish this disease. I would like to thank the doctor, nurses, and front-line workers; they are warriors. We are seeing signs that our strategy to slow the spread is working. Continue to tell your communities to adhere to social distancing guidelines and this will end sooner. I am pleased that \$150 billion from the *CARES Act* is going directly to States, tribes, and localities. FEMA and HHS have delivered masks, gloves, ventilators and will continue to deliver more on April 13 and in June. FEMA has made flights to deliver PPE through “Project Airbridge.” We are grateful to the communities who have shared data with the federal government. Testing is increasing and the PPP is going well; I asked Congress for more funding for this program. I think our economy is going to be stronger than ever. We are working very hard for you.

U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ)

Bill Hughes, Associate Deputy Attorney General

The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) released an availability for a supplemental funding program under the *CARES Act* on March 30 and published guidance on March 31 concerning this program that is available on BJA.ojp.gov. We are encouraging applicants to apply as soon as possible but the program closes on May 29. We will move applications in an expedited manner and will resolve applications within seven to ten days of receipt. The eligibility will be modeled after the Byrne JAG grant program and use Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 Byrne JAG grant formula to determine eligibility. We streamlined information requirements for subgrant awards so applicants can provide this to BJA at a later date. There is a list of allowable products and purchases available on BJA’s website but this is flexible.

U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC)

Anthony Foti, Assistant Secretary

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) will distribute fisheries assistance from *CARES Act* soon; we are collecting information from fisheries now. The Economic Development Administration (EDA) will provide information on their grants from the *CARES Act* soon. The majority of EDA funds will be distributed to regional offices, so we encourage you to contact your regional offices about those funds. Grants from the Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) are also coming soon. See Doc.gov for more information.

U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT)

Joel Szabat, Acting Under Secretary and Assistant Secretary for Aviation and International Affairs

We are encouraged that the American transportation system is still working in these times. We provided temporary waivers for food trucks to operate at rest stops for truckers. DOT has already begun distributing transit funds for operating and other expenses during the pandemic, and transit operators have already begun to apply for those grants. Rural applicants will receive funds faster because they apply directly to DOT; urban applicants must first be reviewed by DOL but that will be expedited. We will soon distribute \$10 billion through the Airport Improvement Program (AIP) to defray operating costs and payments on debts for airports. We will make these funds available by April 17, 2020. Amtrak recently accepted \$1 billion in *CARES Act* funds, which includes a \$239 million subsidy for State-supported services. We are providing technical support to airlines and issued a final order yesterday on service obligations for air carriers receiving financial relief through the *CARES Act*

**Bloomberg
Philanthropies**

**COVID-19
LOCAL
RESPONSE
INITIATIVE**



**THE UNITED STATES
CONFERENCE OF MAYORS**

CITY FISCAL TRACKING AND FEDERAL REIMBURSEMENT INITIATIVE

Webinar

Tuesday, April 7, 2020

1:00PM EDT



PART I: INSIDER'S GUIDE TO COVID-19 ASSISTANCE

MAXIMIZING FEDERAL ASSISTANCE

OUR EXPERTS



BRAD GAIR

PRINCIPAL

bgair@wittobriens.com

25+ Years Of Experience
City/County/Federal
Government, including
FEMA & NYC



JONATHAN HOYES

NATIONAL DIRECTOR
GOVERNMENT SERVICES

jhoyes@wittobriens.com

Former Director FEMA's
Public Assistance Division
25+ Years Of Experience



BILL ROCHE

PROGRAM MANAGER
FEDERAL ASSISTANCE

wroche@wittobriens.com

Former FEMA Deputy
Regional Administrator
25+ Years Of Experience

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN IN THE NEXT 20-MINUTES



How do I get FEMA funding – fast?



How can I maximize FEMA COVID-19 funding?



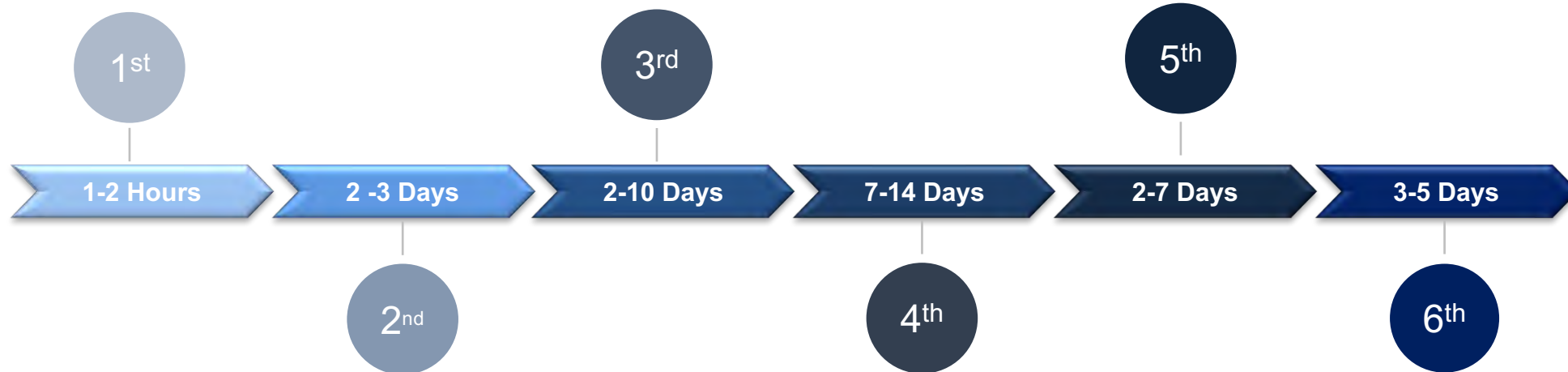
How about all of this other federal COVID-19 aid?

HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO GET FEMA ASSISTANCE?

Submit A
Request For Public
Assistance (RPA)

Develop and submit
"Expedited PW"
(Project Worksheet)

-Sign Final Grant Agreement
-Funds Obligated



Estimate your eligible costs
over the first 90-days

FEMA and State Recipient
Review Documents
-May Request More Info-
(RFI)

-Funds Disbursed to State
-State Disburses Funds
to Applicant

CASH FLOW: KEYS TO GET FUNDING FASTER

- Develop an estimate for eligible and expected costs by type for the next 60-90 days
- Request an “Expedited PW” for up to 50% of the total approved project value
- Avoid back-and-forth with FEMA “Requests for Information (RFIs)” by submitting complete and accurate documentation
- Provide clear descriptions of each actions taken to protect public and produced detailed estimates
- Ensure submitted items are in the correct format, use the right terminology, and contain only eligible items



FEMA PUBLIC ASSISTANCE FOR COVID-19

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS

During a pandemic, maintaining essential government services is critical. However, not all costs incurred during a pandemic are automatically eligible for FEMA reimbursement.

For FEMA Eligibility:

- Emergency Protective Measures, i.e. eliminating or lessening immediate threats to lives, public health or safety.
- Services must be directly related to, not just because of, the emergency.
- Measures must be prudent and cost reasonable.
- Do not wait for FEMA approval to implement critical life safety measures.
- Avoid Duplication of Benefits (Insurance, other State/Federal funding, etc.)

Some COVID-19 response strategies that could be FEMA eligible:




- Non-Congregate Sheltering of “At-Risk” populations
- Temporary hospital/clinical space
- Emergency transportation services in lieu of public transport
- Emergency delivery of food, supplies



**There are many
opportunities to creatively
leverage FEMA funding**





FEMA FUNDING ELIGIBILITY

GENERAL GUIDELINES BY TYPE OF EXPENSE

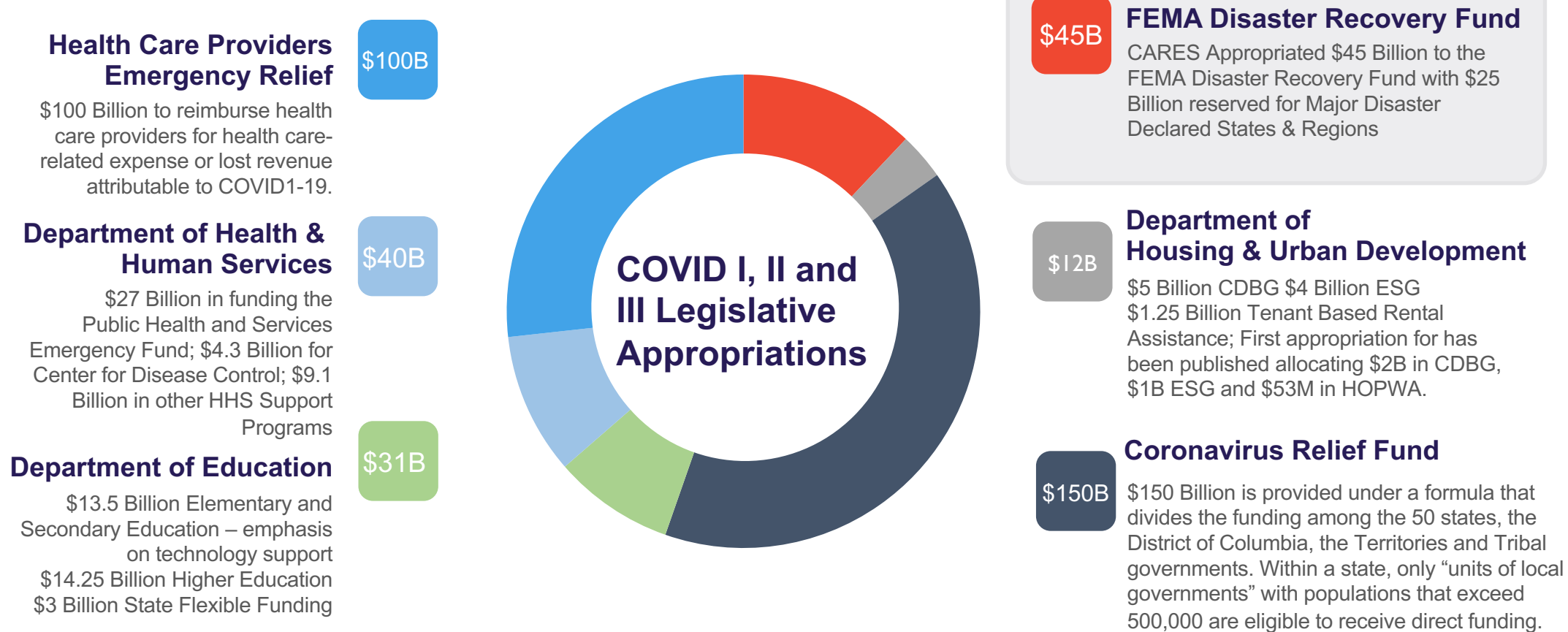
Expense Category	Eligibility	What you need to know
Staff Time & Administrative Costs		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overtime pay is eligible as long as it is consistent with your HR policy • Straight time is generally not eligible • Special rules apply for temporary labor, contractors and full time staff working outside normal job titles
Temporary Facilities		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eligible if required in direct response to COVID-19, including temporary hospital/clinical space • Must be completed for use during the emergency period • Should be built to code whenever possible and can either be returned to pre-use condition or continue to be used after the emergency period.
Purchasing Supplies, Materials & Equipment		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPE and other essential supplies are eligible • It is ok to overestimate the need within reason; FEMA will allow you to keep or pay to restock excess • For major equipment, it may be ok to purchase vs. rent if the equipment is not readily available for rent or the likely rental cost over time is close to the purchase price; although FEMA may deduct residual value • First and foremost, follow your own city's procurement rules

FEMA FUNDING ELIGIBILITY

GENERAL GUIDELINES BY TYPE OF EXPENSE (CONTINUED)

Expense Category	Eligibility	What you need to know
Business Related & Operating Expenses		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ineligible for FEMA funding • CARES Act includes funding for HHS, SBA, HUD, DOA and others that may cover business related cost/losses
Coordination, Communication, Information Sharing / Emergency Operations Center (EOC)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Costs related to your EOC and any communications or guidance related COVID-19 are eligible • Some teleworking solutions to ensure continuous critical services for health and safety may be eligible
Emergency & Public Transportation Costs		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Costs related to transporting (and pre-positioning) resources, food and essential commodities, emergency supplies, staff and residents are eligible
Social Distancing & Quarantine Enforcement Measures		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Costs related to quarantine, shelter-in-place, social distancing, or self-isolation may be eligible, including Non-Congregate Sheltering for “at risk” populations • Cleaning and disinfecting facilities and equipment and implementing social distancing are eligible

WHAT ABOUT ALL OF THIS OTHER FEDERAL AID?



WHO PAYS FOR WHAT?

DON'T WAIT ON APPROVAL IF THERE IS AN URGENT
LIFE & SAFETY NEED

Ultimately, there are multiple funding streams that can be used to reimburse items related to COVID-19 response. If there is pressing measure that is directly related to protecting life and safety of residents, **do not wait for FEMA approval to enact it.**

As you work through the administrative component of seeking reimbursement, apply this simple test when determining which funding source you should pursue:

State Funded?

Is the function, or program already state funded?

DHHS or CDC Funded?

Does the function already receive funding from DHHS or CDC?

FEMA Funded

Measures taken and costs incurred directly related to COVID-19 response that are not covered by DHHS, CDC, or another Federal agency may be eligible for FEMA assistance.

Consult with a
FEMA Expert



PART II: COVID-19 DISASTER RELIEF FUND OVERSIGHT

FRAMEWORK AND CHECKLIST FOR PROACTIVE MONITORING

OUR EXPERTS



STEVEN KOBRE

Co-Founder, Kobre & Kim

Steven.Kobre@KobreKim.com

Former SDNY AUSA; ADA – 25+ years experience in federal/ state/ local government; monitoring; and FEMA & HUD regulatory matters



WILLIAM MCGOVERN

Partner, Kobre & Kim

William.McGovern@kobrekim.com

Former SEC Branch Chief; ADA
25+ years experience in federal/ state/ local government; monitoring; and FEMA & HUD regulatory matters



ELLEN ZIMILES

Head of Financial Services, Guidehouse

ellen.zimiles@guidehouse.com

Former SDNY Chief of Asset Forfeiture; CEO of Daylight Forensic & Advisory – 35+ years experience in federal government; monitoring; and FEMA, VA, HHS, HUD, SBA & Treasury regulatory matters



JOSEPH DELUCA

Founding Principal, DeLuca Advisory

jdeluca@delucaadvisory.com

Co-Founder of NYC's 1st full-service integrity monitoring firm / Founding Deputy IG of NYC School Construction Authority – 35+ years experience in state/ local government; monitoring; and FEMA & HUD regulatory matters



MICHAEL CARROLL

Principal, DeLuca Advisory

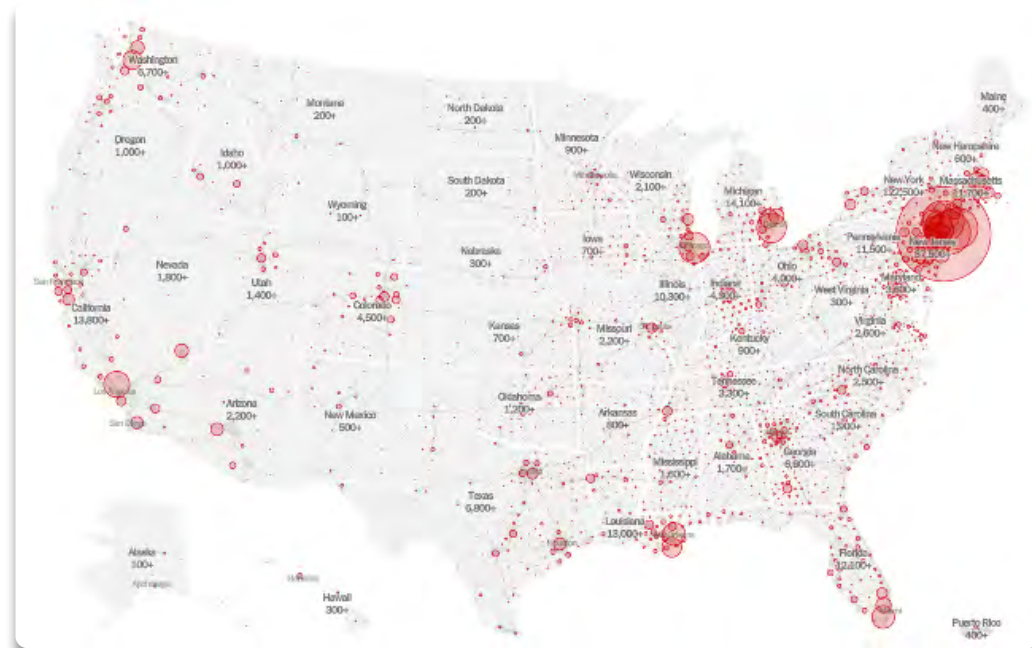
mcarroll@delucaadvisory.com

Former Deputy Com. of NYC Investigation Dept; Oversaw NYC's monitoring program – 25+ years experience in state/ local government; monitoring; and FEMA & HUD regulatory matters

MANAGING RECOVERY AID

Millions of federal aid dollars are being disbursed rapidly throughout the country.

- A. Establish and maintain a culture of integrity from Day 1
- B. Make sure all transactions have an audit trail
- C. If it's not documented, it didn't happen
- D. Cities will be held accountable in months to come, for the processes and quality of the records they keep today



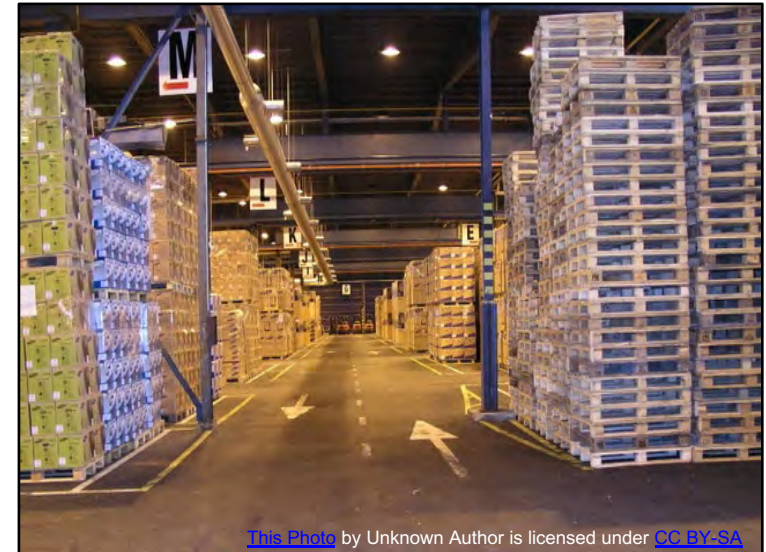
COVID-19 Map and Case Tracking as of April 5, 2020, *New York Times*

FEMA ACCOUNTABILITY PRIORITIES

- FEMA and other federal agencies are most interested in overall good process
 - Inculcate disciplined internal record-keeping at every level
 - Develop internal audit process for all invoices and inventories
 - Prepare for real-time FEMA spot audits
- Reverse engineer your record-keeping and audit processes, in preparation for FEMA's future audit/reimbursement review
- Consult FEMA's sample document retention checklist as an aid
- Assemble your team of internal and external experts



FEMA



FEDERAL FUNDS DO'S AND DON'TS

Things TO DO

- A. **DO** appoint an emergency response manager and team with clear authority and responsibilities
- B. **DO** know what is federally reimbursable
- C. **DO** document, document, document, everything
- D. **DO** create an audit trail today that you will rely on tomorrow
- E. **DO** operate as if you are already under audit
- F. **DO** use existing vendors where possible; conduct due diligence
- G. **DO** keep good timekeeping records: create COVID expense code, overtime is reimbursable
- H. **DO** constantly look for opportunities to build new and improve existing system on internal controls

Things NOT TO DO

- A. **DO NOT** assume each funding program to have the same allowable expenses and record-keeping requirements
- B. **DO NOT** assume that all expenditures will be reimbursable: they may be out of scope or have insufficient supporting documentation
- C. **DO NOT** think that documentation is something “you can get to later” because you’re too busy
- D. **DO NOT** have the same employee select vendors/suppliers, place orders, make payments
- E. **DO NOT** forgo vigilant inventory controls because of the need for swift action
- F. **DO NOT** think that you are in this alone. This is a team effort and there are peers and professional resources available

LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE PAST

- Ground Zero
- Superstorm Sandy
- Hurricanes Maria & Irma
- Hurricane Katrina
- Veterans Affairs Administration



Post-Hurricane rebuilding in Puerto Rico



Post-Hurricane Katrina FEMA trailers



Ground Zero recovery and construction

METRICS OF SUCCESS

THE VALUE OF THIS GUIDANCE

- Your federal reimbursement process will go more smoothly.
- Your vendors will be paid more quickly.
- You will identify “disallowances” in billings in real time, which are actual cost savings – a key indicator for FEMA of a successful audit system.
- Your tracking system will facilitate rapid and accurate communication, internally and to your residents.
- You will instill public confidence that you have stretched every dollar to its maximum potential for their benefit.

MANAGING RISKS

PROTECT YOUR CITY

Cities need to quickly dole out millions of dollars to various vendors while also continuing to provide essential services.

People will try to take advantage of a crisis. The desperate need for supplies and services results in bad actors who seek to exploit control weaknesses.

There are risks of:

- Theft
- Kickbacks
- Conflicts of interest
- Price gouging
- Substandard deliverables
- Waste



Price gouging indictment re PPE supplies
March 2020

COUNT ONE
(Conspiracy to Violate the Federal Anti-Kickback Statute)

From on or about November 16, 2019, through on or about March 26, 2020, in the District of New Jersey, and elsewhere, the defendant,

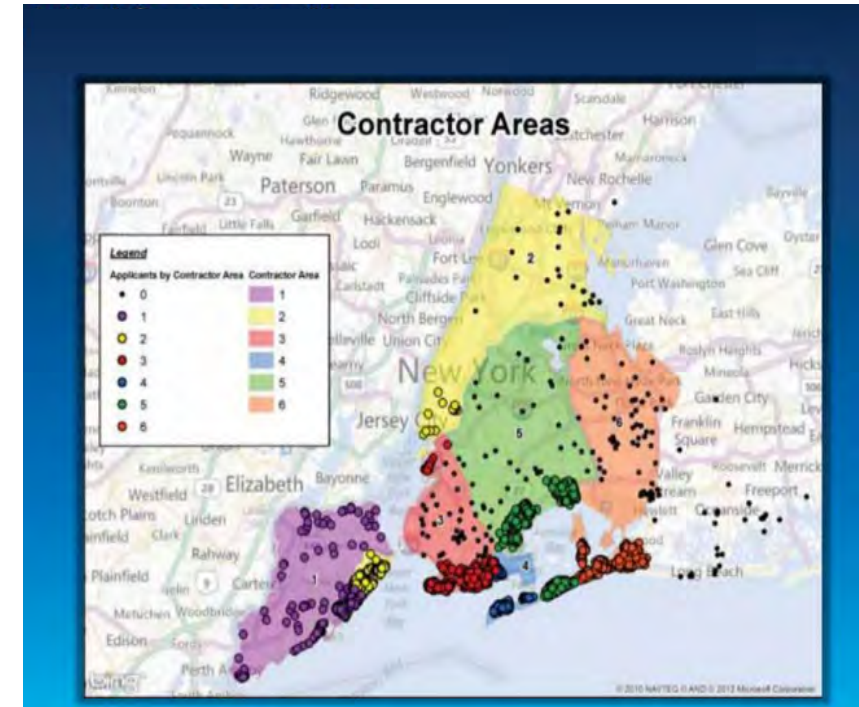
ERIK SANTOS,

...did knowingly and intentionally conspire and agree with others to commit offenses against the United States ... **kickbacks and bribes**... in return for purchasing, ordering, and arranging for, and recommending... COVID-19 testing respiratory pathogen panel tests...for which payment is... made...under a Federal health care program... namely Medicare.

Kickback indictment re testing services
March 2020

THE CASE FOR AN INDEPENDENT MONITOR/AUDITOR

- Monitors proactively provide an “extra set of eyes” in:
 - Disaster recovery situations
 - Large \$\$ infrastructure projects
- Monitors are entities with legal, auditing and investigative expertise, designated by a city to help extend oversight.
- **Monitoring fees are reimbursable by FEMA**
- Examples of Monitorships:
 - Ground Zero Clean-up following Sept 11th attacks
 - \$2+ billion Croton Water Filtration Plant
 - **Rapid Repairs Program** – rebuilt 1,000s of homes
 - Monitoring resulted in millions of dollars in cost savings from potential overcharges, waste and mismanagement.



Rapid Repairs Program Monitor Map, Superstorm Sandy

ADDITIONAL TOOLS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Identify inconsistencies between invoices and contract terms.
2. While moving expeditiously, don't forget due diligence.
3. Plan for field audits, especially on construction projects – “boots on the ground.”
4. Set up a hotline.
5. **Train vendors/contractors and municipal employees** on contract and federal program requirements. Training should be continuous, interactive, and encourage regular feedback.



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY](#)

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- These controls will **enhance the quality of your city's response** and enable you to maximize tax dollars for your residents.
- Monitoring can catch fiscal and safety-related issues before they become bigger problems.
- **You can keep fiscal order in the midst of crisis.** It will pay dividends down the road.



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY](#)

QUESTIONS?

SIMON AND COMPANY

INCORPORATED

Intergovernmental Affairs

1660 L Street, NW • Suite 501 • Washington, D.C. 20036

Office: (202) 659-2229 • Fax: (202) 659-5234 • www.simoncompany.com

**FROM: Jen Covino
Silvana Caldera
David Gellman**

SUBJECT: Administering FEMA COVID-19 Funds: Tracking and Reimbursement

DATE: April 7, 2020

Today, the U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM), in partnership with Bloomberg Philanthropies, held a webinar outlining how cities can best deploy federal disaster funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to respond to coronavirus. Bloomberg will release an expanded resource guide later this week, but we have summarized the session below for your review.

Part I: Insider's Guide to COVID-19 Assistance

Brad Gair, Principal, Witt O'Brien's
Jonathan Hoyes, National Director, Governor Services, Witt O'Brien's
Bill Roche, Program Manager, Federal Assistance, Witt O'Brien's

FEMA has implemented the following six-step expedited process with estimated timelines for the deployment of its COVID-19 disaster assistance:

1. Submit a Request for Public Assistance (RPA)	1-2 hours
2. Estimate your eligible costs over the first 90 days	2-3 days
3. Develop and submit "Expedited PW" (Project Workload)	2-10 days
4. FEMA and State recipient review documents, with a potential Request for Information (RFI) from FEMA	7-14 days
5. Sign final grant agreement and funds obligated	2-7 days
6. Funds disbursed to State, and State disburses funds to applicant	3-5 days

Try to get your materials in order for as many of these steps as possible early on. Emergency protective measures that eliminate or lessen immediate threats to lives, public health, or safety are eligible for FEMA reimbursement. Services must be directly related to, not just because of, the emergency. Measures must be prudent and cost-reasonable. Do not wait for FEMA approval to implement critical life safety measures. Avoid duplication of benefits, such as insurance or other State and federal funding. You can start the RPA process right away. FEMA is using an expedited

project worksheet for applicants to estimate the number of hours so the agency can get out advanced payments constituting around 50 percent of funding.

Some response strategies that are eligible include non-congregate sheltering of “at-risk” populations, temporary hospital and clinical space, emergency transportation services in lieu of public transport, and emergency delivery of food and supplies.

For staff time and administrative costs, overtime pay is eligible as long as it is consistent with your human resources (HR) policy. Straight time is generally not eligible. Special rules apply to temporary labor, contractors, and full-time staff working outside normal job titles. Backfilled labor is eligible for FEMA reimbursement. Hazard and other pay may be eligible but make sure to stick within your own HR policies to do this. Sick time for staff is not eligible for reimbursement.

Temporary facilities’ costs are eligible if required in direct response to COVID-19, including temporary hospital and clinical space. They must be completed for use during the emergency period, should be built to code whenever possible, and can either be returned to pre-use condition or continue to be used after the emergency period.

Personal protective equipment (PPE) and other the purchase of other essential supplies, materials, and equipment are eligible. It is okay to overestimate the need within reason; FEMA will allow you to keep or pay to restock excess. For major equipment, it may be okay to purchase versus rent if the equipment is not readily available for rent or the likely rental cost over time is close to the purchase price, although FEMA may deduct the residual value. Follow your own city’s procurement rules. You can use procurement processes that you are already comfortable with.

Business-related and operating expenses are ineligible for FEMA funding. The *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act* includes funding for HHS, SBA, HUD, USDA and other agencies that may cover business-related costs and losses.

Coordination, communication, information sharing, and emergency operations center (EOC) costs related to COVID-19 are eligible. Some teleworking solutions to ensure continuous critical services for health and safety may be eligible.

Regarding emergency and public transportation costs, costs related to transporting and pre-positioning resources, food and essential commodities, emergency supplies, staff, and residents are eligible.

Costs related to quarantine, shelter-in-place, social distancing or self-isolation may be eligible, including non-congregate sheltering for “at risk” populations. Cleaning and disinfecting facilities and equipment and costs related to implementing social distancing are eligible. Law enforcement expenses to enforce stay-at-home-orders would generally be eligible for reimbursement by FEMA.

Do not wait on approval if there is an urgent life and safety need. Ultimately, there are multiple funding streams that can be used to reimburse items related to the COVID-19 response. If there is a pressing measure that is directly related to protecting life and the safety of residents, do not wait for FEMA approval to enact it.

Part II: COVID-19 Disaster Relief Fund Oversight

Steven Kobre, Co-Founder Kobre & Kim
William McGovern, Partner, Kobre & Kim
Ellen Zimiles, Financial Services Advisory, Guidehouse
Joseph Deluca, Principal, DeLuca Advisory Services
Michael Carroll, Emergency Management Advisor

Millions of federal aid dollars are being disbursed rapidly throughout the country. Therefore, establish and maintain a culture of integrity from day one. Make sure all transactions have an audit trail. If it not documented, it did not happen. Cities will be held accountable in the months to come for the processes and quality of the records they keep today.

FEMA and other federal agencies are most interested in an overall robust accountability process. Make sure to inculcate disciplined internal record-keeping at every level, develop internal audit process for all invoices and inventories, and prepare for real-time FEMA spot audits. Reverse engineer your record-keeping and audit processes in preparation for FEMA's future audit and reimbursement review. Consult FEMA's sample document retention checklist as an aid and assemble your team of internal and external experts. Ensure that you create an audit trail today that you will rely on tomorrow. Do not have the same employee select vendors and suppliers, place orders, and make payments. Make sure that you define success for your monitors, and that your monitors are present and visible. Ensure diligence in hiring and look to remedy any conflicts of interest.

If you follow this guidance, your federal reimbursement process will go more smoothly; your vendors will be paid more quickly; you will identify "disallowances" in billings in real time, which are actual cost savings and a key indicator for FEMA of a successful audit system; your tracking system will facilitate rapid and accurate communication, internally and to your residents; and you will instill public confidence that you have stretched every dollar to its maximum potential for their benefit.

Cities need to quickly dole out millions of dollars to various vendors while also continuing to provide essential services. People will try to take advantage of a crisis, and the desperate need for supplies and services results in bad actors who seek to exploit control weaknesses. There are risks of theft, kickbacks, conflicts of interest, price gouging, substandard deliverables, and waste. This is why having an independent monitor or auditor is important. Monitors proactively provide an extra set of eyes in disaster recovery situations and large-dollar infrastructure projects. Monitors are entities with legal, auditing and investigative expertise, designated by a city to help extend

oversight. Monitoring fees are reimbursable by FEMA, and monitoring can catch fiscal and safety-related issues before they become bigger problems.

Some additional tools and recommendations for funds oversight include identifying inconsistencies between invoices and contract terms; ensuring due diligence while moving expeditiously; planning for field audits, especially on construction projects; setting up a hotline; and training vendors, contractors, and municipal employees on contract and federal program requirements in a manner that is continuous, interactive, and encourages regular feedback. These controls will enhance the quality of your city's response and enable you to maximize tax dollars for your residents. If you can keep fiscal order in the midst of crisis, it will pay dividends down the road.