



# Coronavirus Response Legislation

## Community Services Overview

April 2, 2020

Congress has passed three laws in response to the novel coronavirus pandemic. This fact sheet provides an overview of the funding contained in those bills that directly applies to the services provided by Community Action Agencies and, by extension, State Associations. The

Congressional Coronavirus Actions	
Title	Signed
<a href="#"><u>Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act</u></a>	March 6, 2020
<a href="#"><u>Families First Coronavirus Response Act</u></a>	March 18, 2020
<a href="#"><u>Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act</u></a>	March 27, 2020

Families First Coronavirus Response Act includes appropriations for nutrition assistance and state unemployment administration grants. The CARES Act includes funding for CSBG, LIHEAP, Head Start and Housing programs, as well as recovery rebates for individuals and expanded unemployment benefits for workers.

### **Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)**

- \$1 billion to be distributed through the normal formula process
  - 90% directly to CAAs
  - 10% state discretionary, up to 5% for administration costs
- Funds carry over into the next two fiscal years, ending September 30, 2022.
- States may expand eligibility for services from 125% to 200% Official Poverty Line for supplemental funding and regular appropriations expended in FY20 and FY21 (does **not** currently apply to services provided in FY22 using supplemental funds that carry over).

### **Low-Income Heating & Energy Program (LIHEAP)**

- \$900 million to remain fully available through September 30, 2021
- 10% cap on funds that may be carried over into the next fiscal year does not apply.

### **Head Start**

- \$750 million total
- Allocated according to the ratio of an agency’s enrolled students to total Head Start-enrolled students across all agencies
- Funds allocated to agencies will not be included in future “base grant” calculations
- Part of the funding will pay for Federal administrative expenses
- Up to \$500 million of the \$750 million will be made available for operating supplemental summer programs through non-competitive grant supplements to existing grantees.

## **Nutrition Assistance**

- Women, Infants and Children (WIC): \$500 million to remain available through September 30, 2021
- Senior Nutrition Program: \$250 million for nutrition assistance for low-income seniors who are home-bound, have disabilities, or have multiple chronic illnesses.
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP): \$15.5 billion for administering any additional program benefits associated with waivers; \$100 million carve-out for the food distribution on Indian reservations program
- Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP): \$200 million
- The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP): \$850 million (\$250 million for food storage and distribution).
- Child Nutrition Programs: \$8.8 billion
- Nutrition Assistance for U.S. Territories: \$300 million
- Free and reduced-price school meals: Allows the Department of Agriculture to approve state plans to provide emergency Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) food 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.
- Nutrition Program Waivers:
  - Allows state plans to increase costs of school lunch programs to the federal government
  - Allows all child and adult care centers to operate as non-congregate
  - Allows nationwide school meal waivers in order to increase the flexibility of school meal programs
  - Allows waiver of physical presence requirement for WIC participants
  - Suspends work and work training requirements for SNAP recipients
  - Allows states to request waivers to provide temporary emergency CR-SNAP benefits to existing SNAP households up to the maximum monthly allotment for the household's size.
- **Housing**
  - Emergency Solutions Grants: \$4 billion
  - Project-Based Rental Assistance: \$1 billion
  - Tenant-Based Rental Assistance: \$1.25 billion
  - Public Housing Operating Fund: \$685 million
  - Tenant and Homeowner Protections:
    - 120-day moratorium on evictions from properties receiving federal assistance
    - 60-day foreclosure moratorium on federally backed mortgages; 180 days forbearance

## **Child Care & Development Block Grant (CCDBG)**

- \$3.5 billion to remain available through September 30, 2021.

## **Recovery Rebates for Individuals**

- \$1,200 per eligible individual and \$2,400 for eligible individuals filing jointly.
- \$500 per qualifying child (under 17 years of age).
- Credit reduced by 5% of adjusted gross income exceeding \$75,000 for individuals and \$148,000 for individuals filing jointly (complete phase out at \$99,000 for individuals and \$198,000 for joint filers).
- Eligible individuals excludes adult dependents, undocumented individuals, and individuals without a social security number or an individual tax identification number (ITIN).
- Recovery rebates are not counted as assets or resources for a period of 12 months from receipt for purposes of determining eligibility for any federal program or state/local program financed with federal funds.
- [IRS - Economic Impact Payments: What You Need to Know](#)

## **Unemployment Insurance (UI)**


- \$1 billion in grants to states for activities related to processing and paying unemployment insurance.
- Federal government will pay Extended Benefits for an additional 26 weeks in states with high unemployment who waive one-week waiting periods and work search requirements.
- Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA)
  - Expands eligibility to workers who are not currently eligible for state UI benefits, including self-employed individuals, “gig economy” employees, and independent contractors (through December 31, 2020).
- Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC)
  - Extra 13 weeks of state UI benefits in addition to what is currently provided for under state and federal law (through December 31, 2020).
- Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (PUC)
  - Extra \$600 per week for all workers eligible for state or federal unemployment compensation (through July 31, 2020).
  - Supplement does not affect Medicaid or Children’s Health Insurance Program eligibility.

## **Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)**

- \$5 billion

## **Medicaid Spending**

- Temporary increase of 6.2 percentage points in federal Medicaid assistance (FMAP) to states during the public health emergency for COVID-19.



## **Tax Filing Delay & VITA Issues**

- The IRS has extended the tax filing deadline from April 15, 2020 to July 15, 2020.
- [IRS - Notice Extending Tax Filing Deadline to July 15, 2020](#)

## **Election Protection & Vote-by-Mail**

- \$400 million for Election Administration Grants