



CORONAVIRUS SPECIAL REPORT

Updated guidance, additional information, and other COVID-19 related information from the week of April 20, 2020, for:

COUNTIES, MUNICIPALITIES, & PUBLIC ENTITIES

Key developments across federal departments and agencies of interest from this week include:

Department of Agriculture (USDA)

- On April 17, 2020, the USDA [announced](#) the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program. While no guidance has been published yet, the program is funded at \$19 billion.

Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

- Over the past month, HUD has released a litany of document related to the Community Development Block Grant Program, including:
 - April 6, 2020: A [guide](#) to CDBG eligible activities to support Coronavirus and other infectious disease response.
 - April 2, 2020: [Plans](#) to “quickly” disperse the \$3 billion CDBG funding provided under the CARES Act.
 - March 25, 2020: A [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#) document for staff costs and unused and partially utilized space.
 - March 5, 2020: A [document](#) on Eligible ESG Program Costs for Infectious Disease Preparedness.

Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

- On March 24, 2020, the Administration for Community Living (ACL) [announced](#) a grant opportunity to provide meals for older adults.

Department of Justice (DOJ)

- On April 14, 2020, the Bureau of Justice Assistance announced awards for the Byrne-Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) program. Allocations can be found [here](#), and the full funding opportunity can be found [here](#).

Department of Treasury

- On April 22, 2020, the Department of Treasury published Coronavirus Relief Fund [guidance](#) as well as a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) [document](#) for state, territorial, local, and tribal governments.
- On April 20, 2020, the Department of Treasury [published](#) updated information on funding available for state and eligible local units of government. They also published the [data sources and distribution methodology](#) for [eligible units of local government](#).

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

- On April 23, 2020, FEMA [released](#) the FY2020 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program – COVID-19 Supplemental.
- On April 13, 2020, FEMA released [guidance](#) on the FY2020 Emergency Management Grant Performance Grant Program – COVID-19 Supplemental
- On March 23, 2020, FEMA [posted](#) a Coronavirus Public Assistance Simplified Application.
- Over the past month, FEMA has also published related guidance and resources, including:
 - March 31, 2020: An [FAQ](#) on Reimbursable Non-Congregate Sheltering.
 - March 31, 2020: [Guidance](#) on Emergency Medical Care eligible for public assistance reimbursement.
 - March 20, 2020: A [fact sheet](#) on Procurement under Grants.
 - March 19, 2020: [Guidance](#) on Other Emergency Protective Measures eligible for public assistance reimbursement.

Updated guidance, additional information, and other COVID-19 related information from the week of April 13, 2020, for:

COUNTIES, MUNICIPALITIES, & PUBLIC ENTITIES

Key developments across federal departments and agencies of interest from this week include:

Department of Housing and Urban Development

- On April 10, 2020, HUD shared a press release giving housing authorities and tribes additional flexibility to focus on tenants during the COVID-19 pandemic, including providing waivers for public housing, suspending the Housing Assessment System, and the Section Eight Management Assessment Program. The release can be found [here](#), and the waiver can be found [here](#). A few notes:
 - The CARES Act also provides supplemental funding for the Public Housing and HCV programs as well as additional funding flexibilities with Operating and Capital funds for the Public Housing program.
 - HUD will publish additional guidance describing the eligible uses of these additional funds, the allowable fungibility between the Operating and Capital Funds, and the process by which HUD will distribute the funds for the public housing and HCV program.
 - HUD will also publish Implementation Notices in the very near future for both the IHBG and ICDBG programs funded under the CARES Act. These Notices will further describe eligible uses as well as the process by which HUD will distribute these funds.

Department of Labor

- On April 15, 2020, the Department of Labor [announced](#) that \$131 million in dislocated worker grants in response to COVID-19 would be distributed. Awardee information can be found [here](#).

Department of the Treasury

- On April 17, 2020, the Department of the Treasury released notification action announcing that information on the Coronavirus Relief Fund for States, Tribal governments, and certain eligible local governments is available online. The link to the notice can be found [here](#).

Updated guidance, additional information, and other COVID-19 related information from the week of April 5, 2020, for:

COUNTIES, MUNICIPALITIES, & PUBLIC ENTITIES

Key developments across federal departments and agencies of interest from this week include:

Department of Housing and Urban Development

- On April 6, 2020, the Department of Housing and Urban Development [announced](#) that they will be holding office hours in relation to COVID-19 planning every Friday at 2:30 PM. The suggested webinar to be watched before participating in office hours can be found [here](#).

Updated guidance, additional information, and other COVID-19 related information from the week of March 30, 2020, for:

COUNTIES, MUNICIPALITIES, & PUBLIC ENTITIES

Key developments across federal departments and agencies of interest from this week include:

- On March 31, 2020, the National Association of Counties (NACo) released a report outlining their analysis on the Coronavirus Aide, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The analysis highlights relevant components of the CARES Act for county governments, and the report can be found [here](#).
- On March 31, NACo sent a letter to Senate Majority Mitch McConnell and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer requesting clarity on Title IV, Sec. 601 of the CARES, centered around population sizes for localities. The letter can be found [here](#).
- On March 30, NACo provided a *preliminary* analysis of the authorized funding levels for the “State, Tribal, and Local Government Stabilization Fund,” which can be found [here](#).

Provisions included in “PHASE ONE” COVID-19 response package, [H.R. 6074](#), the Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations bill, relevant to:

COUNTIES, MUNICIPALITIES, & PUBLIC ENTITIES

Signed into law on March 6, 2020

Related Legislative and Regulatory Guidance Documents:

[House Appropriations Committee Summary](#)

Key provisions across federal departments and agencies of interest to Counties, Municipalities, & Public Entities as follows:

Health and Human Services

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – CDC-Wide Activities and Program Support
 - \$950 million for grants to or cooperative agreements with States, localities, territories, tribes, tribal organizations, urban Indian health organizations, or health service providers to tribes, to carry out surveillance, epidemiology, laboratory capacity, infection control, mitigation, communications, and other preparedness and response activities.
 - \$475 million to be allocated within 30 days of March 6, 2020.
 - For county administered public health authorities, there may be an opportunity to engage state public health offices regarding the timing and/or requirements of any sub-allocations and use of funds allocated to the state.

**Provisions included in “PHASE TWO” COVID-19 response package,
[H.R. 6201, Families First Coronavirus Response Act](#), relevant to:**

COUNTIES, MUNICIPALITIES, & PUBLIC ENTITIES

Signed into law on March 18, 2020

Related Legislative and Regulatory Guidance Documents:

[House Appropriations Committee Summary](#)

Key provisions across federal departments and agencies of interest to Counties, Municipalities, & Public Entities as follows:

Agriculture

- The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) - \$400 million in assistance to local food banks; \$300 million for purchase of nutritious foods, \$100 million for storage and distribution.

Health and Human Services

- Administration for Community Living – Aging Disability Services Programs - \$250 million
 - \$160 million for Home-Delivered Nutrition Services
 - \$80 million for Congregate Nutrition Services
 - This funding should flow through to county offices on aging who are involved with administering these programs.

**Provisions included in “Phase Three” COVID-19 response package,
H.R. 748, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, relevant to:
COUNTIES, MUNICIPALITIES, & PUBLIC ENTITIES**

Signed into law on March 27, 2020

Related Legislative and Regulatory Guidance Documents:

[Senate Appropriations Committee Summary](#)

NOTE: Relevant agencies have begun releasing guidance on accessing benefits in this bill. Timing for the guidance will vary depending on the provision.

Key provisions across federal departments and agencies of interest to Counties, Municipalities, & Public Entities as follows:

Agriculture

- SNAP – \$15.5 billion in additional funding for children, adults, and seniors. This will serve as a contingency fund in part to support increases in program participation that are expected. The contingency fund will be available through September 2021.
- Child Nutrition – \$8.8 billion in additional funding for Child Nutrition Programs in order to ensure children receive meals while school is not in session.
- The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) – \$450 million in assistance to local food banks including \$150 million for distribution of commodities.

Commerce

- Economic Development Administration (EDA) – \$1.5 billion for economic adjustment assistance to help revitalize local communities after the pandemic. Funds can be used to help rebuild impacted industries, capitalize local funds to provide low-interest loans to businesses of all sizes, and support other locally identified priorities for economic recovery.

Justice

- State and Local Law Enforcement – \$850 million for the Byrne-Justice Assistance Grant Program (Byrne-JAG). Funds will allow state and local police departments and jails to meet local needs, including purchase of personal protective equipment and other needed medical items and to support overtime for officers on the front lines. Language is included to ensure these resources go out to states and localities quickly in order to immediately respond to this crisis while avoiding Trump Administration bans on funding for sanctuary cities.

Small Business Administration

- \$562 million to ensure that SBA has the resources to provide **Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL)** to businesses that need financial support during this difficult time. These loans

will help businesses keep their doors open and pay their employees. Private non-profits are also eligible for both grants and EIDLs.

- Loans can be made based solely on credit scores.
- Loans below \$200,000 can be approved without a personal guarantee.
- Borrowers can receive \$10,000 cash advances that are forgiven if spent on paid leave, maintaining payroll, increased costs due to supply chain disruption, mortgage or lease payments, or repaying obligations that cannot be met due to revenue losses.
- Loans available to all non-profits, including 501(c)(6)s.
- Requires the SBA to pay the principal, interest, and any associated fees that are owed on covered loans (other than the new Paycheck Protection Program loans) for a six-month period starting on the next payment due. Loans that are already on deferment will receive six months of payment by the SBA beginning with the first payment after the deferral period. Loans made up until six months after enactment will also receive a full 6 months of loan payments by the SBA.

Loan Programs and Credit Facilities

- \$500 billion for loans and loan subsidies and support for Federal Reserve credit facilities.
- Allows Federal Reserve to purchase corporate, state, and municipal bonds.
- In addition to whatever other loan facilities might be created, the Treasury Secretary will “endeavor to seek the implementation” of a Middle Market loan facility for banks to provide loans to businesses and eligible nonprofits with 500-10,000 employees.
 - Interest rate will be no more than 2% with no principle or interest paid for the first 6 months.
 - Funds must be used to retain 90% of workforce at full wages and benefits through September 30, 2020 and intends to restore 90% of workforce on hand on February 1, 2020.
 - No buybacks or dividend payments through the life of the loan.
 - No outsourcing or offshoring of jobs for the life of the loan and 2 years thereafter.
 - Recipient will not abrogate collective bargaining for term of the loan and two years. Will also remain neutral in union organizing activities.
 - (NOTE: this could be one of many loan facilities created and no borrower is required to use this particular facility.)
- Federal Reserve authorized to create a Main Street Lending Facility for small and mid-sized businesses

Homeland Security

- \$45 billion for the FEMA Disaster Relief Fund to provide for the immediate needs of state and local governments to protect citizens and help them recover. Reimbursable activities may include medical response, personal protective equipment, National Guard deployment, coordination of logistics, safety measures, and community services.

- Assistance to Firefighter Grants – \$100 million for personal protective equipment.
- Emergency Management Performance Grants – \$100 million for state, local, territorial, and tribal governments to support coordination, communications, and logistics.

Health and Human Services

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention - \$1.5 billion to support States, locals, territories, and tribes in their efforts to conduct public health activities, including:
 - Purchase of personal protective equipment, surveillance, laboratory testing and contact tracing to identify additional cases; and infection control and mitigation at the local level to prevent the spread of the virus.
 - Grant funding may also be used to grants for the rent, lease, purchase, acquisition, construction, alteration, or renovation of non-federally owned facilities to improve preparedness and response capability at the state and local level.
- Head Start - \$750 million for Head Start to meet emergency staffing needs.
- Administration for Community Living – Aging Disability Services Programs - \$955 million. Of this amount:
 - \$820 million for Older Americans Act programs, including:
 - \$200 million for in-home support services.
 - \$520 million for senior nutrition programs.
 - \$100 million for family caregiver services.

Transportation

- Transit systems - \$25 billion is provided to public transit operators to protect public health and safety while ensuring transportation access to jobs, medical treatment, food, and other essential services remain available during the COVID-19 response.

Housing and Urban Development

- Community Development Block Grants - \$5 billion to enable nearly 1,240 states, counties, and cities to rapidly respond to COVID-19 and the economic and housing impacts caused by it, including the expansion of community health facilities, childcare centers, food banks, and senior services.
 - \$2 billion will be allocated to states and units of local governments that received an allocation under the fiscal year 2020 CDBG formula.
 - \$1 billion directly to states to support a coordinated response across entitlement and non-entitlement communities.
 - \$2 billion will be allocated to states and units of local government, cities and counties based on the prevalence and risk of COVID-19 and related economic and housing disruption.
 - Please note: the bill eliminates the cap on funds a grantee can spend on public services, removes the requirement to hold in-person public hearings in order to comply with

national and local social gathering requirements, and allows grantees to be reimbursed for COVID-19 response activities regardless of the date the costs were incurred.

- Emergency Solutions Grants – \$4 billion for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, and to support additional homeless assistance, prevention, and eviction prevention assistance.
 - \$2 billion to be allocated under the current formula to assist state and local governments with homelessness prevention.
 - \$2 billion to be allocated based on a new formula developed by the HUD Secretary factoring the number of homeless and those at risk of becoming homeless.
- Rental assistance - \$3 billion is included for housing providers to help more than 4.5 million low-income households made up of more than 9.6 million individuals currently assisted by HUD to safely remain in their homes or access temporary housing assistance.

Unemployment Programs

- Extend unemployment insurance by 13 weeks and include a four-month enhancement of benefits
- Unemployment compensation is available for those not eligible for regular UI, including those who may have exhausted benefits.
- An individual must provide certification that he or she is able and available to work, but is unemployed or underemployed due to:
 - Coronavirus diagnosis or presentation of symptoms and seeking medical attention.
 - A household member with coronavirus diagnosis.
 - Caring for a family member who has been diagnosed.
 - School or daycare closures and the individual is the primary child caregiver.
 - Workplace lock-down.
 - Advice from a health care provider to self-quarantine.
 - The individual was about to start a job that is no longer available because of coronavirus.
 - The individual is now the breadwinner of a household because someone has died from coronavirus.
 - The individual had to quit because of a circumstance resulting from coronavirus.
 - The individual's place of work is closed because of coronavirus.
- These provisions do not apply to an individual who can telework with pay.
- These provisions do not cover someone getting paid sick or paid family leave.
- The unemployment provisions run from January 27 to December 31, 2020.
- Receipt of assistance under the unemployment provisions shall not exceed 39 weeks unless otherwise extended.
- No one week waiting period.
- The federal government will pick up 100% of the cost.

- Upon agreement between a state, an additional \$600 per worker per week unemployment compensation payment is available.
- This compensation is 100% covered by the federal government.
- The additional payment sunsets on July 31.
- The federal government will pick up the cost for any states that waive the one-week waiting period. This sunsets on December 31, 2020.

Treasury

- Coronavirus Relief Fund - \$150 billion for states, territories, and tribal governments for expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency with respect to COVID-19 in the face of revenue declines, allocated by population proportions.
 - Distribution is based on population. No state shall receive a payment for fiscal year 2020 that is less than \$1.25 billion.
 - 45% of a state's funds are set aside for local governments with populations that exceed 500,000 allowed to apply directly to receive such funding. Certified requests are to be made to the U.S. Secretary of Treasury.
 - Certification requires a signature by the chief executive of the local government that the uses are necessary expenditures related to the epidemic, that the expenses were incurred between March 1, 2020 and December 30, 2020, and that the expenses were not accounted for in the budget most recently approved as of enactment.
- Recovery Rebates - All U.S. residents with adjusted gross income up to \$75,000 (\$150,000 married), who are not a dependent of another taxpayer and have a work eligible Social Security number, are eligible for the full \$1,200 (\$2,400 married) rebate. In addition, they are eligible for an additional \$500 per child. The rebate amount is reduced by \$5 for each \$100 that a taxpayer's income exceeds the phase-out threshold. The amount is completely phased-out for single filers with incomes exceeding \$99,000, \$146,500 for head of household filers with one child, and \$198,000 for joint filers with no children.
- Business lending and supports: \$454 billion for loans, loan guarantees, and investments in support of the Federal Reserve's lending facilities to eligible businesses, states, and municipalities.
- Creates a \$500 billion Economic Stabilization Fund that authorizes the U.S. Treasury to purchase obligations of states, local governments and political subdivisions of them, to cover losses incurred as a result of COVID-19. This allows the Federal Reserve to participate as an investor in securities that mature in greater than six months.

Election Assistance Commission

- \$400 million to provide grants to states for assistance related to COVID-19 response and the 2020 election cycle.