



## NACHSA COVID-19 Bill Summary December 22, 2020

Below is a summary of provisions affecting the unemployed and low-income families in the nearly 5,600 page bill responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. The House and Senate adopted it last evening and sent the legislation to President Trump for his signature.

Of particular note is a 15 percent increase in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefit for six months; a first-time \$50 million appropriation for state and county adult protective services programs; and, a \$25 billion allocation to assist individuals with paying rent and utilities.

The [legislative text is here](#) and a section-by-section [summary is here](#).

### Unemployment Assistance

- Provides 11 weeks of \$300 per-week emergency unemployment benefits.
- Extends expiring pandemic-related unemployment assistance, ensuring that beneficiaries of the programs who are unable to return safely to work will not exhaust the benefits before March 14, 2021.
- Protects individuals who received pandemic-related unemployment benefit overpayments through no fault of their own and are now unable to repay the funds.

### Economic Impact Payments, with Mixed Immigration Status Improvement

- Family members each will receive \$600 with a phase-down of the amount for individuals earning over \$75,000 (couples - \$150,000). Households with dependents 16 years of age and under also receive \$600 payments per child.
- Expands eligibility to mixed-status families where one spouse has a Social Security Number (SSN). These families are eligible for the economic impact payment amount for each family member with an SSN, and can claim the corresponding amount for the first round of economic impact payments when they file their 2020 taxes.
- Unlike the first round of payments, the bill does not offset or otherwise capture payments from individuals owing child support.

### Nutrition

- Temporarily increases the individual monthly Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefit by 15 percent for six months through June 30, 2021.
- Expands the Pandemic-EBT program to cover families with children in child care.
- Provides funding for The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), including funds for storage and administration, to support food banks and food pantries.

- Given COVID, waives work and other requirements for college students who are otherwise income-eligible for SNAP.
- Provides increased funding for school and child care meal programs.
- Provides support for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) to temporarily increase the value of WIC benefits to allow participants to purchase additional fruit and vegetables.
- Provides funding for senior nutrition services, including Meals on Wheels, and extends waivers providing flexibility in Older Americans Act nutrition services.
- Extends free meals reimbursement through the Child and Adult Care Food Program to young adults up to age 25 residing in emergency shelters.
- Includes additional funds for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program to provide food boxes to more senior citizens.

### **Child Care**

- Appropriates \$10 billion for a new Child Care Stabilization Fund grants program at HHS to provide grants for child care providers and families needing child care.
  - Grants would be available to child care providers that are currently open or temporarily closed due to COVID-19, regardless of whether they had previously received funding through the existing Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) program.
  - Providers could use stabilization grants for a variety of purposes, including personnel costs; sanitization and cleaning; personal protective equipment; fixed costs, including mortgage obligations, rent, utilities and insurance; and modifications to child care services as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **Foster Youth**

- Provides an additional \$350 million for the John H. Chafee Foster Care Program, (more than doubling the annual appropriation) and an additional \$50 million for education and training vouchers for youths aging out of foster care, with waivers for not meeting requirements due to COVID.
- Waives the 50 percent non-federal match for prevention services under the Family First Prevention Services Act through September 30, 2021.

### **Adult Protective Services**

- Provides, for the first time, \$50 million to support state and local adult protective agencies, with funding to states through the Elder Justice Act based on their relative share of elders.

### **Addiction and Mental Health**

- \$3.15 billion provided for the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant, the Community Mental Health Services Block Grant, tribal programs, emergency relief, and peer recovery programs and suicide prevention efforts at the CDC.
- \$1.3 billion provided to the State Opioid Response (SOR) Grants

### **Rental Assistance and Eviction Moratorium**

- Provides \$25 billion in rental assistance to states and local governments and Native American tribes through the formula established by the Coronavirus Relief Fund. Counties above 200,000 population may request the Treasury Department to receive a direct allocation.

- No less than 90 percent of the funds must be used for payment of rent, rental arrears, utilities and home energy costs, utility and home energy arrears, and related housing expenses; and up to 10 percent of the funds are available for housing stability services.
- Ensures support for the most in-need households, with a preference for households with 50 percent of area median income and below.
- Support can cover up to 18 months of arrears and prospective assistance, with prospective assistance limited to no more than 12 months.
- Extends the current CDC eviction moratorium until January 31, 2021.

## **Public Health**

### **Vaccines**

- Appropriates \$3.42 billion for direct grants for states, localities, and territories
- Allows states to use funds for tracking systems and data modernization

### **Testing and Tracing**

- Appropriates \$7 billion in direct grants for states, localities and territories, including:
  - \$3.5 billion to states, localities, and territories
  - \$2.32 billion to hot spots
  - \$827.5 million to be used at the Secretary's discretion to states. Includes authorization for grants to Federally Qualified Health Centers, Rural Health Clinics, school-based health clinics, schools, academic medical centers, colleges and universities, research labs, veterinary labs, nonprofits, Indian tribes, local governments, and other entities