



Important Info To Know About The CARES Act

HEALTH:

- **Rural hospitals and Health Care Providers**
 - o **\$100 billion** to reimburse hospitals and other healthcare providers for healthcare-related expenses or lost revenues attributable to the outbreak.
 - o **\$250 million** in hospital preparedness funding.
 - o Assists hospitals who are seeing an influx of senior with COVID-19 related illness by **increasing the Medicare reimbursement rate for these patients by 20%**.
 - o **Lifts the Medicare sequester**, which reduces payments to providers by 2 percent, from May 1 through December 31, 2020, boosting payments for hospital, physician, nursing home, home health, and other care. The Medicare sequester would be extended by one-year beyond current law to provide immediate relief without worsening Medicare's long-term financial outlook.
- **Telehealth**
 - o **Expands flexibility for states to utilize telehealth services.** This bill removes many of the burdensome regulations that will allow at-risk individuals to receive care from their home from a broad range of providers.
 - o **Expands the ability for seniors to receive care from their home** by allowing physician assistants, nurse practitioners, and other professionals to order home health services for beneficiaries, reducing delays and increasing beneficiary access to care in the safety of their home.

SMALL BUSINESSES:

- **New SBA-backed loan program** to help small businesses pay for expenses. Loans taken by small businesses to keep employees on payroll may be forgiven. 501 (c)(3)s will also be eligible for this program. Federal government will forgive 8 weeks of payroll, rent, and utilities at 100% up to 2.5x average monthly payroll.
- **\$240 million** in grants to Small Business Development Centers and Women's Business Centers to offer training, counseling, and assistance to small businesses suffering from COVID-19.
- **Expedited payment for Economic Injury Disaster Loan Grants.** Under this provision, businesses could request an advance of \$10,000 on the loan to provide covered leave, maintain payroll, and pay debt obligations.

BANKS AND CREDIT UNIONS:

- **Capital Relief for Community Banks:** The CARES Act temporarily reduces the Community Banking Leverage Ratio (CBLR) by one percent (from nine to eight percent) and allows the federal banking regulators to grant a "reasonable" grace period if any bank falls below that eight percent threshold. Today, banks are well-capitalized and strong. This change will allow community banks to deploy additional, needed capital to consumers and businesses through this time of crisis. The new standard will expire when the public health emergency ends, or by December 31, 2020, whichever comes first.
- The CARES Act temporarily suspends "generally accepted accounting principles" (GAAP) requirements for **Troubled Debt Restructuring (TDR)** classifications on loans. Many banks and credit unions are working with their customers to provide modifications to outstanding loans. These actions can strain bank and credit union balance sheets. This change will assure banks and credit unions that loan modifications resulting from coronavirus-related distress do not trigger a TDR classification or disclosure. This assurance

will further incentivize banks and credit unions to exhaust all options to support consumers and businesses. This change will expire 60 days after the public health emergency ends.

- **Relief from Current Expected Credit Losses (CECL) Standard.** The CARES Act gives banks and credit unions the option to decide whether to comply with the new ill-advised accounting standard known as CECL. Banks and credit unions have raised concerns that the new requirements will result in reserve increases that tie up capital and correspondingly reduce the supply of available credit. Currently, smaller banks and credit unions are not required to comply with the standard until 2023. The provisions in the CARES Act will give larger banks the option to free up trapped capital and will allow banks and credit unions to extend additional loans to consumers and businesses. This change will expire when the public health emergency ends, or by December 31, 2020, whichever comes first.

SHEEP AND CATTLE:

- **\$9.5 billion** to USDA's Office of the Secretary with funding "to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus" by providing support for agricultural producers impacted by coronavirus, including livestock producers (to include dairy), specialty crop producers, and producers that supply local food systems (farmers markets). Additionally, the bill replenishes \$14 billion in funding for the Commodity Credit Corporation, which is often used to stabilize, support and protect farm income and prices.
- **\$158.4 million** to Interior's Office of the Secretary to allow the Secretary to allocate resource on public lands as appropriate. This includes increased telework capacity, support for law enforcement and emergency personnel, and support for scientific needs.
- **\$70 million** to Forest Service to allow the Chief to allocate resources as appropriate, consistent with the direction provided to Interior.

AGRICULTURE:

- **U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)/OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY - \$9.5 billion.** The bill provides \$9.5 billion in emergency COVID-19 response funding to support agricultural producers impacted by COVID-19, including producers of specialty crops, producers that supply local food systems, and livestock producers.
- **FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM ON INDIAN RESERVATIONS - \$100 million.** The bill provides additional funding for low-income households living on Indian reservations and participating Indian Tribal Organizations.
- **COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION (CCC)-** The bill includes language that replenishes the CCC borrowing authority by \$14 billion. This is helpful for the WY Stockgrowers.
- **CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS - \$8.8 billion** The bill provides additional funding for food purchases and demonstration projects to increase flexibility for schools.
- **SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP) - \$15.51 billion** The bill provides additional funding for SNAP to cover waiver authorities granted in H.R. 6201 and anticipated increases in participation as a result of coronavirus.
- **THE EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM - \$450 million** The bill provides additional funding for commodities and distribution of emergency food assistance through community partners, including food banks.

USDA/RURAL DEVELOPMENT – \$145.5 million

- **RURAL BUSINESS COOPERATIVE SERVICE – \$20.5 million** The bill provides the necessary subsidy to make \$1 billion in lending authority available for the Business and Industry loan guarantee program, which provides much-needed financing to business owners that might not be able to qualify for a loan on their own.
- **RECONNECT PILOT – \$100 million** The bill provides grants for the costs of construction, improvement, or acquisition of facilities and equipment needed to provide broadband service in eligible rural areas
- **DISTANCE LEARNING, TELEMEDICINE (DLT), AND BROADBAND PROGRAM – \$25 million** The bill provides additional funding for the DLT grant program, which supports rural communities' access to telecommunications-enabled information, audio, and video equipment, as well as related advanced technologies for students, teachers, and medical professionals.

INTERIOR:

- **BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS – \$453 million** for coronavirus containment in detention facilities; aid to tribal governments; tribal welfare assistance and social services programs; information technology including teleworking capabilities; and increased staffing and overtime costs.
- **BUREAU OF INDIAN EDUCATION – \$69 million** for extended teacher and workforce salary needs; transportation needs associated with the pandemic; information technology, including teleworking capabilities; and aid for tribal colleges and universities. Separate funding is also provided to the Institute of American Indian Arts (IAIA) to respond to the pandemic.
- **U.S. FOREST SERVICE – \$70.8 million.**
 - **FOREST AND RANGELAND RESEARCH – \$3 million** to re-establish scientific experiments impacted by travel restrictions, such as the Forest Inventory and Analysis program, which is a critical forest assessment tool for states.
 - **NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM – \$34 million** for daily cleaning and disinfecting of recreation facilities, increased supply of personal protective equipment, and baseline testing for first responders.
 - **CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT AND MAINTENANCE – \$26.8 million** for cleaning of the Forest Service's administrative facilities and other facilities needs related to the coronavirus outbreak.
 - **WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT – \$7 million** to cover costs associated with additional personal protective equipment and baseline testing for first responders.
- **INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE – \$1.032 billion** to address critical response needs in Indian Country, along with the ability to transfer \$125 million for facility needs. Funding provides for medical and equipment supplies; mobile triage units; surveillance; medicines; purchased and referred care; transportation; backfilling for public health service corps; and increased capacity for telehealth and other teleworking capacity.

HUD:

- **Native American Programs – \$300 million.** These funds will be used to prevent homelessness due to lost income from the coronavirus, as well as to contain the spread of coronavirus on tribal lands. These programs provide flexibility to local tribal governments and Tribally-Designated Housing Entities to respond to local conditions and needs.