



To: CHEAC General Membership

From: [Michelle Gibbons](#), Executive Director
Betsy Armstrong, Senior Policy Analyst

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RE: COVID-19 Federal Funding Update

Today, the Senate passed the Families First Coronavirus Response Act on a 90-8 vote, and it has been transmitted to President Trump for signature. On Monday, the House of Representatives passed by unanimous consent a revised version of this legislation that originally passed the House early Saturday morning. It was characterized as a “technical corrections” bill specifically to address issues in the Medicaid reimbursement and small business tax credit sections. Congress has either passed or is working on three distinct COVID-related funding packages.

Phase One Funding

Please recall phase one COVID funding, signed into law March 6, included \$8.3 billion in funding to various federal agencies responsible for fighting the virus and included \$2.2 billion for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The measure provided funding to the National Institutes of Health for worker-based training to prevent virus exposures for health care workers and emergency first responders as well as funding to federal HHS to purchase medical supplies and any vaccines developed to treat coronavirus once available.

Of particular interest to local health departments, the first phase package included:

- \$950 million directed to the CDC to carry out surveillance, epidemiology, laboratory capacity, infection control, mitigation, communications, and other preparedness and response activities.
 - This funding has been directed to every grantee that received Public Health Emergency Preparedness funding for FY 2019, and the measure included a provision that allows States and localities to be reimbursed for costs they incurred responding to COVID-19 starting on January 20, 2020, through the date of enactment of the bill.
 - CDPH just recently released guidance to local health departments regarding the share of funds California receives (\$41,206,709).
 - CDPH is allocating 70 percent to local health jurisdictions, aligned with previous sharing ratios between the state and local health departments.
 - Similar to PHEP funding, Los Angeles county received its own federal allocation.
 - Funding will be awarded with base amounts of \$150k to LHDs and increase proportionately based on population (see attached).

- CDPH will be releasing Allocation Letters to LHDs this week.
- The allocation letter will include an invoice for the LHDs to submit to CDPH for the full amount allocated to each LHD.
- Reimbursement will be made to the LHDs within 72 hours of invoice receipt.
- LHDs will be expected to provide a simplified Spend Plan to CDPH by April 9th.
- LHDs will be expected to provide a simplified Work Plan to CDPH by April 23rd.

Phase Two Funding

[HR 6201](#) will provide approximately \$104 billion of additional federal funding to address the COVID-19 outbreak. The package includes funding to bolster unemployment insurance, provide emergency paid sick leave to some workers, and tax credits for employers that provide paid sick leave or paid family and medical leave. The bill includes the following provisions of interest to local health departments:

- **Testing.** Requires the elimination of any cost-sharing requirements for COVID-19 related testing for private health insurers on both the individual and group markets, Medicare or Medicare Advantage enrollees, Medicaid enrollees, Veterans, and Indian Health Service consumers.
- **Women, Infants & Children Program (WIC).** Appropriates \$500 million in emergency funding for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program through September 30, 2020 for impacted families. Includes a provision to waive certain “physical presence” and administrative requirements for WIC.
- **Medicaid.** Provides a temporary 6.2% increase in the federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) for all states.
- **Uninsured Individual Treatment Costs.** Appropriates \$1 billion for provider claims to reimburse costs of coverage provided to uninsured individuals being treated for COVID-related illnesses.
- **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).** Provides program flexibility in states with declared public health emergencies, including providing emergency allotments to participating households.

Phase Three Funding

Phase three of federal COVID related funding measures is being prepared by Senate Republicans and is expected to be released tomorrow (Thursday, March 19). According to press reports, the potentially \$1 trillion package is expected to include funding for the airline industry and other distressed sectors of the economy, two rounds of direct payments to Americans totaling \$250 billion, and the creation of a small business interruption loan program.