

**Federal COVID-19 Response Update:**  
**Fiscal Assistance for Vermont (known to date)**  
**Specific to Health & Human Services**  
JFO DRAFT Update 4/14/20

The following is working document of what we know to date regarding federal fiscal assistance to Vermont in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. In total, it is estimated that Vermont will receive approximately \$1.4B in assistance for a variety of issues. The following is specific to health and human Services related supports.

**COVID 1 (P.L. 116-123): THE CORONAVIRUS PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION ACT (\$8 billion)**

The bill includes:

- \$605 million nationally for state and local jurisdictions to support COVID-19 response efforts.
- **Vermont Impact:**
  - CDC Grant = **\$4.9 million**
    - Note: CARES ACT (COVID 3) appropriates another \$5.4M (listed below)
  - Congregate and Home-Delivered Meals = **\$1.2M**
    - Note: CARES ACT (COVID 3) appropriates another \$2.4M (listed below)
  - HRSA Community Health Centers = **\$683,000**
    - Note: CARES ACT (COVID 3) appropriates another \$9M (listed below)
    - A list allocations from this law to FQHCs by HRSA can be found at this link: <https://bphc.hrsa.gov/emergency-response/coronavirus-covid19-FY2020-awards/vt>

**COVID 2 (P.L. 116-127): THE FAMILIES FIRST CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE ACT**

The bill includes:

**Enhance FMAP = \$38 million (AHS estimate)**

- Estimate for January – June 2020
- Provides a temporary increase in the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) of 6.2% from January 1, 2020 through the last day of the calendar quarter in which the public health emergency was in effect.
  - Includes Medicaid disproportionate share hospital (DSH) expenditures
  - Does not include the ACA enhanced match for the newly eligible adults.
- CHIP will also see an increase in FMAP (4.34%).

**Supplemental Nutrition Program for Woman, Infants, and Children = \$938,000**

**COVID 3 (P.L. 116-136): THE CORONAVIRUS AID, RELIEF, AND ECONOMIC SECURITY (CARES) ACT (\$2 trillion)**

The bill includes:

Treasury Department

***Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF)= \$1.25 billion***

- \$150B nationally for COVID-19 response efforts to states, tribal governments, and local governments with populations of 500,000 or more.
  - Small state minimum of \$1.25B (The amount Vermont will receive)
    - Payments to be made within 30 days of enactment
    - Must be used for NEW government spending in response to COVID-19 – defined as spending that was not approved by the government recipient as of the bill’s enactment
      - For spending incurred between 3/1/20 and 12/30/20
    - Cannot be used for abortion (Hyde Amendment applies)

## HHS

### **Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund = \$54.4 million**

- The CARES Act added \$100 billion to this fund to “reimburse, through grants or other mechanisms, eligible health care providers for health care related expenses or lost revenues that are attributable to coronavirus.”
- On April 10, HHS began distributing the first \$30 billion to expedite relief to providers. Allocations to providers were based on their share of total 2019 Medicare FFS payments.
  - NOTE: It was quickly determined HHS did not account for the All-Payer Model (APM) in its methodology in determining the distributions, which was based on fee-for-services (FFS). Officials from the Agency of Human Services (AHS), OneCare Vermont, and Vermont’s Congressional delegation have been in contact with HHS officials and are hoping to remedy this discrepancy quickly. While it is not yet known what the fiscal implications of this error are, very preliminary estimates of the potential shortfall are between \$10 and \$30 million.

## Center for Disease Control (CDC)

### **State and Local preparedness Grants = \$5.4 million**

- NOTE: This is in addition to the COVID 1 bill which provided \$4.9 million (listed above)

## HRSA

### **Community Health Centers = \$8.7 million**

- NOTE: This is in addition to the COVID 1 bill which provided \$683,000 (listed above)
- A list allocations from this law to FQHCs by HRSA can be found at this link: <https://bphc.hrsa.gov/emergency-response/coronavirus-cares-fy2020-awards/vt>

## HHS – Administration for Children and Families

### **Child Care and Development Block Grant = \$4.3 million**

- To help childcare providers, and to provide childcare assistance for essential workers through the Child Care and Development Block Grant

### **Community Services Block Grant = \$5.1 million**

- To help community organizations providing social services and emergency assistance through the Community Services Block Grant

### **LIHEAP =\$4.1 million**

- To help low income household’s health and cool their homes through the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

**Family Violence Prevention = \$193,000**

**Child Welfare Services = \$86,000**

**Head Start = \$1.2 million**

HHS – Administration for Community Living

**Supportive Services = \$1 million**

**Congregate and Home-Delivered Meals = \$2.4M**

- Note: This is in addition to COVID 1 which provided \$1.2 (listed above)

**Family Care Givers = \$500,000**

**Protection of Vulnerable Older Americans = \$100,000**

**Centers for Independent Living = \$972,000**

USDA

**Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) Commodities = \$903,000**

**TEFAP Administration = \$376,000**

Homeland Security

**Emergency Performance Management Grant = \$863,000**

- To provide for the immediate needs of local and state governments and support entities performing essential services to protect citizens through FEMA's Disaster Relief Fund

**Emergency Food and Shelter Program = \$383,000**

Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

**Community Develop Block Grant = \$4.7 million**

- \$4.2M for the state
- \$450,000 for Burlington
- For the expansion of community health facilities, childcare centers, food banks, and senior services.

**Housing Assistance Grants = \$4.6 million**

- To support those who are homeless, or at risk of homelessness through Emergency Solution Grants as well as providing eviction prevention assistance
  - States will only receive half of this in the short-term.

**Public Housing Operating = \$557,000**

**Tenant-Based Rental Assistance = \$2.3 million**

## OTHER

### **Medicare Accelerated/Advanced Payment Program Expansion:**

***\$159.2 million in loans to Vermont Providers (as of April 4, 2020)***<sup>1</sup>

- In an effort to increase cash flow and resources to health care providers to combat COVID-19, CMS expanded its Medicare Accelerated/Advanced Payment Program which allows for short-term loans to providers in certain circumstances such as natural disasters, etc.<sup>2</sup> CMS has streamlined the process reducing processing times for requests from 3 to 4 weeks, to 4 to 6 days. According to CMS, the number of requests under this program went from approximately 100 requests over the last five years (mostly due to natural disasters such as hurricanes and tornados) to 17,000 requests in just one week. Providers have up to 210 days to repay these loans.
  - These loans have 10.25% interest rates

***Note: The bills also provide funds for other non-health and human service issues such as unemployment insurance, election security, educations and transportation issues, and other economic issues, which are not captured in this document.***

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<sup>1</sup> A state-by-state breakout of these payments can be found at <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/covid-accelerated-and-advance-payments-state.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Medicare's Accelerated and Advanced Payment Program is funded by the Hospital Insurance (Part A) and Supplementary Medical Insurance (Part B) trust fund.