

State, Local, and Tribal Leaders -

Thank you for joining President Donald J. Trump and Senior Administration Officials for the White House briefing call on the Administration's commitment to empower State, local, and Tribal leaders to effectively respond to COVID-19 and provide updates on CARES Act implementation. As President Trump stated, we are deeply grateful for your partnership and close coordination with the Administration in our campaign to vanquish the virus. While there are signs that our collective strategy to slow the spread is working, we are in a crucial phase, and it is important for State, Local, and Tribal leaders to remain committed to the distancing guidelines. Below, please find a recap of the call. We would also like to highlight several important announcements:

- CDC Updates Guidance Regarding Use of Cloth Face Coverings to Help Slow the Spread of COVID-19: On Friday, April 3, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued new guidance recommending individuals wear cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain (e.g. grocery stores and pharmacies), particularly in areas of significant community-based transmission. More here.
- CDC Provides Interim Guidance for Critical Infrastructure Workers Who May Have Had Exposure to COVID-19: On Wednesday, April 8, the CDC released new guidelines regarding when people in critical infrastructure roles can return to work after being exposed to a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19. The guidelines advise that critical infrastructure workers may be permitted to continue work following potential exposure to COVID-19, provided they remain asymptomatic and additional precautions are implemented to protect them and the community. More here. Additional information about identifying critical infrastructure during COVID-19 can be found on the DHS CISA website here.
- The U.S. Department of the Treasury and Federal Reserve Board Announce New and Expanded Lending Programs to Provide Up To \$2.3 Trillion in Financing: On Thursday, April 9, Treasury launched a Main Street Business Lending program and a Municipal Liquidity Facility to support the flow of credit to American workers, businesses, states, counties, and cities impacted by the coronavirus pandemic. The Municipal Liquidity Facility (MLF) will provide up to \$500 billion in direct financing to states, counties, and cities to help ensure they have the funds necessary to provide essential services to citizens and respond to the coronavirus pandemic. More here. MLF term sheet and guidance can be found here.
- **President Trump Announces #AmericaWorksTogether:** On Tuesday, April 7, President Trump announced a new hashtag to highlight Americans helping one another during the coronavirus pandemic. The President and Administration officials will use the #AmericaWorksTogether hashtag to promote companies that are hiring employees in the

middle of the economic turmoil caused by the virus and those who are donating food and other supplies to front line health care workers. The President will also encourage people to use the hashtag when posting examples of Americans helping others during the crisis. We hope that you will join the President and Administration in using #AmericaWorksTogether.



COVID-19: Important Resources for State, Local, and Tribal Officials

- Coronavirus Guidelines for America: On Monday, March 16, the White House Coronavirus Task Force issued guidelines to help protect Americans during the global coronavirus outbreak. To keep the momentum going to #StopTheSpread and #BendtheCurve, on Tuesday, March 31, the White House Coronavirus Task Force issued revised guidelines 30 Days to Slow the Spread (Español) to extend the guidance for an additional 30 days. Even if you are young and otherwise healthy, you are at risk, and your activities can increase the risk of contracting the Coronavirus for others. Everyone can do their part. The recommendations are simple to follow but will have a resounding impact on public health.
- Up-To-Date Information: The most up-to-date, verified information and guidance can be found via the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Coronavirus Disease 2019 website www.coronavirus.gov. The Coronavirus Task Force holds frequent briefings, which can be viewed live here.
- COVID-19 Response and Recovery Primer: Response and recovery efforts are locally executed, state managed, and federally supported. It is important that requests for assistance, including for critical supplies, get routed through the proper channels as soon as possible. Learn more about the response and recovery process via this important resource Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic: Response and Recovery Through Federal-State-Local-Tribal Partnership. FEMA's public assistance guidance for COVID-19 response efforts can be found here. Guidance for Tribal Governments can be found here.
- **Critical Infrastructure Workforce Guidelines**: On March 16th, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) issued updated critical infrastructure guidance in response to the COVID-19 emergency. DHS issued revised guidance on March 28th (see **Memorandum on**

Identification of Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers During COVID-19 Response). The guidance, and accompanying list, is intended to help State, local, tribal and territorial officials as they work to protect their communities, while ensuring continuity of functions critical to public health and safety, as well as economic and national security. The list is advisory in nature and is not a federal directive or standard.

- **Coronavirus Fact vs. Myth**: Rumors can easily circulate within communities during a crisis. FEMA setup a <u>website</u> to help the public distinguish between rumors and facts regarding the response to the coronavirus pandemic.
- **Fraud & Scam Protection**: The Department of Justice is remaining vigilant in detecting, investigating, and prosecuting wrongdoing related to the crisis. Find out how you can protect yourself and helpful resources on DOJ's Coronavirus Fraud Prevention **website**. The Federal Trade Commission has also established a **website** with helpful information to help consumers avoid coronavirus-related scams.
- Social Media Resources: Download the <u>Apple COVID-19 Screening Tool</u>. Follow the White House on <u>Twitter</u> and <u>Facebook</u>. Also follow HHS (<u>Twitter/Facebook</u>) and CDC (<u>Twitter/Facebook</u>) You can also find informational videos from Coronavirus Task Force members on mitigation, social distancing, etc. on the White House's <u>YouTube</u> page.
- **Mental Health Resources**: Natural disasters including such pandemics as the coronavirus outbreak can be overwhelming and also can seriously affect emotional health. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration's (SAMHSA) Disaster Distress Helpline 1-800-985-5990 (or text TalkWithUs to 66746) provides 24/7, 365-day-a-year crisis counseling and support to anyone who is seeking help in coping with the mental or emotional effects caused by developments related to the coronavirus pandemic. Learn more about the Disaster Distress Helpline here.
- Administration Actions and Federal Agency Resources: <u>USA.gov</u> is cataloging all U.S. government activities related to coronavirus. From actions on health and safety to travel, immigration, and transportation to education, find pertinent actions <u>here</u>. Each Federal Agency has also established a dedicated coronavirus website, where you can find important information and guidance. They include: Health and Human Services (<u>HHS</u>), Centers of Medicare and Medicaid (<u>CMS</u>), Food and Drug Administration (<u>FDA</u>), Department of Education (<u>DoED</u>), Department of Agriculture (<u>USDA</u>), Small Business Administration (<u>SBA</u>), Department of Labor (<u>DOL</u>), Department of Homeland Security (<u>DHS</u>), Department of State (<u>DOS</u>), Department of Veterans Affairs (<u>VA</u>), Environmental Protection Agency (<u>EPA</u>), Department of Energy (<u>DOE</u>), Department of Commerce (<u>DOC</u>), Department of Justice (<u>DOJ</u>), Department of Housing and Urban Development (<u>HUD</u>), Department of the Treasury (<u>USDT</u>), Internal Revenue Service (<u>IRS</u>), Office of the Director of National Intelligence (<u>ODNI</u>), Army Corps of Engineers (<u>USACE</u>), and U.S. Election Assistance Commission (<u>EAC</u>).

Thank you again for your partnership in this whole-of-government, All-of-America effort to defeat the coronavirus. The White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs (WH IGA) will continue to share pertinent information as it becomes available. Please do not hesitate to reach out to our office if we can be of assistance. As a reminder, WH IGA is the primary liaison between the White House and the country's State and Local elected officials and Tribal Governments.

The White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs

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White House COVID-19 National Briefing Call Readout April 8, 2020



Topline

- Last week, the White House announced updated "Coronavirus Guidelines for America" extending efforts through April 30 the best way you all can help is to utilize your leadership platform to echo the "30 Days to Stop the Spread." There are initial signs that these efforts are paying dividends and it is critical that everyone continues to follow this guidance, even as we see a leveling out of cases in some areas of the country.
- The President has approved major disaster declaration requests quickly as the governors have requested 51 governors have had their requests approved as of last night meaning that requests from 23 states/territories were approved since the April 1 national update call.
- As of Tuesday, April 7, for 37 states that have requested, the President has approved 100% of National Guard deployment costs under Title 32 to assist w/ response & logistics support, while ensuring governors remain in command.
- Through Project Air Bridge, FEMA has continued to coordinate the transportation of critically needed personal protective equipment (or PPE) across the country. The air bridge is helping reduce the time it takes for U.S. medical supply distributors to receive PPE and

other critical supplies into the country for health care professionals and other key professionals, including law enforcement. Learn more about Project Air Bridge and FEMA's supply chain efforts **here**.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

- **Topline:** The CARES Act makes vital investments in the key elements of our public health response to the virus, with more than \$100 billion for hospitals and healthcare providers and \$27 billion in funds for vaccines, therapeutics, and personal protective equipment.
- **Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund**: On Wednesday, April 8, HHS announced new steps on the \$100 billion provided by the CARES Act to support healthcare providers directly.
 - HHS will begin the initial distribution of these payments to hospitals and healthcare
 providers across the nation distributed based on how much relative revenue they
 receive from Medicare.
 - HHS has endeavored to make this process extremely simple and is expecting 500,000 providers will receive funding this week.
 - The next allocation of funds will prioritize those providers that do not typically serve the Medicare population or where Medicare is not a dominant payor, like nursing homes and certain types of hospitals.
- **CDC State and Local Preparedness Grants**: CDC is working to distribute \$1.5 billion in state and local preparedness grants, which, combined with the first supplemental, amount to a total of about \$2.5 billion provided for state, tribal, territorial, and local needs.
 - HHS distributed \$186 million in CDC funds from the first supplemental earlier this week to assist with testing and surveillance activities.
 - There is a set-aside in the CDC's grant program for tribal health needs, and the CARES Act also includes more than \$1 billion provided for critical response needs in Indian Country, including supplies, staffing, and increased telehealth capacity. More here.
- **Mental Health**: Recognizing that mental health is going to be a challenge, the CARES Act provides \$250 million for Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics, \$50 million in new money for suicide prevention, and \$100 million in flexible emergency funding for states and tribes to use to address mental health needs. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) has now posted the funding opportunity announcement for that flexible emergency funding. More **here**.
- Administration for Children & Families: HHS's Administration for Children and Families is receiving \$6.3 billion in funding under the CARES Act, which it is working to operationalize expeditiously with a focus on supporting Head Start providers and augmenting LIHEAP, Child Care and Development Block Grant and Community Services Block Grant funds. This funding will help human service providers whether they serve vulnerable youth, families, or older Americans, are under strain. More here.
- Administration for Community Living: The Administration for Community Living also received \$955 million to support aging and disability services programs, like getting meals to seniors. HHS has already disbursed some new money from the earlier economic relief legislation. More here.

U.S. Department of the Treasury

Paycheck Protection Program

Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) launched on Friday, April 3rd. The PPP program provides forgivable loans to small businesses with under 500 employees. As of

- Thursday, April 9, more than 454,000 loans totaling \$118 billion across 3,500 lenders have been distributed.
- In order to ensure that every business is able to take advantage of the PPP, the Administration has requested to Congress an increase in PPP commitments to \$600 billion—a \$250 billion increase.
- The Employee Retention Credit is available for businesses not eligible for the PPP. This is a refundable credit of up to \$5,000 per employee, who is retained instead of being laid off. More **here**.
- Updated guidance and frequently asked questions can be found <u>here</u>. A new lender application form can be found <u>here</u>.
- More information on the Paycheck Protection Program <u>here</u>.

• Economic Impact Payments

- Treasury expect that the electronic payment of \$2,400 per married couple, plus \$500 per child, will begin to be made around April 15. Treasury has banking information for some 60 million taxpayer, who will be a part of the first tranche of payments.
- Social Security recipients who do not file tax returns will automatically receive economic impact payments. More **here**.
- Treasury is establishing a portal for those who are not a part of the first tranche to provide their banking information and ensure that they receive their payment promptly. Treasury is also investigating ways to effectively get Economic Impact Payment funds into the hands of the unbanked.

• Coronavirus Relief Fund

- State, eligible units of local government, and Tribal governments will receive funds from the Coronavirus Relief Fund. Treasury expects that the \$150 billion provided to the Fund will be distributed no later than April 24.
- Treasury is developing a website portal for eligible governments to provide information necessary to be able to deposit the advance payments. The portal is expected to be online as early as Saturday, April 11.
- Treasury is developing guidance in advance of funding release regarding reimbursable expenses.

• Main Street Business Lending Program and Municipal Liquidity Facility

• Treasury launched a Main Street Business Lending program and a Municipal Liquidity Facility to support the flow of credit to American workers, businesses, States, counties, and cities impacted by the coronavirus pandemic. The Municipal Liquidity Facility (MLF) will provide up to \$500 billion in direct financing to states, counties, and cities to help ensure they have the funds necessary to provide essential services to citizens and respond to the coronavirus pandemic. More here. MLF term sheet and guidance can be found here.

U.S. Department of Agriculture

- **Topline**: The CARES Act provides \$9.5 billion provided for relief to farmers and ranchers. The Act enables support of agricultural producers who experience market losses due to COVID-19. USDA is actively monitoring all food and agriculture commodity markets and the supply chain of food from farm to table during the COVID 19 outbreak. USDA will provide more information regarding program delivery later this Spring. More information about USDA resources in response to COVID-19 can be found here: https://www.usda.gov/coronavirus.
 - On Thursday, April 9, USDA announced the first state, Michigan, has been approved to operate Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT), a new program authorized by the Families First Coronavirus Act. The is a supplemental food purchasing benefit to

current SNAP participants and as a new EBT benefit to other eligible households to offset the cost of meals that would have otherwise been consumed at school. More **here**.

Rural Economic Development

- The CARES Act provides \$100 million for the ReConnect Loan and Grant Program. USDA extended the open application window through April 15th and will use the CARES Act funding to augment grant awards to qualified applicants. More information about the ReConnect Loan and Grant Program can be found here https://www.usda.gov/reconnect.
- The CARES Act provides \$1 billion provided for the Business and Industry Guaranteed Loan Program USDA will administer the increase in program level concurrent with the traditional program, a Notice of Funding Availability announcing the increased program level will issue in April/May. More information about the Business and Industry Guaranteed Loan Program can be found here:

 https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/business-industry-loan-guarantees.
- The CARES Act provides \$25 million provided for the Distance Learning and
 Telemedicine Grant Program. USDA announced a new award window for FY2020
 will open from April 14th through July 13th. More information about the Distance
 Learning and Telemedicine Grant Program can be found here:
 https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/distance-learning-telemedicine-grants.

• Rural Economic Relief

• The CARES Act provides foreclosure and eviction relief provided for rural renters and homeowners. Effective March 19th, the Rural Housing Service is providing 60-day relief from eviction and foreclosure to all USDA multi-family housing tenants and single-family home mortgage borrowers. More information about USDA Rural Development's actions in response to COVID-19 can be found here: https://www.rd.usda.gov/coronavirus.

Nutrition

- The CARES Act provides \$15.5 billion in contingency funding for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. The Food and Nutrition Service intends to use all available flexibilities to service program participants, including exercising newly authorized waivers ease program operations and protect the health of participants.
- The CARES Act provides \$100 million for the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations program. The Food and Nutrition Service distributes food and administrative funds to Indian Tribal Organizations and state agencies to support nutritional needs of Native American families.
- The CARES Act provides \$8.8 billion provided for the Child Nutrition Program. Funding supports ongoing activities under the existing program.
- The CARES Act provides \$450 million for the Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP). The Food and Nutrition Service's Emergency Food Assistance Program provides food and administrative funds to food banks to support the nutrition of vulnerable populations. Funding supports ongoing activities under the existing program. More information about Food and Nutrition Service actions to respond to COVID-19 can be found here:

https://www.fns.usda.gov/disaster/pandemic/covid-19.

U.S. Department of Labor

- **Topline**: On March 27, 2020, President Donald Trump signed into law the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act). The legislation, in part, created three new programs designed to provide unemployment benefits to American workers: Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation, Pandemic Unemployment Assistance, and Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation.
 - These programs are administered by each state workforce agency or equivalent. Depending on the state technology infrastructure and other factors, states may vary in the implementation and timing of first benefit payments to eligible individuals. Benefits are retroactive to dates as specified in guidance from the Department. This and future guidance is and will be available at https://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/.
- The following is a brief summary of each newly established program pursuant to the CARES Act:
 - **Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation:** The FPUC program allows states to provide an additional \$600 per week in benefits to individuals collecting regular Unemployment Compensation or certain other benefits. The CARES Act specifies that FPUC benefit payments will end after payments for the last week of unemployment before July 31, 2020.
 - Pandemic Unemployment Assistance: States are permitted to provide
 Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) to individuals who are self-employed,
 seeking part-time employment, or who otherwise would not qualify for regular
 unemployment compensation. To qualify for PUA benefits, you must not be eligible
 for regular unemployment benefits and be unemployed, partially unemployed, or
 unable or unavailable to work because of certain health or economic consequences of
 the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation: The program covers most individuals who have exhausted all rights to regular unemployment compensation under state or federal law and who are able to work, available for work, and actively seeking work as defined by state law. Importantly, the CARES Act gives states flexibility in determining whether you are "actively seeking work" if you are unable to search for work because of COVID-19, including because of illness, quarantine, or movement restrictions.
- For more information on unemployment compensation, and links to your State Unemployment Insurance Office, please click **here**.

U.S. Department of Education

• Elementary and Secondary Education

- The CARES Act includes \$13.2 billion in K-12 formula grants to States (Economic Stabilization Fund). This grant is distributed to states based on their share of ESEA Title I-A funds. State education agencies will then distribute at least 90% of funds to school districts and public charter schools based on their share of Title I-A funds.
- Under the CARES Act, the U.S. Department of Education has <u>streamlined the</u> <u>waiver application process</u> for states to gain flexibilities to allow schools to repurpose existing K-12 education funds for technology infrastructure and teacher training on distance learning, among other flexibilities to move resources to areas of highest need during the national emergency.
- This action follows the Department's <u>announcement</u> of a turnkey waiver process allowing states to cancel federally-mandated standardized testing. The Department has approved waivers for all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

• Post-Secondary Education

- The CARES Act includes \$12.2 billion for the Higher Education Emergency Relief fund to help institutions of higher education weather the costs associated with COVID-19. Funds will be available through September 30, 2021. More here.
- The Department has also provided <u>additional flexibilities and regulatory</u> <u>relief</u> for institutions of higher education, their students, and others effective through June 30, 2020, including waiving requirements relating to academic terms, approved leaves of absence, distance education, and student aid verification. Additional flexibilities provided under the CARES Act will expire on September 30, 2020.
- The Department also announced that any aid provided to students in the form of Emergency Grants to Students under the CARES Act will not be included in future determinations of a student's eligibility for Federal Student Aid programs. In addition, institutions do not need to make adjustments to a student's current financial aid award, even if these emergency grants result in an over-award.
- The Department of Education has established a dedicated Coronavirus <u>webpage</u>, which includes resources for institutions of higher education and for K-12.

U.S. Department of Commerce

- The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) will distribute \$300 million in fisheries assistance to states, Tribes, and territories in coordination with Interstate Marine Fishery Commissions.
 - These funds will support commercial fishing, charter fishing, dealers, processors, aquaculture, and Tribal as well as subsistence sectors that have been directly or indirectly negatively impacted by covid-19.
 - NOAA Fisheries is collecting information from fishermen, seafood farmers, and other seafood processing/distribution companies, as well as from the recreational fishing sector, on disruptions to supply and demand resulting from COVID-19.
 - NOAA is assessing immediate and long term needs to secure and enhance the resilience of the US seafood and fisheries industries.
 - For more on CARES and other NOAA COVID-19 related activities, visit here.
- The **Economic Development Administration (EDA)** received \$1.5 billion to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus.
 - EDA will provide grants to communities impacted by the coronavirus pandemic with immediate and long-term economic recovery assistance.
 - EDA grants will support a wide range of economic planning and technical assistance, innovation, capitalization and recapitalization of Revolving Loan Funds (RLF), and construction and non-construction assistance across the nation.
 - The majority of the funding will be distributed out of EDA's six regional offices, which are responsible for reviewing the eligibility and merit of applications through a competitive process.
 - For more information on EDA and Disaster Recovery, visit <u>here</u>.
- The **Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA)** will utilize \$10 million to educate, train, and advise minority business enterprises concerning the impact of and recovery from the COVID-19.
 - These grants are available to minority business centers and minority chambers of commerce.
 - For more information on MBDA and Disaster Recovery, visit here.

 The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) has released a series of FAQs for patent and trademark filers regarding USPTO's previously announced extension of certain patent and trademark-related timing deadlines under the CARES Act. More here.

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

- **Topline**: The CARES Act includes over \$12 billion in new funding for HUD programs to provide additional funding to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19).
- Primary Allocations
 - Community Development Block Grants (CDBG): The CARES Act provides \$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. More here.
 - **Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG)**: The CARES Act provides \$4 billion to address the impact of COVID-19 among individuals and families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, and to support additional homeless assistance, prevention, and eviction prevention assistance. More on homelessness assistance programs **here**.
 - **Tenant-Based Rental Assistance**: The CARES Act provides \$1.25 billion for additional funds for PHAs to maintain normal operations and take other necessary action during the period that the program is impacted by COVID-19, in addition to administrative expenses and other expenses for Section 8 programs, including Mainstream vouchers. More information here (**COVID-19 FAQs for Public Housing Agencies**).
 - **Public Housing Operating Fund:** \$685 million for PHAs to maintain normal operations and take other necessary actions during the period that the program is impacted by COVID-19; funds are to be combined with FY20 funds and awarded using the Operating Fund formula and may be used for both capital and operating expenses.
 - Native American Programs: \$200 million for activities and assistance under title I of NAHASDA and under title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, including Native American Housing Block Grants, to be distributed using the FY20 formula. More here.
 - **Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPSA)**: The CARES Act provides \$65 million for additional HOPWA funds to maintain operations and for rental assistance, supportive services and other necessary actions. More **here**.
- The CARES Act also includes the following general provisions that affect HUD and HUD programs:
 - Rescinds and appropriates funds for a youth homelessness demonstration under the "Homeless Assistance Grants" demonstration in the FY18 appropriations act;
 - Allows for temporary hiring flexibility for HUD to prevent, prepare for, or respond to COVID-19;
 - Provides a foreclosure moratorium for borrowers with Federally backed mortgages experiencing financial hardships due to COVID-19;
 - Provides the opportunity for multifamily borrowers with Federally backed mortgages experiencing financial hardship to request a forbearance; and
 - Enables a temporary moratorium on eviction filings.

U.S. Department of Justice

• The CARES Act provides assistance to state and local law enforcement to assist in preparing for and responding to COVID-19. Specifically, the Act includes \$850 million for the **Byrne-Justice Assistance Grant Program (Bryne-JAG)**. The JAG Program provides states, tribes, and local governments with critical funding necessary to support a range of program areas including law enforcement, prosecution, indigent defense, courts, crime prevention and education, corrections and community corrections, drug treatment and enforcement, planning, evaluation, technology improvement, and crime victim and witness initiatives and mental health programs and related law enforcement and corrections programs, including behavioral programs and crisis intervention teams. More here.