



2020 Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act

This bill passed in the United States Senate on Wednesday, March 25, 2020 and in the United States House of Representatives on Friday, March 27, 2020. Below is a high-level summary of the various provisions included in the CARES Act.

- **Public Health Provisions:**

- \$100 billion for grants to hospitals, public and nonprofit health organizations and Medicare and Medicaid suppliers, including a 20% bump in Medicare payments for treating patients with the virus.
 - This is the same amount the American Hospital Association, American Medical Association, American Nurses Association requested. The Academy included this request in our letter to Congress.
- \$20 billion will go towards veterans' health care
- \$16 billion will go to the Strategic National Stockpile to increase the availability of equipment, including ventilators and masks. It also boosts the hiring for vital health care jobs and speeds the development of a vaccine, treatments, and faster diagnostic.
- \$11 billion for diagnostics, treatments, and vaccines
 - This includes \$80 million for the Food and Drug Administration and \$945 million to the National Institutes of Health
- \$4.3 billion for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- \$1.32 billion in immediate funding for community centers through November that provide health services for roughly 28 million people
- Other health care related provisions:
 - The bill reauthorizes a telehealth program to help to extend the reach of virtual doctors' appointments
 - Authorizes nurse practitioners and certified nurse specialists to certify home health care for their patients
 - Reauthorizes of Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs

- **Environment and Defense Provisions:**

- \$415 million for the Department of Defense to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus domestically and internationally
- \$1.5 million to the Environmental Protection Agency to research methods to reduce risks of environmental transmission of the coronavirus via contaminated surfaces or materials
- \$3 million to the United States Forest Service to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus, domestically or internationally, including for the reestablishment of abandoned or failed experiments associated with employee restrictions due to the coronavirus outbreak

- **Social Safety Net Provisions:**

- \$8.8 billion will be given to schools to help provide meals for students
- The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program will receive \$15.5 billion to help cover the cost of new applications as a result of the coronavirus.
- \$450 million for food banks and other community food distribution programs



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- **Individual and Families Provisions:**
 - \$300 billion will be used to disperse individual cash payments
 - A one-time check of \$1,200 for individuals for making less \$75,000
 - Families earning a household income of less than \$150,000 get \$500 per child
 - Paid sick leave provisions:
 - The bill has a provision clarifying that employees who were laid off by their employer since March 1 and have since been rehired are eligible for the paid leave provisions, as long as they previously worked at their employer for 30 days
 - Allows employers and self-employed individuals to receive an advance tax credit from the Department of Treasury instead of having to wait to be reimbursed for the cost of providing paid sick days and paid leave
 - The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) is given the authority to exempt executive branch employees
 - The bill creates a new program, Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA), which could be a backstop for the gaps in the paid sick/paid leave provisions.
 - PUA will be run through state unemployment insurance systems with federal funding, and will be available to people who are not eligible for regular unemployment insurance or have exhausted those benefits.
 - Will cover anyone who is unemployed, partially employed, unable or unavailable to work because of COVID-related personal or family illness, symptoms, isolation, or quarantine, or the closure of a child's or household members' school or place of care.
 - People can claim it for up to 4 months.