

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



The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, passed by the Senate on March 25, 2020, would provide new resources to help strained state, local, and tribal governments as they combat the COVID-19 pandemic. The House of Representatives is expected to take up the bill on March 27. The following provisions would provide much needed support and relief to low-income Americans and the organizations that serve them:

Nutrition

- **The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP):** Provides \$450 million for the TEFAP program so that food banks can continue to assist those Americans most in need.

Housing and Homelessness

- **Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP):** The bill includes \$900 million to help lower income households heat and cool their homes.
- **Emergency Solutions Grants:** Provides \$4 billion to address the impact of COVID-19 among individuals and families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.
- **Rental Assistance Protections:** Provides \$3 billion for low-income Americans to help more than 4.5 million low-income households made up of more than 9.6 million individuals currently assisted by HUD to safely remain in their homes or access temporary housing assistance in response to economic and housing disruptions.

Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities

- **Administration for Community Living:** Provides \$955 million to support nutrition programs, home and community-based services, support for family caregivers, and expand oversight and protections for seniors and individuals with disabilities.

Community Supports

- **Community Development Block Grant (CDBG):** Provides \$5 billion to respond to the economic and housing impacts of the pandemic, including the expansion of community health facilities, child care centers, food banks, and senior services.
- **Community Services Block Grant (CSBG):** The bill includes \$1 billion for CSBG to help communities address the consequences of increasing unemployment and economic disruption.
- **Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP):** Provides \$200 million to ESFP for shelter, food and supportive services to individuals and families in sudden economic crisis.

Child Care and Education

- **Child Care Development Block Grant (CDBG):** Includes \$3.5 billion for CDBG to allow child care programs to maintain critical operations, including meeting emergency staffing needs and ensuring that first responders and health care workers can access child care while they respond to the pandemic.
- **Head Start:** Provides \$750 million for Head Start to meet emergency staffing needs.
- **Department of Education Stabilization Fund:** Provides \$30 billion to states, school districts and institutions of higher education for costs related to coronavirus. These are flexible funds that can be used for meeting basic needs of students. This includes 14.25 billion to the Higher Education Emergency Relief for institutions of higher education and can be used for grants to students for food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and child care.

Other Supports

- **Legal Services Corporation:** Provides \$50 million to meet civil legal aid needs for low-income Americans such as job losses, eviction, domestic violence and consumer scams.
- **Charitable Giving:** Provides incentives for individual charitable giving. For individuals who do not itemize their deduction, it allows up to individuals contributing up to \$300 to certain qualifying charities to receive both an above-the-line deduction and the standard deduction. For individuals who do itemize deductions, the bill lifts the limits on charitable giving for 2020, allowing contributions to be deducted up to 100 percent of Adjusted Gross Income. For corporate donors, the limit would increase from 10% of adjusted taxable income to 25%.