



OUTLINE of KEY PROVISIONS in the HOUSE COVID BILL

The following is an outline of key provisions in the House COVID package based on packages voted on by multiple House committees the week of February 1. The House Budget Committee will be consolidating these packages into one bill that the full House will vote on as early as the week of February 22.

STATE AND LOCAL AID

- **Increase Funding to Preserve State and Local Public Services.** \$350 billion in aid to state and local governments, territories, and tribes, including \$195.3 billion to states and D.C., and \$130.2 billion divided evenly between cities and counties. Local governments of every size would receive dedicated allotments. These funds are available until expended, subject to eligible uses including replacing revenue lost, delayed, or decreased as a result of the pandemic. Treasury would award these grants within 60 days of enactment. Estimates for allocations to states, counties and cities are [here](#).
- **Increase Funding to Help Schools Reopen Safely.** \$170 billion to Reopen Schools Safely, including \$128.5 billion for K-12 public schools to improve ventilation, reduce class sizes to accommodate social distancing, purchase PPE and hire support staff to address health needs. 90% of these funds goes to Local Educational Agencies (LEAs), and 10% goes to State Educational Agencies (SEAs). There is a requirement for SEAs to set aside 5% and for LEAs to set aside 20% to address learning loss. These funds are available through Sept. 30, 2022. \$40 billion would be provided to institutions of higher learning to address financial strains caused by COVID-19. Public and non-profit institutions are required spend 50% on emergency financial aid grants for students and the requirement increases to 100% for for-profit institutions.
- **Protect Public Transit and Communities.** \$100 billion to support relief to transit systems and communities, including \$30 billion to support essential transit and rural intercity bus service, provide lifesaving PPE, and keep workers on the job; \$50 billion for FEMA's Disaster Relief Fund to ensure sufficient supplies and protective gear with 100% federal reimbursement for critical emergency response resources to states, local governments, and tribes, including deployment of the National Guard; and \$8 billion in relief for airports.

IMPORTANT HEALTH AND SAFETY ISSUES

- **Increased Federal Medicaid Funds for COVID-19 treatment and vaccinations.** Provides states 100% of federal Medicaid funding for COVID-19 treatment and vaccination of enrollees. Also gives states the option to cover the uninsured for COVID-19 vaccines and treatment without cost sharing at

100% federal Medicaid funding. This increase in federal funding runs through one year after the end of the public health emergency declaration.

- **Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services.** Increases the federal match by 7.35 percentage points for states and territories to improve home and community-based services from April 1, 2021 through March 31, 2022. These new federal funds can be used to reduce waiting lists, increase provider rates, provide hazard pay, overtime pay, and shift differentials for direct support professionals, provide paid sick leave, paid family leave, and paid medical leave for home health workers and direct support professionals.
- **Protect Workers Against COVID-19.** \$75 million for the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) for enforcement, state and training grants.
- **Defense Production Act.** \$10 billion for Defense Production Act, for PPE and other needed equipment.
- **COBRA Health Benefit Premiums.** Subsidizes COBRA premiums at 85% of the premium for laid-off workers through Sept. 30, 2021.
- **Affordable Care Act (ACA) Expansion.** Makes ACA plans more affordable by providing a 100% premium subsidy for those on Unemployment Insurance (UI). Others with income up to 400% of poverty (roughly \$100,000 for a family of four) would not pay more than 8.5% of income for health benefits.
- **National State and Local Testing Capacity.** \$46 billion for Health and Human Services (HHS) to provide to states and localities to detect, diagnose, trace, and monitor COVID-19 infections, and other activities necessary to mitigate spread of COVID-19.
- **CDC Funds to State and Local Public Health Departments.** \$7.5 billion in funding for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to prepare, promote, administer, monitor, and track COVID-19 vaccines, potentially including distribution and administration of COVID-19 vaccines and ancillary supplies, and support for state, local and territorial public health departments.
- **Grants for State and Local Public Health Workforce.** \$7.6 billion to HHS for efforts related to establish, expand, and sustain a public health workforce, and awards to state, local, and territorial public health departments. These workforce positions would include contact tracers, social support specialists, community health workers, public health nurses, and others. Funds would also support necessary technology and supplies, such as PPE, for public health workforce's use.
- **State Behavioral Health Grants.** \$3.5 billion for the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment and Community Mental Health state block grant programs.
- **Fighting COVID-19 in Residential Settings.** \$1.8 billion for HHS to help provide grants to states, localities, territories, and tribes to detect, diagnose, trace, or monitor COVID-19 in congregate settings such as prisons, jails, detention centers, long-term care facilities, psychiatric hospitals and

residential treatment facilities, intermediate care facilities, and other settings providing care for individuals with disabilities.

- **Fighting COVID-19 in Nursing Homes.** \$250 million for infection control and strike teams for nursing homes where residents or staff are diagnosed or suspected of having COVID-19.

OTHER KEY PROVISIONS

- **Unemployment Benefits Strengthened and Extended.** Increase the supplement to \$400 a week and extends all pandemic (UI) programs including unemployment relief for governmental entities and nonprofit organizations, and short-time compensation through Aug. 29, 2021. Extend federal financial assistance to states by delaying states' accumulation of interest on federal loans that states borrowed to pay state unemployment benefits until Aug. 29, 2021.
- **Paid Leave Strengthened.** Rollback the exemptions and reimburse state and local government for paid leave costs through Sep. 2021. Adds \$570 million for emergency paid leave to federal civilian employees.
- **Minimum Wage Increase.** Raise to \$15 an hour by 2025 and end tipped minimum wage by 2027.
- **Recovery Rebate Checks to Individuals.** Direct payments to individuals of \$1,400 each, with phaseout starting at incomes of \$75,000 for single filers, and \$150,000 for joint filers.
- **Housing Assistance.** Provides \$25 billion in rental assistance, including \$19.05 billion for emergency rental assistance, some of which can be used for state and local government administrative expenses; \$5 billion for emergency housing vouchers.
- **SNAP (Food Stamps) Benefits.** Extend 15% benefit increase through Sept. 30, 2021 and adds \$1.1 billion for state administrative costs.
- **TANF Benefits.** Provides \$1 billion in a Pandemic Emergency Fund for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). This includes territories and lifts the cap on territories for this funding.
- **Child Care.** Provides \$39 billion for child care including \$24 billion for child care stabilization grants and an additional \$15 billion for the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG).
- **Head Start.** \$1 billion for Head Start.
- **Child Tax Credit and Earned Income Tax Credit.** Increases Child Care Tax Credit to \$3,000 for children 6-17 years; and to \$3,600 for children under 6 years old; and makes it fully refundable and advanceable. Enhances Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) for workers without children by nearly tripling maximum credit and extending eligibility.

- **Museums and Libraries.** Adds \$1.5 billion to help shuttered venues including museums that have auditoriums or theaters. Adds \$200 million to state formula grant for libraries with no state match required.
- **Federal and Postal Employees.** Those who contacted co-workers, patients, or the public in their duties and were diagnosed with COVID-19 from Jan. 27, 2020 to Jan. 30, 2023, are presumed to have work-related illness for eligibility purposes under Federal Employee Compensation Act (FECA).
- **Pensions.** Adds Multiemployer pension rescue plan and Single Employer plan COVID relief.

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