CARES Act and Federal Resources
Prepared for the Economic Recovery Committee
June 12, 2020

CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Funds – Total Funds: $150,000,000,000

CARES Act Funds Coronavirus Relief Funds – Estimated Maine Allocation: $1,250,000,000

Coronavirus Relief Fund – Guidance for State, Territorial, Local, and Tribal Governments
Source: Department of Treasury

CARES Act Overview:

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) provides an estimated $2 trillion stimulus package to battle the harmful effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. A few highlights of what’s included in the package:

▪ Creates a $150 billion Coronavirus Relief Fund for state, local and tribal governments. See estimated state allocations courtesy of Federal Funds Information for States.

▪ $30 billion for an Education Stabilization Fund for states, school districts and institutions of higher education for costs related to the coronavirus.

▪ $45 billion for the Disaster Relief Fund for the immediate needs of state, local, tribal and territorial governments to protect citizens and help them respond and recover from the overwhelming effects of COVID-19.

▪ $1.4 billion for deployments of the National Guard. This level of funding will sustain up to 20,000 members of the National Guard, under the direction of the governors of each state, for the next six months in order to support state and local response efforts.

▪ An additional $4.3 billion, through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, to support federal, state and local public health agencies to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus.

▪ Requires the Department of Homeland Security to extend the Real ID deadline for full implementation by states from Oct. 1, 2020, to no earlier than Sept. 30, 2021. DHS subsequently announced that the new deadline would be Oct. 1, 2021.

▪ $25 billion for transit systems. Click here for specific funding amounts determined by the Federal Transit Administration which are now available for use. These funds are being distributed through existing formulas including the Urbanized Area Formula Grants, Formula Grants for Rural Areas, State of Good Repair Formula Grants and Growing and High-Density States Formula Grants using fiscal year 2020 apportionment formulas.
- $400 million in election security grants to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus in the 2020 federal election cycle. States must provide an accounting to the Election Assistance Commission of how the funds were spent within 20 days of any 2020 election.

- Expands unemployment insurance from three to four months, and provides temporary unemployment compensation of $600 per week, which is in addition to and the same time as regular state and federal UI benefits.

- Establishes a $500 billion lending fund for businesses, cities and states.

- Provides a $1,200 direct payment to many Americans and $500 for each dependent child.


The following section highlights 11 Departments of Focus. This is not an exhaustive list but rather a selection of key departments:

1. United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)
2. Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC)
3. Small Business Administration (SBA)
4. Department of Labor (DOL)
5. Department of Transportation (DOT)
6. Federal Communications Commission (FCC)
7. Economic Development Administration (EDA)
8. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
9. Department of Education (DOE)
10. Health and Human Services (HHS)
11. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

(1) USDA:
Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP)

The CFAP provides vital financial assistance to producers of agricultural commodities who have suffered a five percent or greater price decline or who had losses due to market supply chain disruptions as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and face additional significant market costs. 
https://www.farmers.gov/cfap
COVID-19 Federal Rural Resource Guide

(2) NBRC:
Provides links to NBRC partner agencies who have funding programs in place to support communities and businesses impacted by the Coronavirus. (Links to SBA and USDA below)
SBA Link: https://www.sba.gov/disaster-assistance/coronavirus-covid-19
USDA Link: https://www.usda.gov/coronavirus
(3) SBA:
In addition to traditional SBA funding programs, the CARES Act established several new temporary programs to address the COVID-19 outbreak:

Paycheck Protection Program
This loan program provides loan forgiveness for retaining employees by temporarily expanding the traditional SBA 7(a) loan program.

Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) Loan Advance and New Eligibility
This loan advance will provide up to $10,000 of economic relief to businesses that are currently experiencing temporary difficulties.

SBA Express Bridge Loans
Enables small businesses who currently have a business relationship with an SBA Express Lender to access up to $25,000 quickly.

SBA Debt Relief
The SBA is providing a financial reprieve to small businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic. Source for all SBA programs listed above: https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/loans/coronavirus-relief-options

(4) DOL:
Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC):
Depending on how your state chooses to implement the CARES Act, the new law creates the FPUC program, which provides an additional $600 per week to individuals who are collecting regular unemployment compensation. https://www.dol.gov/coronavirus/unemployment-insurance

The Employment and Training Administration announced new guidance outlining state flexibilities in administering their unemployment insurance programs to assist Americans affected by the COVID-19 outbreak and permits significant flexibility for states to amend their laws to provide unemployment insurance benefits in multiple scenarios related to COVID-19. https://www.dol.gov/coronavirus

(5) DOT
Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)
The CARES Act includes $10 billion in funds to be awarded as economic relief to eligible U.S. airports affected by the prevention of, preparation for, and response to the COVID-19 pandemic. https://www.faa.gov/airports/cares_act/

Federal Transit Administration (FTA)
FTA is allocating $25 billion to recipients of urbanized area and rural area formula funds, with $22.7 billion to large and small urban areas and $2.2 billion to rural areas. Funding will be provided at a 100-percent federal share, with no local match required, and will be available to support capital, operating,
and other expenses generally eligible under those programs to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19.
https://www.transit.dot.gov/cares-act

(6) FCC
COVID-19 Telehealth Program

The FCC established a $200 million COVID-19 Telehealth Program to help health care providers provide connected care services to patients at their homes or mobile locations in response to the pandemic. The program is limited to nonprofit and public eligible health care providers that fall within the categories of health care providers in section 254(h)(7)(B) of the 1996 Act.
https://www.fcc.gov/covid-19-telehealth-program

(7) EDA
EDA CARES Act Recovery Assistance

The EDA CARES Act Recovery Assistance, which is being administrated under the authority of the bureau’s flexible Economic Adjustment Assistance (EAA) program, provides a wide range of financial assistance to communities and regions as they respond to and recover from the impacts of the pandemic.
CARES Act Program Allocation: $1.5 billion
https://www.eda.gov/coronavirus/

(8) HUD

Tenant-Based Rental Assistance
$1.25 billion to allow public housing agencies (PHAs) to respond to coronavirus and the ability to keep over 2.2 million families stably housed even when facing a loss of income.

Community Planning and Development Programs
Includes the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) CARES Act Eviction Moratorium- imposes a temporary moratorium on evictions, lasts through July 24, 2020.
https://www.hud.gov/coronavirus/resources_from_program_offices

(9) DOE

$30.75 billion for an Education Stabilization Fund for states, school districts and institutions of higher education for costs related to coronavirus to be distributed as follows:

Elementary and Secondary Education: $13.5 billion is available for formula grants to states based on the same proportion that each state receives under ESEA Title-IA. States will then distribute 90% of funds to local educational agencies (LEAs) based on their proportional allocation of ESEA Title I-A funds.
Governors: Each state will receive a share of $3 billion for governors to allocate at their discretion for emergency support grants to local educational agencies and institutions of higher education that have been most significantly impacted by the coronavirus. Funds distributed based on age demographics in each state.


Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund
More than $14 billion. Funding for higher education institutions to provide emergency financial aid grants to students for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus.

https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/heerfstudentfaqs.pdf

(10) HHS
-Administration for Children and Families (ACF): $6.3 billion total, includes $3.5 billion for the Child Care and Development Block Grant to provide immediate assistance to childcare providers.
-$45 million in grants to states for child welfare services.
-$1 billion to the Community Services Block Grant to help local community-based organizations that provide a wide range of social services and emergency assistance for those with the highest need.
-$900 million for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) to help families and provide assistance in managing costs associated with home energy bills, energy crises, and weatherization and energy-related minor home repairs.


(11) NOAA
$300 million in fisheries assistance funding provided by the CARES Act, to states, Tribes, and territories with coastal and marine fishery participants who have been negatively affected by COVID–19.