
FISCAL ISSUE BRIEF



Federal COVID-19 Funding Health and Human Services

Senate Counsel, Research, and Fiscal Analysis

July 2020

The federal government responded to the COVID-19 pandemic by enacting a series of laws that provide funding to states for a variety of purposes. As of June 30, 2020, four laws were enacted.

- P.L. 116-123 Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act
- P.L. 116-127 Families First Coronavirus Response Act
- P.L. 116-136 Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act)
- P.L. 116-139 Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act

The provisions in the Health and Human Services budget jurisdiction provided funding to state agencies, individual providers, local health departments, and others. Table 1 lists the enacted provisions and the amounts allocated to recipients in Minnesota. For amounts received by the state, Table 1 indicates whether, as of June 30, 2020, the Legislative Advisory Commission approved the funding and the date of approval. A summary of the enacted provisions follows Table 1, including the recipients, the purposes of the funding and any restrictions, and the length of time the funding is available.

**Table 1: Federal COVID-19 Funding for Health and Human Services
(Dollars in Thousands)**

Law	Federal Awards with State Allocation Estimates	Amount	LAC Approved
116-127	Enhanced FMAP for COVID-19 (January 1 to June 30, 2020)	330,000	N/A
116-136	Child Care and Development Block Grant	48,146	N/A
116-136	Community Services Block Grant	12,032	N/A
116-136	Child Welfare	720	
116-136	Runaway and Homeless Youth-Basic Centers	312	
116-136	Runaway and Homeless Youth-Transitional Living	720	
116-136	Runaway and Homeless Youth-Education & Prevention Grants	74	
116-136	Supportive Services	3,293	6/2/2020
116-127	Congregate & Home Delivered Meals	3,951	4/27/2020
116-136	Congregate & Home Delivered Meals	7,903	6/2/2020
116-136	Family Caregivers	1,612	6/2/2020

Law	Federal Awards with State Allocation Estimates	Amount	LAC Approved
116-136	Vulnerable Adults (LTC Ombudsman)	329	6/2/2020
116-136	Aging and Disability Resource Centers	750	6/2/2020
116-123	Department of Health (CDC)	13,198	4/27/2020
116-136	Department of Health (CDC)	11,165	4/1/2020
116-136	Poison Control Centers	109	N/A
116-123	Community Health Centers	1,032	N/A
116-136	Community Health Centers	12,399	N/A
116-139	Community Health Centers-Testing Capacity for COVID-19	4,311	N/A
116-139	Department of Health (CDC)-Testing Capacity for COVID-19	132,795	
116-139	Rural Health Clinics-COVID-19 Testing Capacity	4,897	N/A
116-136	Small Rural Hospital Improvement Program	7,251	4/27/2020
116-127	Emergency Food Assistance	5,346	5/28/2020
116-136	Emergency Food Assistance	6,016	
116-127	Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)	6,929	
116-136	Child Nutrition (Through SNAP)	113,750	N/A
116-136	Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)	TBD	N/A
116-136	Hospital Preparedness Program	7,173	N/A
116-136	Provider Relief Funds (General)	472,206	N/A
116-136	Provider Relief Funds (High Impact)	49,495	N/A
116-136	Provider Relief Funds (Rural)	384,630	N/A
116-136	Provider Relief Funds (Skilled Nursing Facilities)	78,435	N/A
116-136	Ryan White HIV/AIDS-Part A	379	
116-136	Ryan White HIV/AIDS-Part B	197	5/28/2020
116-136	Ryan White HIV/AIDS-Parts C, D, F	169	
116-136	Emergency Solutions Grants (Homelessness)-State	22,843	5/28/2020
116-136	Emergency Solutions Grants (Homelessness)-Local	31,105	N/A
	Total	\$1,775,672	

Note: The primary data sources for this information are the state COVID-19 allocations provided by FFIS, estimates from the May 2020 budget projection, and press releases from federal and state agencies.

Summary of Federal COVID-19 Funding for Health and Human Services Programs

Enhanced Federal Medicaid Assistance Percentage (FMAP). States receive a 6.2 percentage point enhanced FMAP for the duration of the COVID-19 federal public health emergency declared by the Secretary of Health and Human Services (the public health emergency is effective beginning January 27, 2020). The enhanced FMAP for COVID-19 is available for each calendar quarter that includes a month during which the public health emergency is in effect. States must meet certain requirements to receive the enhanced FMAP for COVID-19.

Child Care and Development Block Grant. Additional funding is provided to support the existing purposes of the Child Care and Development Block Grant and to provide funding to child care providers to help them to remain open or to reopen after closing because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The funding can also be used to provide child care subsidies to essential workers without regard to the income eligibility requirements of the federal child care program. The additional funding is available until September 30, 2022.

Community Services Block Grant. The additional funding is to ensure continuity of operations for agencies that provide services under Community Services Block Grant programs and to protect staff who administer and deliver the services. Funding can be used to adapt to changing needs of eligible individuals and families because of the COVID-19 public health emergency. States can modify administrative procedures related to program operations to ensure ongoing eligibility for services. This funding is available until September 30, 2021.

Child Welfare. The CARES Act provides additional funding for existing child welfare activities without requiring grantees to meet requirements for matching funds. The additional funding is available until September 30, 2021. Also, under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, the enhanced FMAP applies to child welfare funding.

Runaway and Homeless Youth. Supplemental funding is to help grantees serving runaway and homeless youth to prevent the spread of COVID-19; to ensure the safety of facilities and staff that serve runaway and homeless youth; and to provide training and supplies to shelters and staff that serve runaway and homeless youth to respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency. The funding is available until September 30, 2021.

Supportive Services. Additional funding is to support existing home and community-based services for older adults to help them live independently. The funding is available until September 30, 2021.

Congregate and Home-Delivered Meals. Additional funding is for programs popularly known as “Meals on Wheels” that provide food to seniors in their homes or in senior centers and adult day centers. The funding is available until September 30, 2021.

Family Caregivers. This additional funding under the Older Americans Act is a supplement to existing funds and for expanded purposes related to addressing the consequences of COVID-19 (for example, to provide technology hardware and Internet access to address social isolation for seniors). The funding is available until September 30, 2021.

Vulnerable Adults (LTC Ombudsman). The additional funding for the Long Term Care Ombudsman is to for new training and administrative services related to the COVID-19 pandemic. This funding is available until September 30, 2021.

Aging and Disability Resource Centers. The additional funding is to support Aging and Disability Resource Centers to prevent the spread of COVID-19, prepare to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on elderly and disabled populations, and respond to the public health emergency. The funding will be used to facilitate connections to community resources, ensure

coordination across state and local agencies, and address the effects of COVID-19, including social isolation, food insecurity, and access to personal care services.

Department of Health. Supplemental funding from the Centers for Disease Control is to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency. The funding can be used for necessary public health activities related to the COVID-19 public health emergency, including surveillance, epidemiology, lab capacity for testing, infection control and mitigation activities, communications related to COVID-19, and others. The funding under P.L. 116-123 is available for 12 months and the amount under P.L. 116-136 is available for 24 months.

Poison Control Centers. The funding to poison control centers is for responding to additional calls due to increased use of household cleaning products during the COVID-19 public health emergency. This funding is available until September 30, 2022.

Community Health Centers. Funding for Community Health Centers is allocated directly to the local recipients. Minnesota has 16 Community Health Centers. They are located in Minneapolis (eight locations), Moorhead, Cook, Duluth, St. Paul (three locations), Mankato, and Grand Marais. Additional funding for COVID-19 testing is also allocated to these 16 Community Health Centers in Minnesota.

Department of Health-Testing Capacity for COVID-19. This Department of Health funding is available to develop, purchase, administer, process, and analyze COVID-19 tests, conduct surveillance, trace contacts, and related activities. This funding is available for 30 months.

Rural Health Clinics-Testing Capacity for COVID-19. This funding is distributed directly to rural health clinics registered with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services by a specified deadline, depending on how the clinic is registered. Each rural health clinic received approximately \$50,000.

Small Rural Hospital Improvement Program. This funding is for rural hospitals to build capacity to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. The funding can be used to expand telehealth services, purchase personal protective equipment, and increase testing and laboratory capacity. This funding is available until September 30, 2022.

Emergency Food Assistance. The Emergency Food Assistance Program is the main source of federal funding for food shelves and related organizations. The program provides food to individuals at no cost, mostly through food shelves and through community organizations that may deliver food to individuals in their home or in shelters. Additional funding is provided to the program to purchase food. This funding is available until September 30, 2021.

Women, Infants, and Children. The additional funding is for anticipated increase in program participation due to economic disruption related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Child Nutrition (Through SNAP). This funding is for families with children eligible for free and reduced-price meal programs that had food availability interrupted by school closures due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In Minnesota, families will receive \$325.00 for each eligible child.

Hospital Preparedness Program. This funding is distributed to some state and local public health agencies as well as hospital systems to prepare for and respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency. This funding is available through September 30, 2024.

Provider Relief Funds. This funding is distributed directly to medical providers in three allocations. The “General” allocation is based on a provider’s Medicare fee-for-service reimbursements in 2019 and cost reports submitted to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The “High-Impact” allocation is distributed to hospitals with 100 or more COVID-19 admissions in a specified timeframe and to hospitals with a disproportionate share Medicare funding. The “Rural” allocation is for rural hospitals, health clinics, and community health centers. The “Skilled Nursing Facilities” allocation is for nursing homes.

Ryan White HIV/AIDS. Additional funding is for states and to local organizations to support the existing purposes of the Ryan White HIV/AIDS program and anticipated new participation related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The additional funding is available for 12 months.

Emergency Solutions Grants. This funding is distributed to organizations that serve homeless populations. Funds are distributed to state and local governments to provide services to homeless populations to help to address the COVID-19 pandemic.

This Fiscal Issue Brief reflects public information for federal COVID-19 funding that was available in early June 2020. Federal agencies continue to provide information and allocation amounts for enacted funding programs. For the most current information for any of the provisions discussed in this Fiscal Issue Brief, please contact Dennis Albrecht (dennis.albrecht@senate.mn 651-296-3817)