



FISCAL ISSUE BRIEF
Federal COVID-19 Funding
Housing

Senate Counsel, Research, and Fiscal Analysis

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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 housing budget jurisdiction provided funding to the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency, individual providers, and local governments. 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. Other federal housing-related programs are included in the Health and Human Services budget area, and the Jobs and Economic Development budget area.

Table 1: Federal COVID-19 Funding for Housing

(Dollars in Thousands)

Law	Federal Awards with State Allocation Estimates	Amount	LAC Approved
116-136	Public Housing Operating Fund	8,190	N/A
116-136	Tenant-Based Rental Assistance	4,653	N/A
116-136	Supportive Housing for Persons with Disabilities	2,448	N/A
116-136	Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS	289	N/A
	Total	15,580	

Summary of Federal COVID-19 Funding for Housing Programs

Public Housing Operating Fund. The CARES Act allocated \$8.19 million in Minnesota to local housing authorities for the Public Housing Operating Fund to prevent, prepare for, and

respond to the coronavirus pandemic, and to help public housing agencies maintain normal operations during the pandemic. The funds may be used for other expenses to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus, including support to maintain the health and safety of assisted individuals and families, and education and childcare for impacted families, which are newly eligible activities. Funds previously made available by formula under the Operating Fund and Capital Fund programs in prior appropriations may be used through December 31, 2020.

Tenant-Based Rental Assistance. The CARES Act allocated \$4.65 million to local housing authorities for additional rental subsidies, including Section 8 Housing Choice vouchers, that help make up the difference between what a renter can afford to pay and the actual rent for a home.

Supportive Housing for Persons with Disabilities. The CARES Act allocated \$2.44 million to local housing authorities for additional resources to allow persons with disabilities to live as independently as possible in the community by subsidizing rental housing opportunities which provide access to appropriate supportive services.

Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS. The CARES Act allocated \$289,000 to address housing needs for low-income people who are living with HIV/AIDS and their families. Funds are distributed to cities by formula allocations. In addition, some projects are selected in national competitions to serve as service delivery models or operate in non-formula areas. Grantees partner with nonprofit organizations and housing agencies to provide housing and support to beneficiaries.

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. If you want the most current information for any of the provisions discussed in this Fiscal Issue Brief, please contact Dan Mueller (daniel.mueller@senate.mn 651-296-7680).