

Summary of Federal Stimulus Bill

As of January 31, 2021

Education - \$91.1 Billion

Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund - \$54.3 Billion

- For response to COVID-19 (formula funding) school repairs and improvements and economically impoverished, disabled, minorities, and foster care

Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund - \$4.1 Billion

- \$2.75 Billion for Emergency Assistance to Non-Public K-12 schools
- \$1.3 Billion for K-12 education, Higher Education, or other educational entities to be used in response to COVID-19 (GEERF monies cannot be used to support voucher or tax credit scholarship programs)

Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund - \$22.7 Billion

- \$20.2 Billion to be allocated based on student populations compared to national totals. Similar to the CARES Act, this funding will be distributed directly to the institutions and 50% must be used for financial aid grants to students

Early Childhood Education - \$10 Billion

- Child Care and Development Block Grants for immediate assistance to child care providers for early childhood education

Healthcare - \$62.6 Billion

COVID Vaccinations - \$31.7 Billion

- \$8.75 Billion in the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) for the distribution and administration of COVID-19 vaccinations (must be spent by 9/30/24)
 - \$4.5B of this will be sent to state and local governments based on a prior formulary (early estimates have Louisiana receiving approximately \$63M of this)
- \$22.945 Billion for the production and distribution of COVID-19 vaccinations

COVID Testing - \$25.4 Billion

- \$21.7 Billion will be distributed to the states for continuation of these initiatives (early estimates have Louisiana receiving approximately \$302M of this)
- \$3 Billion in direct payments to medical providers (this will potentially mitigate increased Medicaid rates to providers for relief on the state side)
- \$700 Million will be distributed to various tribes and territories

COVID Research - \$1.25 Billion

- National Institutes of Health for research on the long-term effects of COVID-19

Behavioral Health - \$4.25 Billion

- For increased mental health and substance abuse services and support
 - These funds will supplement existing block grants for mental health and substance abuse services already utilized by LDH agencies, including the Office of Behavioral Health
 - Increases in this funding could offset a State General Fund need in FY 22

Additional Provider Relief

- Provides a temporary increase to the Medicare compensation rates for physicians for 2021
- This will indirectly affect the maximum allowable payments in the Medicaid program as well, potentially increasing expenditures in Medicaid

Transportation - \$45 Billion

Highway Infrastructure Programs - \$10 Billion

- For state Departments of Transportation and certain local transportation agencies
 - Funds are available to replace amounts lost as a result of the coronavirus for preventive maintenance, routine maintenance, operations, and personnel costs and may also support tolling agencies and ferry systems
 - Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBGP) funds are available until Sept. 30, 2024

Transit Emergency Relief - \$14 Billion

- In combination with amounts provided in the CARES Act, this funding will ensure both urban and rural transit agencies receive amounts based on their operating expenses

Airline Payroll Support - \$15 Billion

Additional Funding - \$5 Billion

- For Amtrak, airports, motorcoach, school bus, and ferry industries

Agriculture - \$12 Billion

- \$11.2 Billion to USDA for support to agricultural producers, growers and processors including:
 - \$5 Billion for supplemental \$20 per acre payments to crop producers
 - \$3 Billion for livestock producers who were forced to euthanize due to COVID-19
 - \$1.5 Billion to purchase food, agricultural products and seafood
 - \$1 Billion for payments to livestock and poultry growers with revenue losses
 - \$200 Million to support Timber harvesting and hauling impacted by COVID-19
- \$400M for the dairy donation program (reimburses producers and processors for donating product)
- \$100M to support specialty crop farmers and address supply chain issues at state level through the block grant program
- \$100M to support local farmers, farmers markets, and value-added production for farmers and outlets impacted by COVID-19
- \$75M to Farming Opportunities Training and Outreach Program to support groups providing beginning, socially disadvantaged, and veteran farmers and ranchers with financial and marketing advice and technical assistance

- \$60 Million for grants to make improvements to existing meat and poultry facilities
- \$28 Million distributed to states to support existing farm stress programs

Fisheries Disaster Assistance - \$300 Million

- Only for coastal states/territories for COVID-19 prevention and response
- Louisiana will receive minimum 1% of the \$300 Million

Broadband - \$7 Billion

Emergency Broadband Benefit - \$3.2 billion

- \$50 per month for broadband for low-income families

Rural Broadband - \$300 million

- Federal grants for broadband infrastructure in underserved and rural areas
- Requires partnerships between states/locals and providers

Federal Communications Commission's Telehealth Program - \$250 Million

- Fully funds telecommunication services, information services, and devices necessary for eligible healthcare providers responding to the COVID-19 emergency

Broadband for Historically Black Colleges and Universities - \$285 Million

- Establishes a fund in the U.S. Treasury to be administered by the newly-created office of Minority Broadband Initiatives for expanded broadband access and devices for students

Federal Communication Commission's Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Initiative - \$1.9 Billion

- Provides funding to providers with less than 2 million customers for removing and replacing equipment produced or provided by an entity determined to pose a national security risk that meets certain federal law requirements (*see* 47 U.S.C. 1601)

Broadband Mapping - \$65 Million

- Provides funding to the FCC to carry out its broadband mapping requirements pursuant to 47 U.S.C. 642(c), which include maps depicting extent of the availability of different types of broadband services (fixed, mobile, etc.)

Emergency Rental Assistance - \$25 Billion

- Set up the same as the Coronavirus Relief Fund except that local governments with populations of 200,000 or more will receive a proportionate share from the federal government
- The rest of the approximately \$309 Million will go to the state to distribute
- Funds will be used to pay rent and utilities for certain households
- The bill sets eligibility criteria but allows states and localities to provide additional prioritization of funds

Food Assistance - \$500 Million

Emergency Food Assistance Program - \$400 Million

- Money will go to 5 food banks around the state to purchase and distribute food

Changes regarding benefit amounts and eligibility for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits:

- The maximum monthly SNAP benefit that a participant may receive is increased by 15% through June 30, 2021
- Federal pandemic unemployment compensation does not count as income that would disqualify someone from qualifying for SNAP benefits
- Creates exceptions for certain full and part-time students to be eligible for SNAP benefits
- \$100 Million to USDA to provide grants to states for administrative expenses (State allocations will be based on USDA formula)

Unemployment Benefits - \$120 Billion

Federal Unemployment Programs

- The original CARES Act established several unemployment programs to assist a broad range of people impacted by the economic downturn brought on by COVID-19 and the stimulus bill expands some of these programs
- The CARES Act established the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) program to provide unemployment benefits to persons whose job classification would have precluded them from receiving traditional unemployment benefits (i.e., self-employed persons and independent contractors)
 - The new stimulus bill extends the PUA program through March 14, 2021 (with a drop dead payment cut-off date of April 5, 2021)
 - Extends the number of weeks that an individual may claim PUA benefits from 39 to 50
 - Allows states the authority to waive overpayments if the receiving individual was not at fault or if such repayment would violate equity and good conscience
- The CARES Act established the Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) program which provided an extra (federally funded) amount to benefit checks
 - The new stimulus bill provides an additional \$300 per week to benefits paid between December 26, 2020 and March 14, 2021
- The CARES Act allowed states to waive the “first week” waiting period, allowing recipients to begin immediately receiving benefits upon application instead of having a one-week delay
 - The new stimulus bill extended this “first week” waiver through March 14, 2021
 - The bill provides a 50% reimbursement for the cost of providing the first week of benefits

- The CARES Act established the Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) which provided an additional 13 weeks of (federally funded) unemployment benefits
 - The new stimulus bill extends the PEUC program through March 14, 2021 (with a drop dead payment cut-off date of April 5, 2021)
 - Extends the number of weeks the additional benefits are paid from 13 to 24

Interest on Title XII Loans

- The CARES Act provided that if a state had to borrow from the federal government under Title XII to continue paying unemployment benefits, the loan was interest free through the end of 2020
 - The new stimulus bill extends this interest-free period through March 14, 2021
 - Authorizes states to delay employer tax increases or other employer surcharges while the economy is struggling

Reporting Requirements for Participants

- The new stimulus bill requires PUA applicants to submit documentation to substantiate employment within a certain number of days
- Requires states to validate identity of PUA applicants
 - Authorizes 100% federal reimbursement for state administrative expenses for identity verification or validation

Return to Work Reporting

- The new stimulus bill requires states to have in effect “a method to address any circumstances” a benefit claimant refuses to return to work
 - Further detail was not provided in the bill as to what exactly this means
- Requires employers to notify the state when an individual refuses employment
- Requires plain-language notice to benefit claimants about return to work laws, rights to refuse to return, and contesting a denial based on an employer’s report that claimant refused to return to work

Mixed-Earner Supplement

- Provides a federally funded \$100/week additional benefit to individuals who have at least \$5,000/year in self-employment income but are ineligible for PUA because they are eligible for regular state unemployment benefits
 - This extra benefit is authorized through March 14, 2021

Small Business Aid - \$325 Billion

Payment Protection Program 2 - \$284.5 Billion

- Allows 501C(6) nonprofits (includes Visitors Bureaus and destination marketing organizations) provided that the entity has 300 or fewer employees
 - Lobbying must not exceed 15% of total activities and also fall under \$1M during the most recent tax year

Grants to Shuttered Venues - \$15 Billion

- SBA grants for live venues, theaters, live performing arts organizations, museums, and movie theaters

Community Development Financial Institutions - \$12 Billion

Economic Injury Disaster Loan Grants for businesses in low-income communities - \$20 billion

Stimulus Checks

- Maximum direct payments of \$600 for single filers making up to \$75,000 per year, \$1,200 for those married filing jointly making up to \$150,000, and an extra \$600 for dependent children under 17 years old
- Stimulus payment amounts decrease for filers making more than these thresholds and phase out completely for single filers making more than \$87,000 and \$174,000 for those married filing jointly

United States Postal Service - \$10 Billion

Tax Provisions

- Extends the repayment period for employers to repay deferred amounts of employee withholdings of social security taxes or the railroad retirement equivalent through December 31, 2021
- Clarifies tax treatment of PPP loans and certain loan forgiveness and other business financial assistance under the CARES Act
- Addresses the emergency financial aid grants awarded to college students
- Extends the refundable federal payroll tax credits for paid family and sick leave through March 2021
- Provides for other administrative changes