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The CARES Act: Initial State Allocations, Estimates

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Summary

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act ([P.L. 116-136](#)), signed into law on March 27, is the third bill to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. With a price tag estimated at more than \$2 trillion, it provides widespread assistance to individuals, corporations, and state and local governments.

FFIS [Budget Brief 20-11](#) summarized the law's \$150 billion Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) and [Budget Brief 20-12](#) provided national total funding for selected state programs.

This brief provides state allocations and estimates for dozens of grant programs. In addition to the CARES Act, it includes funding provided in the Families First Coronavirus Response Act ([P.L. 116-127](#)) and the Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Act ([P.L. 116-123](#)). The section below provides supplementary information for certain estimates. A forthcoming brief will summarize CARES Act provisions of importance to states.

Funding Notes

A spreadsheet that accompanies this brief provides the state details for selected programs that received funding in the CARES Act or its predecessors. Some of the estimates require clarification, which is provided below. FFIS will continue to update this spreadsheet to reflect actual awards and the addition of programs that could not be estimated, primarily because they have some component of federal discretion.

Columns shaded in gray are those for which FFIS received state estimates from congressional sources. Columns shaded in blue are those for which agencies have provided allocations.

Department of the Treasury

Coronavirus Relief Fund. Figures listed are total state allocations. The state-local split will vary by state. The local portion is capped at 45% of the total in each state.

Department of Education

The estimates listed were prepared by the Congressional Research Service (CRS) for the governor's and K-12 portions of the Education Stabilization Fund. FFIS prepared estimates for higher education using the formula factors specified and available data.

For the higher education portion, the allocations listed account for 90% of the total. Another 7.5% is dedicated to Historically Black Colleges and

Universities (HBCUs) and Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs), allocated by a combination of formula and non-formula criteria. The final 2.5% will be awarded at the secretary's discretion.

The law sets aside up to .5% of the \$30.750 billion appropriation (\$153.8 million) for territories, to be distributed in consultation with the Department of the Interior.

Department of Health and Human Services

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). The LIHEAP estimates were provided by congressional sources. State estimates include tribal amounts. The estimates are based on the CARES Act provision that requires 25% to be allocated according to the "old" formula (based on 1984 state shares and focused on heating assistance) and 75% according to the new formula.

Administration for Community Living (ACL). Congregate Nutrition Services and Home-Delivered Nutrition Services received \$480 million in the CARES Act (amounts by program are not specified) and \$80 million and \$160 million, respectively, in the Families First Coronavirus Response Act.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The CARES Act provides \$4.3 billion to the CDC and specifies that not less than \$1.5 billion of the total is for grants to states, localities, territories, and tribes. Of this amount, Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) grantees are guaranteed to receive 100% of their fiscal year (FY) 2019 awards. The figures on the spreadsheet reflect these minimum awards. For funding provided under the Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Act, the amounts reflect awards to date (at least \$950 million was provided to states, locals, territories, and tribes).

In addition, state allocations reflect funds awarded directly to local governments (Los Angeles, Chicago, and New York City, plus Houston and Philadelphia for awards to date under the first supplemental).

Department of Agriculture

The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP). TEFAP received funds in the CARES Act and the Families First Coronavirus Response Act. Figures include funding in both bills. TEFAP administration lists the maximum amount the secretary may make available.

Department of Housing and Urban Development

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). The CARES Act provides \$5 billion for CDBG, of which \$2 billion is to be allocated by the same formula as in FY 2020. The estimates reflect that portion. The remaining \$3 billion is to be allocated as follows:

- \$1 billion to states and territories based on specified factors
- \$2 billion to state and local governments by a formula determined by the secretary

Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG). State allocations exclude \$2 billion to be allocated to state and local governments by a formula determined by the secretary.

Tenant-Based Rental Assistance. State allocations exclude \$400 million available for adjustments in calendar year 2020 section 8 renewal funding allocations based on need.

Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOWPA). The figures reflect \$50 million allocated based on FY 2020 HOWPA awards. The allocations do not reflect \$10 million in additional one-time funds to be allocated to certain grantees with existing contracts.

***Independent
Agencies***

National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities. For both programs, figures reflect state agency grants. The CARES Act specifies that 40% of funds be distributed to state agencies, with the remaining 60% for direct grants. The programs both received a \$75 million appropriation.

Next Steps

FFIS will next prepare a written summary of the provisions of the CARES Act that are important to states and will continue to update the numbers provided here and add any new awards that are announced.

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