

Policy Update: What's Next During This Crisis For Nonprofits?

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Introduction

Last spoke with you in summer 2019, and so much has changed

We are in an unprecedented time as a nation

Beyond the tragic numbers of those who have died or been diagnosed with the coronavirus is how it has impacted this nation and its people

From the very start, this was both a health care crisis and an economic one

The economic aftermath will consume Congress and the Administration for months to come

However, the response so far out of Washington has been important

COVID-19 Response

The Three Bills

To date, we have the enactment into law of 3 emergency bills

- Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act
- Families First Coronavirus Response Act
- Coronavirus Aid, Recovery, and Economic Security (CARES) Act

There is a fourth bill in the development stage

Legislative/Executive COVID-19 Actions

January 31
Public Health
Emergency
Declared

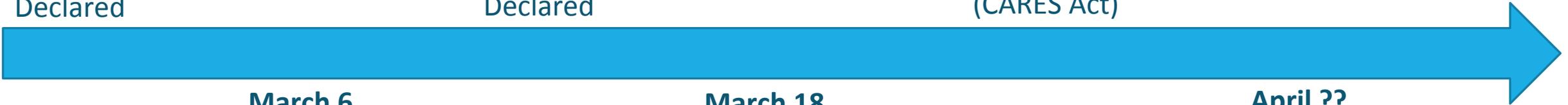
March 13
National
State of
Emergency
Declared

March 26
3rd Supp.
Package
Passed
(CARES Act)

March 6
1st Supp.
Package
Passed

March 18
2nd Supp.
Package
Passed
(FFCRA)

April ??
4th Supp.
Package??



What's In the Laws?

First supplemental package provided funding for government agencies and little for on-the-ground response

Next section will cover the combined provisions of Families First Coronavirus Response Act and the CARES Act

Easier to discuss as one whole since both are now law

Health Provisions

Waived cost sharing for COVID-19 testing for all

\$100 billion to hospitals to support treating the uninsured

\$1.32 billion to fund community health centers who faced an end to funding at the end of May

Emergency FMAP increase (Federal Medical Assistance Percentage) for duration of the emergency to support Medicaid programs

\$425 million to increase access to community based mental health services

Telehealth provisions

More funding for VA healthcare

Nutrition Provisions

\$500 million for WIC for low-income pregnant women/mothers

\$950 million for The Emergency Food Assistance Program for low-income people

\$750 million total for Older Americans Act nutrition programs and state flexibility

\$8.8 billion in funding for child nutrition and state flexibility

\$15.5 billion for SNAP to allow for increased caseload

Suspend work/work training requirements for SNAP

Additional SNAP flexibilities to provide emergency benefits

Unemployment Benefits

Emergency unemployment insurance (UI), including emergency funds to states to process and pay unemployment benefits

The 22 million people who have applied for initial benefits over the past four weeks show why this is necessary

- "Since the end of the Great Recession, the labor market added 21.5 million jobs. In four weeks, all of the job gains from the decade-long recovery following the Great Recession have been erased." – Glassdoor Senior Economist Daniel Zhao

Three Types of UI/Assistance

Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) provides up to 39 weeks of unemployment compensation for those who typically do not qualify for state UI (self-employed, part-time, “gig” workers)

Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (PUC) provides an additional \$600 per week on top of regular benefits to workers receiving state UI benefits (including those receiving partial benefits) or PUA, through July 31, 2020

Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) provides workers receiving state UI benefits an additional 13 weeks of compensation in addition to the maximum number of weeks available through their state programs (26 weeks usually)

Other Financial Benefits

Emergency Paid Sick Leave benefit program for those diagnosed with COVID-19 (through December 31, 2020)

Emergency Paid Family/Medical Leave for COVID-19-related issues (through December 31, 2020)

Cash payments to individuals (\$1,200 per individual taxpayer, up to a certain income limit)

- <https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/business/coronavirus-stimulus-check-calculator/>
- Direct deposit to accounts or checks, which should start this week
- Misses undocumented and dependent high school/college students

State and Local Provisions

\$274 billion toward specific COVID-19 response efforts, including \$150 billion in direct aid for state/local governments

\$6.5 billion total for the Community Development Block Grant, the Economic Development Administration and the Manufacturing Extension Partnership, all aimed at mitigating local economic crises

Education and Child Care Provisions

\$13 billion for K-12 schools

\$14 billion for higher education

\$750 million for Head Start

\$3.5 billion for Child Care and Development Block Grant

Other Low-Income Assistance Provisions

\$7 billion for affordable housing and homelessness assistance

\$900 million for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program

Provisions for Nonprofits to Be Aware Of

\$350 billion in small business relief through the Paycheck Protection Program

- Loan to retain full time employees
- Converts to a grant if all employees are on payroll through end of June and 75% of loan is used for payroll
- Applications opened April 3 and first-come, first-serve basis has led to the money running out already!
- Fix may be in the works

Charitable deduction tax benefits for itemizers and non-itemizers

Emergency Paid Sick Leave administered through Payroll Tax Credit, so includes nonprofits

A Fourth Bill?

Coming soon, just a matter of when

Some provisions advocates would like to see:

- Expansion of the PPP
- Allow all SNAP beneficiaries to order and pay for groceries online with EBT benefits (only possible in a handful of states currently)
- Funding for high-speed internet infrastructure projects
- Funding for clinical labs working on COVID-19 response
- Further increasing the FMAP to 12% (raised to 6.2% in Families First Act)

Specific Example: Some UWW Priorities

Provide an emergency appropriation of \$150 million to build 211's capacity

Extend the “above-the-line” or universal charitable deduction for contributions

Support America's nonprofits that are responding to this pandemic and employers of more than 10% of the workforce

Other Legislative Priorities?

Older Americans Act Reauthorization

Would normally be the headline story of our webinar!

Supporting Older Americans Act of 2020 (H.R. 4334), a bipartisan bill to reauthorize the Older Americans Act (OAA) signed into law

Bipartisan, five-year reauthorization bill

OAA Reauthorization: Important Provisions

Increase of over 35% over the next five federal fiscal years (FY) for every OAA program

First-time inclusion of social isolation screening, further coordination of services to address this issue, and a report on how the issue is currently addressed by aging programs

Extends the authorization of the RAISE Family Caregivers Act

Establishes a National Research, Demonstration, and Evaluation Center for the aging network

Codifies the existing Falls Prevention and Chronic Disease Self-Management Education programs

FY 2021 Funding Proposals

Completely on hold for now – all hands are on deck responding to COVID-19

FY 2020 was a year of increases

Who knows what this year will bring?

We will keep you posted!

Conclusions

This unprecedented crisis has reaffirmed one important principle—that government’s role is most important in these times

The response to date from D.C. being bipartisan, prompt and decisive gives comfort and confidence to the American people

Yet in reality—we are dealing with a state and localized crisis

- The decisions on social distancing, essential services, and shelter in place are being driven at the state and local level

The role and impact of I&R specialists is important and will also be felt during and after this crisis

Thank you—stay safe and keep up your important service to your communities!

Helpful COVID-19 Resources

National Council of Nonprofits: <https://www.councilofnonprofits.org/trends-and-policy-issues>

United Way Worldwide Public Policy:

<https://www.unitedway.org/get-involved/take-action/call-senate-now-coronavirus>

ADvancing States: <http://www.advancingstates.org/covid-19>

CARES Act: <https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/116/hr748>

Families First Act: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/6468/text>

For Canadian members:

<https://www.parl.ca/LegisInfo/BillDetails.aspx?Language=E&billId=10716060>

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