

CARES Act (COVID-19 Stimulus Bill)

Background

This is a preliminary working document created by the Division of Legislative Finance that will be updated as additional information becomes available from federal and state agencies. The purpose of this paper is to give a high-level summary of the provisions in this piece of legislation and their possible impact on Alaska. The total cost of that legislation is \$2.0 trillion. There are considerable resources going to federal agencies that provide services to Alaskans. This paper was designed to highlight some of the areas that funding will be going directly to Alaska governments and Alaskan communities in the form of cash payments, competitive grant funding, and block grants.

Unless otherwise stated, all dollar amounts are referring to the amount that was appropriated nation wide, of which Alaska can receive a portion, determined either through federal formula or by grant eligibility.

The Document Consists of Four Sections:

- 1. A list of Federal funds appropriated by Congress in the CARES Act to States that a State will receive if the State can show it meets a statutory purpose or statutory criteria in the bill, what the funds can be spent on, and whether the funding will or could reduce or supplement state general fund spending for an existing program. (STARTING PAGE 2)**
- 2. A list of Federal funds appropriated by Congress in the CARES Act to a non-state entity, (local government entity or owners of a medical hospital / facility) that will be received by that entity without having to run through the state if the non-state entity can show it meets a statutory purpose or statutory criteria in the bill, what the funds can be spent on, and whether the funding will or could reduce or supplement state general fund spending for an existing program. (STARTING PAGE 8)**
- 3. A list of Federal funds appropriated by Congress in the CARES Act to a discretionary grant program that may be available to a state or non-state entity based on discretionary awards of grants by a federal agency and what the funds can be spent on, and whether the funding will or could reduce or supplement state general fund spending for an existing program. (STARTING PAGE 10)**
- 4. A List of other items of note to Alaska. (STARTING PAGE 16)**

Explanation of Federal Stimulus Bill

SECTION 1:

A list of Federal funds appropriated by Congress in the CARES Act to States that a State will receive if the State can show it meets a statutory purpose or statutory criteria in the bill, what the funds can be spent on, and whether the funding will or could reduce or supplement state general fund spending for an existing program.

SEC. 5001. CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUND. (Page 598)

\$150 billion Coronavirus Relief Fund for state, local and tribal governments to be paid out within 30 days of enactment.

- Funds are allocated by population proportions: 45% of the total is set aside for distribution to local governments whose population exceed 500,000 residents.
 - **\$8 billion** of this is set aside for tribal governments nation-wide for expenses based on increased COVID-19 related expenditures of each such tribal government (or a tribally-owned entity of such tribal government) relative to aggregate expenditures in fiscal year 2019.
 - Funds are rather flexible and can be used for any necessary expenditures incurred due to COVID-19, were not accounted for in the budget most recently approved as of the enactment of this act and were incurred during the period that begins March 1, 2020 and Dec 30, 2020.

***Analyst Comment:** Alaska's Estimated share is \$1.25 billion of which \$688 million (55%) would be Alaska's state's share to use at its discretion within Federal guidelines. Alaska has no municipalities with a population over 500,000, and would likely retain the full \$1.25 billion. NCSL believes the funds remaining from the 45% set aside for localities revert back to the state.*

SEC. 18001. EDUCATION STABILIZATION FUND (Page 752)

\$30.75 billion nation-wide for an Education Stabilization Fund for states, school districts and institutions of higher education for costs related to the coronavirus distributed in the following areas:

Sec. 18002 GOVERNOR'S EMERGENCY EDUCATION RELIEF FUND

\$3 billion is shared by the states for governors to allocate at their discretion for emergency support grants to Local Education Agencies (LEA) and Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs) that have been most significantly impacted by the coronavirus. These funds will support the educational continuity for elementary and secondary school students as well as emergency support for state institutions of higher education.

***Analyst Comment:** Early estimates put Alaska's share at around \$6.5 million*

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Sec. 18003 ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND

\$13.2 billion available for formula Elementary and Secondary Education grants to states, which will then distribute 90% of funds to LEAs based on their proportional allocation of Elementary and Secondary Education Act Title I-A funds.

- *60% of the funds are distributed based on the relative number of 5- to 24-year-olds in the state.*
- *40% of the funds are distributed based on the relative number of kids younger than 21 as defined by section 1124(c) of ESSA.*

These funds will support coronavirus-response activities such as planning for and coordinating during long-term school closures, purchasing educational technology to support online learning for all students and additional activities allowed for under ESSA.

Eligible uses of these funds are outlined in sub section (d) (1-12). The bill sets aside the other 10% for the Department of Education and Early Development. The state may only reserve 0.5% of that portion for administrative costs. The remaining 99.5% must be spent on coronavirus response. This funding must be awarded to sub-grantees by the end of the fiscal year or it will be repaid to the Federal Government.

Analyst Comment: *Current estimates put the states share of this funding in the \$38 million range.*

Sec. 18004 HIGHER EDUCATION EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND

\$14 billion for emergency relief for Institutions of Higher Education to respond to the coronavirus. 90% of funds via a formula base, 75% on its share of Pell Full Time Equivalent (FTE) and 25% on non-Pell FTE, excluding students who were exclusively enrolled online prior to coronavirus. At least 50% of institutional funds must provide emergency financial aid grants to students that can cover eligible expenses under a student's cost of attendance, such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care and childcare. Limits on usage are outlined in sub section (c).

Higher Education Emergency Relief will be distributed by Dept. of Ed in three ways:

- 90% to be allocated directly to each IHE to prevent, prepare, and respond
- 7.5% grants for Minority Serving Institutions (Title III, Title V and Title VII)
- 2.5% grants for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (Title VII, Part B)

Analyst Comment: *University of Alaska will receive the majority of its funds through the 90% direct to institution formula but should also be eligible for both grant-funding sources due to eligibility as a Minority Serving Institution. Current estimates put Alaska's share at around \$10.5 million. The University of Alaska's portion is estimated at \$8.5 million.*

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*There is a maintenance of effort requirement associated with this education funding. To receive the state's portion of either the \$14.25 billion in higher Education funding, or the \$13.5 billion in K-12 funding the state must maintain support to K-12 and the University at a level equal to the average of the past 3 fiscal years (So this federal funding is intended to supplement rather than supplant state spending). The US Secretary of education can waive this maintenance of effort if the state has experienced a precipitous decline in revenues. **Alaska is a likely candidate for this exemption, but that is not guaranteed.***

DISASTER RELIEF FUND (Page 702)

\$45 billion nation-wide for the Disaster Relief Fund (DRF) for the immediate needs of state, local, tribal and territorial governments to protect citizens and help them respond and recover from the overwhelming effects of COVID-19. Reimbursable activities may include medical response, personal protective equipment, National Guard deployment, coordination of logistics, safety measures and community services nationwide. Disaster Relief Fund dollars for COVID-19 are made available to states via the March 13 national emergency declaration and subsequent state declaration requests.

Analyst comments: *The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, through the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management is authorized to submit disaster reimbursement requests as the recipient, and to work with all local jurisdictions as sub recipients for reimbursement requests, through FEMA, under the Stafford Act Emergency Declaration for the COVID-19 response. Emergency work, including emergency protective measures are eligible for reimbursement. The majority of this work will be accomplished with a not-less-than 75% federal share, meaning the State of Alaska is required to certify that the State will fund the remaining 25% non-federal share.*

At this time, the department is unable to accurately project costs, but the department will be submitting additional revised finance plans as needed for DRF funding to meet the non-federal share in the future.

If a Major Disaster Declaration from the President of the United States is received, the costs mentioned above will move to the new, federally declared disaster and DVMA's accounting structures will be modified to account for the new disaster name and number, and the same 75%/25% cost share will apply.

NATIONAL GUARD PERSONNEL, ARMY AND AIR FORCE (Page 640)

\$1.4 billion nation-wide for deployments of the National Guard. This level of funding will sustain up to 20,000 members of the National Guard, under the direction of the governors of each state, for the next six months in order to support state and local response efforts.

Analyst comments: *If State of Alaska National Guard fulfills missions under State Active Duty for State declared disaster, the costs would currently be funded with the State's Disaster Relief Fund. Normally the majority of day-to-day National Guard costs are paid for through the federal government's budget and those costs are not reflected in the state of Alaska's budget under DMVA. If a Major Disaster Declaration*

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from the President of the United States is received, the Governor will request authorization to utilize the Alaska National Guard, in Title 32 status, and costs are 100% federally funded.

SEC. 2102 UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE PROVISIONS (Page 82)

Expanded unemployment insurance from three to four months, and provides temporary unemployment compensation of \$600 per week for up to 4 months, which is in addition to, and distributed at the same time, as regular state and federal UI benefits. Part-Time, Self Employed (such as fishing professions), and gig economy workers can now have access to unemployment insurance. These funds are to supplement rather than supplant current state UI spending.

- AK Department of Labor may petition the Secretary of Labor to cover the first week of unemployment benefits at 100% federal.
- Offers federal participation for “new programs” established by the state for short-term unemployment benefits.
- Federal government will reimburse any additional administrative expenses incurred by the State by reason of such an agreement (as determined by the Secretary of Labor).
- The state is eligible for reimbursement for half of the costs incurred through December 31, 2020 to pay for unemployment benefits. (This also includes any nonprofits and Indian tribes that provide unemployment benefits)
- The act also allows states to be more flexible in quickly hiring for positions to process increased workload associated to unemployment insurance. This includes “temporary staff, rehiring of retirees or former employees on a non-competitive basis, and other temporary actions to quickly process applications and claims.”

Analyst Comments: *These funds are expressly intended to supplement rather than supplant state of Alaska UI funding levels. Initial UI claims have gone up by about 6,000 filers (76%) in the last week of March. This has placed a strain on the states UI fund. With around 15,500 additional UI filers over 2019 levels this time last year, the balance of the states UI fund will need some sort of capitalization in the near future. The fund is projected to go from around \$500m to \$200m range by September when next years payroll deduction rates are to be set. Without some action this shortfall will be made up for by increased payroll taxes.*

SEC. 4003. EMERGENCY RELIEF AND TAXPAYER PROTECTIONS (Page 512)

\$500 billion Economic Stabilization lending fund for businesses, cities and states.

Analyst Comment: *Alaska could potentially utilize this item to bond at low interest rates to make deposits to PERS/TRS retirement, for Oil and Gas tax Credit Bonding, or to otherwise offset operating budget expenses.*

TITLE XII DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (Page 831)

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\$56 million provided nationwide to maintain existing Essential Air Service (EAS) to rural communities. This funding is necessary to offset the reduction in overflight fees that help pay for the EAS program.

Analyst Comment: *This is funding that could go directly to the state run rural airports that already take part in the EAS program.*

SEC. 3824. EXTENSION OF THE TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES PROGRAM AND RELATED PROGRAMS (Page 411)

Extends the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program: The bill delays the expiration of TANF from May 22, 2020 to November 30, 2020, providing important short-term certainty for Alaska and helping vulnerable Alaska residents maintain access to this safety net program.

Analyst Comments: *It is not known at this time what fiscal impact this will have on those Alaskans who would otherwise have become ineligible for benefits without this extension of benefits. The number of Alaskan families that are currently at their lifetime 60-month limit, but are given exemptions to remain in the program is around 800. The number of current recipients at or above the current 60-month limit without exemptions is around 120 or 8%.*

DOMESTIC FOOD PROGRAMS FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS (Page 613)

\$8.8 billion nationally in additional funds through September 30, 2021 to support federal child nutrition programs. These programs include the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs, the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC), the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) and the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), all of which have received additional flexibilities and may see increased demand in response to the coronavirus.

SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP) CONTINGENCY RESERVE FUND (Page 614):

\$15.5 billion for a Contingency Reserve Fund within SNAP to support waiver authorities included in the Families First Coronavirus Pandemic Response Act (PL 116-127) as well as anticipated increases in program participation. The contingency fund will be available through September 30, 2021 and will be directed “as deemed necessary” by the Secretary of Agriculture. SNAP benefits are 100% federally funded in Alaska but the program is administered by the State of Alaska in the Department of Health and Social Services. The state pays half of the cost to administer the program.

Analyst Comment: *This funding may be used to help cover increased use of the program, but will not be available to offset the states current 50% obligation.*

CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES PROGRAMS (Page 738)

\$1 billion for Community Services Block Grant (CSBG), which provides funds to states to distribute to eligible local entities (Community Action Agencies or CAAs) to design and implement anti-poverty programs. The bill also expands the income-eligibility requirement for CSBG programs from 125 percent

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to 200 percent of the federal poverty line, providing CAAs with greater flexibility to address the consequences of increasing unemployment and economic disruption caused by the coronavirus.

Analyst Comment: *The Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development (DCCED) administers this program for the State of Alaska. It is unclear if the funding will go directly to DCCED or if it will be grant based. Therefore this funding source is also included in section 3. These are grants that can be applied for by communities.*

INCREASES FUNDING FOR THE COMMODITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (Page 615)

\$450 million for the Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) including \$150 million for costs associated with the distribution of commodities. In Alaska the State Department of Education & Early Development acts as the Distributing Agency for the USDA Commodity Program. Eligible outlets include schools and residential child care institutions participating in the National School Lunch Program, child care centers participating in the Child Care Food Program, approved sponsors of a Summer Food Service Program, food banks, food pantries, soup kitchens, etc.

LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LIHEAP) (Page 735)

\$900 million supplemental funding for the LIHEAP program to further support low-income, disabled and elderly populations to prevent, prepare for, or respond to corona virus by paying for their home heating and cooling. The funds will be available through September 30, 2021.

Analyst Comment: *The Department Health and Social Services administers this program for the State of Alaska in the form of a federal block grant.*

SECTION 2:

A list of Federal funds appropriated by Congress in the CARES Act to a non-state entity, (local government entity or owners of a medical hospital / facility) that will be received by that entity without having to run through the state if the non-state entity can show it meets a statutory purpose or statutory criteria in the bill, what the funds can be spent on, and whether the funding will or could reduce or supplement state general fund spending for an existing program.

CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES PROGRAMS (Page 738)

\$750 million in additional funding to the Head Start program to continue serving eligible children, two-thirds of which is available for the operation of supplemental summer programs through non-competitive grant supplements to existing grantees chosen by the Office of Head Start. The influx of funding will assist those local governments serving as Head Start grantees in responding to coronavirus related needs of children and families, including making up for lost learning time. Up to 500 million of the Head Start funding may be spent on operating supplemental summer programs by existing grantees.

***Analyst comment:** The state of Alaska currently provides around \$7 million in state UGF funded grants to help support the federally required 10% local match from providers. These grants are optional state spending not required under state statute and are not required by the federal government. While providers are required to pay a portion of the cost of running Head Start programs in the form of a local match (including in-kind), the federal government does not require that the State of Alaska take on that responsibility on behalf of local providers.*

TRANSIT INFRASTRUCTURE GRANTS (Page 839)

\$25 billion for transit systems. These funds would be distributed through existing formulas including the Urbanized Area Formula Grants and Formula Grants for Rural Areas using fiscal year 2020 apportionment formulas for grantees to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus.

***Analyst comment:** Three Alaska tribes were recently awarded \$1.8 million under the existing program in November of 2019. The grants were for bus purchases and rehabilitating a facility for transit vehicle maintenance.*

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS OPERATION OF INDIAN PROGRAMS (Page 709)

\$453 million for the Bureau of Indian Affairs to prepare for and respond to the coronavirus, including for public safety and justice programs, welfare assistance and social services programs, and other tribal government assistance. These funds are for the bureau and grantees to respond to coronavirus, domestically or internationally, including, but not limited to, funds for public safety and justice programs, executive direction to carry out deep cleaning of facilities, purchase of personal protective equipment, purchase of information technology to improve teleworking capability, welfare assistance and social services programs (including assistance to individuals), and assistance to tribal governments, including tribal governments who participate in the "Small and Needy" program.

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Analyst Comment: *The small and needy designation is based on population and funding thresholds. Small Tribes are designated as those having a population of 1,700 or less. Small and needy designation is for those that receive less than \$160,000 in recurring Tribal Priority Allocation funds in the lower 48 States and \$200,000 in Alaska. The small and needy funding allows these Tribes to carry out basic tribal services and program.*

INCREASES FUNDING FOR INDIAN HEALTH SERVICES (IHS) (Page 718)

\$1.032 billion for public health support, electronic health record modernization, telehealth and other information technology upgrades, Purchased/Referred Care, Catastrophic Health Emergency Fund, Urban Indian Organizations, Tribal Epidemiology Centers, Community Health Representatives and other activities to protect the safety of patients and staff. \$65 million of that funding will be used for electronic health record stabilization and support and \$450 million will be distributed through IHS directly operated programs.

Analyst Comment: *The Alaska Area maintains 11 Title I contracts with Alaska tribes and tribal organizations, and negotiates one Title V compact with 25 separate tribal funding agreements each year. The Alaska Tribal Health Compact is a comprehensive system of health care that serves all 228 federally recognized tribes in Alaska. IHS-funded, tribally managed hospitals are located in Anchorage, Barrow, Bethel, Dillingham, Kotzebue, Nome and Sitka.*

FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM (Page 614)

\$100 million shall be for the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations program (FDPIR) to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus.

- \$50 million shall be for facility improvements and equipment upgrades.
- \$50 million shall be for the costs relating to additional food purchases.

Analyst Comment: *All federally recognized Tribes in Alaska are all eligible to administer FDPIR. Eligible households include Alaska Native households in Alaska Native Tribal communities, American Indian and non-Indian households residing on a reservation and households living in an approved area that include at least one member of a federally recognized Tribe.*

SECTION 3:

A list of Federal funds appropriated by Congress in the CARES Act to a discretionary grant program that may be available to a state or non-state entity based on discretionary awards of grants by a federal agency and what the funds can be spent on, and whether the funding will or could reduce or supplement state general fund spending for an existing program.

Unless otherwise indicate, all of these grant funding sources require that all expenditures be used to supplement, not supplant, existing state spending on COVID-19 specific response. With additional time specific federal requirements for each grant may better clarify areas in which this grant funding may overlap with any existing state funding specifically dedicated to COVID-19 response, and result in any sort of reimbursement for existing state support.

FUNDING TO STATE AND LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH RESPONDERS (Page 728)

\$1.5 billion for grants to or cooperative agreements with states, localities, territories, tribes, tribal organizations, urban Indian health organizations, or health service providers to tribes, including to carry out surveillance, epidemiology, laboratory capacity, infection control, mitigation, communications and other preparedness and response activities. This grant funding may be used for grants for the rent, lease, purchase, acquisition, construction, alteration, or renovation of non-federally owned facilities to improve preparedness and response capability at the state and local level. The bill includes \$500 million to invest in better coronavirus tools and build state and local public health data infrastructure. Not less than \$125 million of these grants shall be allocated to tribes, tribal organizations, urban Indian health organizations, or health service providers to tribes.

***Analyst Comment:** This grant section of the bill is very vague, and it is not yet possible to determine if any of these grants could offset existing UGF expenditures. The secretary of Health and Human Services has a great deal of discretion on how these grants are distributed. More clarification from the federal government is needed.*

ELECTION SUPPORT (Page 672)

\$400 million in election security grants to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus in the 2020 federal election cycle. States must provide an accounting to the Election Assistance Commission of how the funds were spent within 20 days of any 2020 election.

SEC. 3403. EDUCATION AND TRAINING RELATING TO GERIATRICS. (Page 290)

\$40.7 million for establishing a grant program for geriatric education and training programs to build up the geriatric healthcare workforce. The grants are for no less than \$75 thousand per grant. This program is established for FY 2021 through 2025. The grants are intended to “support the training of health professionals in geriatrics, including traineeships or fellowships” with the aim of addressing health care gaps for older adults.

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COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT (CSBG) (page 738):

\$1 billion for CSBG, which provides funds to states to distribute to eligible local entities (Community Action Agencies or CAAs) to design and implement anti-poverty programs. The bill also expands the income-eligibility requirement for CSBG programs from 125 percent to 200 percent of the federal poverty line, providing CAAs with greater flexibility to address the consequences of increasing unemployment and economic disruption caused by the coronavirus. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services provides Community Services Block Grant funds to all 50 states, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, the Virgin Islands, American Samoa and to Federally-recognized Tribes, State-recognized Tribes and Tribal organizations acting on behalf of eligible Tribes. Sixty-four Tribes and Tribal organizations nationwide receive direct Community Services Block Grant funds.

***Analyst Comment:** The Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development (DCCED) administers this program for the State of Alaska. It is unclear if the funding will go directly to DCCED or if it will be grant based. Therefore this funding source is also included in section 1. These are grants that can be applied for by communities.*

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (page 857)

\$5 billion in state-eligible funding for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program for coronavirus response and to mitigate the impacts in our communities.

- **\$2 billion** would be distributed by the U.S. Housing and Urban Development Secretary to existing grantees based on a formula to be determined by the Secretary based on coronavirus related factors.
- **\$1 billion** is to be distributed directly for states, to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus within the State or insular area, including activities within entitlement and non-entitlement communities, based on public health needs, risk of transmission of coronavirus, number of coronavirus cases compared to the national average, and economic and housing market disruptions, and other factors, as determined by the Secretary, using best available data and that such allocations shall be made within 45 days of enactment of this Act. These grants may be used to cover or reimburse allowable costs consistent with the purposes of the section in this Act incurred by a State or locality regardless of the date on which such costs were incurred.

***Analyst Comment:** CDBG grants have been distributed to local communities through the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation.*

HOMELESS ASSISTANCE GRANTS (Page 861)

\$4 billion for Homeless Assistance Grants to “prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus, domestically or internationally, among individuals and families who are homeless or receiving homeless assistance and to support additional homeless assistance and homelessness prevention activities to

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mitigate the economic impacts created by coronavirus.” Of this amount \$2 billion is allocated by the current formula to assist state and local governments with homelessness prevention. The remaining \$2 billion will be allocated based on a new formula developed by the HUD Secretary factoring the number of homeless and those at risk of becoming homeless.

HOSPITAL PREPAREDNESS GRANTS (page 745)

\$250 million as grant funding to or cooperative agreements with entities that are either grantees or sub-grantees of the Hospital Preparedness Program.

REIMBURSEMENT GRANTS TO HOSPITALS FOR HEALTH CARE RELATED TO CORONAVIRUS (Page 750)

\$100 billion for grants to hospitals, public entities, not-for-profit entities and Medicare- and Medicaid-enrolled suppliers and institutional providers. Helps cover unreimbursed health care-related expenses or lost revenue as a result of COVID-19.

HOUSING FOR THE ELDERLY -SECTION 202 (Page 869):

\$10 million available for service coordinators and the continuation of existing congregate service grants for residents of assisted housing projects.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES (page 736)

\$425 million to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) for mental health and substance use disorders as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic with certified community behavioral health clinics receiving:

- **\$250 million** in Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) grants using the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic Expansion Grant program
 - **\$50 million** specifically allocated for suicide prevention
 - **\$15 million** shall be specifically allocated to tribes, tribal organizations, urban Indian health organizations, or health or behavioral health service providers to tribes.

STATE AND LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH RESPONDERS GRANTS (page 728)

\$4.3 billion to support federal, state and local public health agencies to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus, including for the purchase of personal protective equipment; laboratory testing to detect positive cases; infection control and mitigation at the local level to prevent the spread of the virus; and other public health preparedness and response activities.

- **\$1.5 billion** of that is for grants to or cooperative agreements with States, localities, territories, tribes, tribal organizations, urban Indian health organizations, or health service providers to tribes, including to carry out surveillance, epidemiology, laboratory

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capacity, infection control, mitigation, communications, and other preparedness and response activities.

- **\$125 million** shall be allocated to tribes, tribal organizations, urban Indian health organizations, or health service providers to tribes.

RURAL BROADBAND DEPLOYMENT (Page 619)

\$100 million in grants for a pilot program for rural broadband access. This is for rural areas with more than 90 percent of households lacking broadband speeds of 10 Mbps downstream and 1 Mbps upstream.

***Analyst comment:** It is not clear how this program is not duplicative of the existing federal ERate program that already covers up to 90% of the cost of broadband in rural Alaska.*

DISTANCE LEARNING AND TELEMEDICINE SERVICES (Page 613):

\$25 million to support the Distance Learning and Telemedicine program, which supports rural communities' access to telecommunications-enabled information, audio, and video equipment, as well as related advanced technologies for students, teachers, and medical professionals.

GRANT FUNDING FOR AIRPORTS (Page 832)

\$10 billion in FAA, Airport Improvement Program - Grants-in-aid for airports to maintain operations and prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus, with at least \$100 million set aside for general aviation airports, to ensure continued operation during a likely sustained decline in air travel. Commercial airports receiving grants would have to maintain employment levels of at least 90% based on the bill's day of enactment.

SAFE SCHOOLS AND CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION (page 767)

\$100 million in additional funding for Safe Schools and Citizenship Education to be available through September 30, 2021. The bill directs these funds to supplement the Project School Emergency Response to Violence (SERV) program grants to help elementary, secondary and post-secondary schools clean and disinfect affected schools and assist in counseling and distance learning and associated costs.

SEC. 3401. REAUTHORIZATION OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS WORKFORCE PROGRAMS (Page 282)

Directs that the Health Resources and Services Administration administered grants prioritize awards for rural areas and particularly tribes and tribal organizations in rural areas, which will receive approximately \$49 million per year FY 2021 through 2025. To "plan, develop, and operate a program that identifies or develops innovative models of providing care, and trains primary care physicians on such models."

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COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS (Page 747)

\$275 million in cooperative agreements and grants to expand services and capacity for rural hospitals, telehealth, poison control centers and the Ryan White HIV/AIDS program.

CHILD WELFARE SERVICES (Page 740)

\$45 million for grants to states to support the child welfare needs of families during this crisis, and to help keep families together, without regard to existing matching requirements.

AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES PROGRAMS (Page 741)

\$955 million to the Administration for Community Living (ACL) services for seniors and disabled individuals as well as their caregivers to be available through September 30, 2021. Of this amount, \$820 million is allocated for programs under the Older Americans Act, including \$200 million for in-home supportive services, \$520 million for senior nutrition programs, \$100 million for family caregiver services and \$20 million for elder rights protection activities. The bill further allocates \$50 million to support Aging Resource and Disability Centers.

***Analyst comment:** It is not clear how much this may or may not apply to Alaska or be available for grants rather than direct federal program expenditures in the state.*

\$85 million for independent living centers currently receiving federal grant funding, without regard to existing matching requirements.

SEC. 3212. TELEHEALTH NETWORK AND TELEHEALTH RESOURCE CENTERS GRANT PROGRAMS. (Page 236)

\$29 million for each fiscal year through FY 2025 for Telehealth network and telehealth resource centers grant programs. This provides funding to support telehealth projects addressing COVID-19 and specifically for “evidence-based projects that utilize telehealth technologies through telehealth networks.” Half of this funding is reserved for rural areas.

GRANTS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF STATE EXTENDED CARE FACILITIES (Page 802)

\$150 million in Grants for Construction of State Extended Care Facilities”, to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus, domestically or internationally, including to modify or alter existing hospital, nursing home, and domiciliary facilities in State homes.

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VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION MEDICAL SERVICES GRANTS (page 799)

\$14.4 billion for VA programs, including the Health Care for Homeless Veterans (HCVC) program and the Supportive Services for Veterans Families (SSVF) program. The HCVC program provides outreach, case management and residential treatment services to assist veterans as they transition from living on the street into permanent housing. The SSVF program, meanwhile, provides funds to the state and other local entities to help very low-income veterans and their families who are homeless—or at risk of becoming homeless—obtain and retain permanent housing. The bill additionally supports the Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem (GPD) program, which pairs VA Medical Center personnel with state, local and tribal grant recipients to fund, develop and operate transitional housing and service centers for homeless veterans.

BYRNE JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT (JAG) PROGRAM (Page 627)

\$850 million for the Byrne JAG program grants to help enable States, among other eligible entities, to utilize emerging and evidence-based approaches to address the COVID-19 pandemic. The funds will allow state and local police departments and jails to meet local needs, including purchase of personal protective equipment and other needed medical items and to support overtime for officers on the front lines. The bill states that these funds “are not subject to restrictions or special conditions” to ensure their quick obligation.

SECTION 4:

Other Items of Note:

1. Extends Real ID deadline for full implementation by states from Oct. 1, 2020, to Sept. 30, 2021.
2. Provides a direct payment of up to \$1,200 to American adults and \$500 for each dependent child under 17 years old.
 - Payments phase out with adjusted gross incomes over \$75,000. Those making above \$99,000 would not receive any payment. Payments will be dispersed starting April 6.
3. **\$10 billion** for Small Business Administration (SBA) emergency grants of up to \$10,000 to provide immediate relief for operating costs.
4. **\$17 billion** for the SBA to cover six months of payments for small businesses with existing SBA loans. Rent, mortgage and utility costs now eligible for SBA loan forgiveness.
5. **\$75 million** for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting to make fiscal stabilization grants to public television and radio stations facing declines in non-federal revenues, which will help maintain programming and preserve small and rural stations threatened by declines in non-federal revenues.
6. Small Business loans for personnel costs will be reimbursed 100% through tax credits to participating businesses.
7. Requires coverage of COVID-19 testing in health plans.