



## Summary: Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions Act (HEROES Act)

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Below are highlights of the Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions Act (HR 6800), a bill introduced by House Democrats to respond to the health and economic crises caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. This is not a summary of every provision of the bill.

Congressional resources:

[One-page](#) summary

[Detailed summary](#) of the entire bill (90 pages)

Summary of the [State and Local](#) Coronavirus Relief Funds provision (2 pages)

Full [bill text](#) (1,815 pages)

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## STATE & LOCAL

**Coronavirus Relief Funds:** funding to assist state, local, tribal and territorial governments with the fiscal impacts from the public health emergency caused by the coronavirus.

- States \$500 billion
- Local \$375 billion.
- Tribal \$20 billion
- Territories \$20 billion

**CDC:** \$2 billion for State, local, Territorial, and Tribal Public Health Departments to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus.

**FMAP increase:** Increases Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) payments to state Medicaid programs by a total of 14 percentage points starting July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

**Home and Community Based Services:** Increases the federal payments to state Medicaid programs by an additional 10 percentage points starting July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021 to support activities that strengthen their home- and community-based services (HCBS) benefit.

**Community Development Block Grant:** \$5 billion for coronavirus response and to mitigate the impacts in our communities to be distributed by formula to current grantees. The legislation continues to waive the public services cap to allow communities to respond to the impacts of the pandemic.

**Transit Emergency Relief:** \$15.75 billion for operating assistance grants to support the transit agencies that require significant additional assistance to maintain basic transit services. Of these amounts \$11.75 billion will be distributed by formula and \$4 billion will be available to any grantee or sub-recipient by application to the Secretary of Transportation.

**Note: funding for various programs further below also go to state & local governments**

## TESTING & CONTACT TRACING

**National Testing and Contact Tracing Initiative:** \$75 billion for CDC grants to State, local, Tribal, and territorial health departments for COVID–19 testing, contact tracing, surveillance, containment, and mitigation.

**COVID–19 testing strategy:** Requires the Secretary of HHS to update the COVID-19 strategic testing plan required under the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act no later than June 15, 2020. The updated plan shall identify the types and levels of testing necessary to monitor and contribute to the control of COVID-19 and inform any reduction in social distancing. In addition, the updated strategic testing plan must include specific plans and

benchmarks with clear timelines, regarding how to ensure sufficient availability and allocation of all testing materials and supplies, sufficient laboratory and personnel capacity, and specific guidelines to ensure adequate testing in vulnerable populations and populations at increased risk related to COVID-19, including older individuals, and rural and other underserved areas. This plan must also involve testing capacity in non-health care settings in order to help expand testing availability and make testing more accessible, as well as how to implement the testing strategy in a manner that will help to reduce disparities with respect to COVID-19.

## **HEALTH SERVICES & ACCESS**

**Hospitals and health care providers:** \$100 billion in grants for reimbursing health care related expenses or lost revenue directly attributable to the public health emergency resulting from coronavirus.

**Increase DSH payments:** Temporarily increases Medicaid disproportionate share hospital (DSH) allotments by 2.5 percent.

**Health Centers:** \$7.6 billion to expand the capacity to provide testing, triage, and care for COVID-19 and other health care services at approximately 1,000 existing health centers across the country.

**Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration:** \$3 billion to increase mental health support, to support substance abuse treatment, and to offer increased outreach, including:

- \$1.5 billion for the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant;
- \$1 billion for the Community Mental Health Services Block Grant;
- \$100 million for services to homeless individuals;
- Not less \$150 million for tribes, tribal organizations, urban Indian health organizations, or health service providers to tribes across a variety of programs

**Indian Health Service:** \$2.1 billion to address health care needs related to coronavirus for Native Americans

**Temporary extension of 100% FMAP to Indian health providers.** Clarifies that services received through urban Indian providers are matched at 100 percent FMAP through June 30, 2021.

**Ryan White HIV/AIDS clinics:** \$10 million to support extended operational hours, increased staffing hours, additional equipment, and additional home delivered meals and transportation needs of clients, who disproportionately suffer from co-morbidities and underlying immunosuppression that puts them at greater risk for COVID-19 complications.

**Nursing Strike Team:** \$150 million for States to establish and implement strike teams to deploy to skilled nursing facilities or nursing facilities within 72 hours of three residents or employees being diagnosed with or suspected of having COVID-19. (Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services)

**No cost-sharing for COVID-19 treatment.** Eliminates cost sharing for Medicaid beneficiaries for COVID-19 treatment and vaccines during the COVID-19 public health emergency, regardless of immigration status. Use of Medicaid for this purpose will not be considered a “public charge” and will not have negative immigration consequences.

**Covering the uninsured for COVID-19 treatment.** Ensures that uninsured individuals whom states opt to cover through the new Medicaid eligibility pathway will be able to receive treatment for COVID-19 without cost-sharing during the COVID-19 public health emergency.

**Preserving health benefits for workers.** Provides approximately nine months of full premium subsidies to allow workers to maintain their employer-sponsored coverage if they are eligible for COBRA due to a layoff or reduction in hours, and for workers who have been furloughed but are still active in their employer-sponsored plan.

## **HEALTH DATA**

**CDC:** \$130 million for public health data surveillance and analytics infrastructure modernization.

**Public health data system transformation.** Requires HHS to expand, enhance, and improve public health data systems used by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). This includes: grants to State, local, Tribal, or territorial public health departments for the modernization of public health data systems in order to assist public health departments in assessing current data infrastructure capabilities and gaps; to improve secure public health data collection, transmission, exchange, maintenance, and analysis; to enhance the interoperability of public health data systems; to support and train related personnel; to support earlier disease and health condition detection; and to develop and disseminate related information and improved electronic case reporting.

**Nursing homes demographic data reporting.** Requires HHS to collect data on COVID-19 in nursing homes and to publicly report demographic data on COVID-19 cases in nursing homes on Nursing Home Compare.

## **RESEARCH & VACCINE DEVELOPMENT**

**National Institutes of Health:** \$4.745 billion to expand COVID-19-related research on the NIH campus and at academic institutions across the country and to support the shutdown and startup costs of biomedical research laboratories nationwide.

**Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response:** \$4.575 billion to respond to coronavirus, including: \$3.5 billion for Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA) for therapeutics and vaccines; \$500 million for BARDA to support U.S.-based next generation

manufacturing facilities; \$500 million for BARDA to promote innovation in antibacterial research and development; and \$75 million for the Office of Inspector General.

## **NUTRITION**

### **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP):**

- Increases the SNAP benefit level by 15 percent;
- Provides \$10 billion to support anticipated increases in participation and to cover program cost increases related to flexibilities provided to SNAP by the Families First Coronavirus Response Act;
- Excludes the Pandemic Unemployment Compensation as countable income for SNAP benefit calculation;
- Increases the minimum SNAP benefit to \$30 per month;
- Waives all work requirements for SNAP and prevents funding for USDA to implement or finalize the Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents, Broad Based Categorical Eligibility, and Standard Utility Allowance rules;
- Provides additional funding to States for SNAP administration this fiscal year, to meet the increased need for SNAP.

**Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women Infants and Children (WIC):** Provides an additional \$1.1 billion to provide access to nutritious foods to low-income pregnant women or mothers with young children who lose their jobs or are laid off due to the COVID-19 emergency.

**The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP):** Includes \$150 million to help local food banks meet increased demand for low-income Americans during the emergency. Including funding provided by the Families First Coronavirus Response Act and the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), TEFAP has received a total of \$1 billion.

**Child Nutrition Programs:** Includes \$3 billion in additional funding to provide emergency financial relief to school meal providers and USDA's Child and Adult Care Food Program.

**Seniors & Disabled Meals:** \$100 million to provide direct services such as home delivered and prepackaged meals, and supportive services for seniors and disabled individuals, and their caregivers. (Administration for Community Living)

## **ECONOMIC RELIEF FOR INDIVIDUALS & FAMILIES**

**Pandemic Premium Pay:** The bill provides \$180 billion for grants from the Treasury Department to private sector and state, local and tribal government employers in order to provide essential workers with premium pay of \$13/hour from January 27, 2020, until 60 days after the last day of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency. Maximum total premium payment is \$10,000 per employee earning less than \$200,000/year, and \$5,000 for those earning above \$200,000 per

year. The bill also provides \$10 billion for “pandemic duty differential” — premium pay for qualified federal government workers.

**Additional Recovery Rebates to Individuals:** Provides a \$1,200 refundable tax credit for each family member. The credit is \$1,200 for a single taxpayer (\$2,400 for joint filers), in addition to \$1,200 per dependent up to a maximum of 3 dependents. The credit phases out starting at \$75,000 of modified adjusted gross income (\$112,500 for head of household filers and \$150,000 for joint filers) at a rate of \$5 per \$100 of income. These payments extend to immigrants and other individuals who file tax returns using an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN).

**Retroactive Payments for Dependents:** Makes all dependents eligible for the \$500 qualifying child amount in the Economic Impact Payments made under the CARES Act, previously only applicable to children below age 17. This allows households with dependents who are full-time students below age 24 and adult dependents to also receive the \$500 amount. This provision is effective retroactive to the date of enactment of the CARES Act.

**Retroactive Payments to Individuals who file income tax returns using taxpayer identification numbers:** Allows Economic Impact Payments to be made to an individual who provides a Taxpayer Identification Number, rather than a Social Security Number. This provision is effective retroactive to the date of enactment of the CARES Act.

**Unemployment Insurance Benefit Enhancements.** The bill extends the following enhancements that were included in the CARES Act to create “soft cutoffs.” Workers would be able to apply for these benefits through January 31, 2021 and continue to receive benefits until March 31, 2021.

- Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation: \$600 weekly supplemental payment (under current law, benefits end in late July 2020).
- Pandemic Unemployment Assistance: benefits for independent contractors and “gig” workers (under current law, benefits end 12/31/20).
- Pandemic Extended Unemployment Compensation: 13-week extension for workers who have exhausted their state’s regular unemployment insurance benefits (under current law, benefits end 12/31/20).
- “First week” benefits: Funding to states to pay the cost of the first week of unemployment benefits, for states that choose to pay recipients as soon as they become unemployed instead of waiting one week (under current law, benefits end 12/31/20).

**Strengthens the earned income tax credit for individuals without children:** Expands the eligibility and the amount of the earned income tax credit for taxpayers with no qualifying children (the “childless EITC”) for 2020. In particular, the minimum age to claim the childless EITC is reduced from 25 to 19 (except for full-time students) and the upper age limit for the childless EITC is increased from age 65 to age 66. This section also increases childless EITC amount by increasing the credit percentage and phaseout percentage from 7.65 to 15.3 percent, increasing the earned income amount to \$9,720, increasing the phaseout amount to \$11,490. Under these parameters, the maximum credit amount in 2020 increases from \$538 to \$1,487

**Taxpayer eligible for childless earned income credit in case of qualifying children who fail to meet certain identification requirements.** Repeals the provision prohibiting an EITC-eligible taxpayer with qualifying children from taking the childless EITC if he or she cannot claim the EITC with respect to qualifying children due to failure to meet child identification requirements (including a valid SSN for qualifying children). Accordingly, individuals who do not claim the EITC with respect to qualifying children due to failure to meet identification requirements would now be able claim the childless EITC.

**Child tax credit:** Makes the child tax credit (“CTC”) fully refundable for 2020 and increases the amount to \$3,000 per child (\$3,600 for a child under age 6). The provision also makes 17-year-olds qualifying children.

## **SMALL BUSINESS & NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS**

**Paycheck Protection Program Enhancements:** Extends the program through the end of 2020, opens the program to all non-profit organizations of any size, and creates the following carve-outs:

- 25% of the existing funds on the date of enactment to be used specifically for small businesses with 10 or fewer employees to guarantee they are fully able to access PPP assistance;
- 25% of the existing funds on the date of enactment solely for the use of all nonprofits, no matter their size or type but requiring that at least half this amount go to small nonprofits under the 500-employee threshold;
- Establishes an additional set aside of existing funds of the lesser of 25% or \$10 billion specifically for community financial institutions, such as Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs), Minority Development Institutions (MDIs), SBA microlenders, and SBA Certified Development Companies (CDCs).

**Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) Fund Program Account:** \$1 billion for economic support and recovery in distressed communities by providing financial and technical assistance to CDFIs.

**Emergency Small Business Grants:** \$10 billion in Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) grants to small businesses that have suffered financial losses as a result of the coronavirus outbreak.

**Debt collection relief and forbearance:** Provides a temporary moratorium on small business and nonprofit debt collection during the COVID-19 crisis, and for 120 days thereafter, and creates reasonable forbearance and repayment options.

**Non-profit Access to Main Street Lending Program:** Mandates that the Federal Reserve’s Main Street Lending Program, which was established utilizing CARES Act funds and is backstopped by the Treasury Department, include non-profit organizations as eligible borrowers, and stipulates

that the Fed immediately offer a low-cost loan option tailored to the unique needs of nonprofit organizations with deferred payments, and the loan may be forgiven solely for non-profits predominantly serving low-income communities that are ineligible for a PPP loan.

**Tax credits for businesses impacted by COVID-19:**

- Improves the employee retention credit in the CARES Act.
- Creates a refundable payroll tax credit for businesses with less than 1,500 employees to help cover qualified fixed costs.
- Creates a business interruption credit for the self-employed.

**HOUSING**

**Assistance to Homeowners:** \$75 billion to states, territories, and tribes to address the ongoing needs of homeowners struggling to afford their housing due directly or indirectly to the impacts of the pandemic by providing direct assistance with mortgage payments, property taxes, property insurance, utilities, and other housing related costs.

**Tenant-Based Rental Assistance:** \$4 billion to allow public housing agencies (PHAs) to respond to coronavirus and the ability to keep over 2.2 million families stably housed even when facing a loss of income, including \$1 billion for new, temporary, vouchers for individuals and families who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless, or fleeing domestic violence. Allows PHAs the flexibility necessary for the safe and effective administration of these funds while maintaining fair housing, nondiscrimination, labor standards, and environmental protections.

**Eviction and foreclosure moratorium extensions:** Extends and expands the eviction moratorium and foreclosure moratorium in the CARES Act to include all renters and homeowners, improves the forbearance provided under the CARES Act, and specifies the loan modifications and loss mitigation that should be available to homeowners following a moratorium to prevent any homeowner from facing a lump sum payment that they cannot afford.

**Liquidity for mortgage servicers and residential rental property owners:** Requires the Federal Reserve facility established by Section 4003 of the CARES Act to be implemented for the benefit of mortgage servicers and residential rental property owners, contingent on compliance with certain reporting requirements and protections for borrowers and renters.

**Public Housing Operating Fund:** \$2 billion for PHAs to carry out coronavirus response for the operation and management of almost 1 million public housing units. Allows PHAs the flexibility necessary for the safe and effective administration of these funds while maintaining fair housing, nondiscrimination, labor standards, and environmental protections.

**Housing for Persons with AIDS:** \$15 million to maintain operations, rental assistance, supportive services, and other necessary actions to mitigate the impact of coronavirus on low income persons with HIV/AIDS.



**Homeless Assistance Grants:** \$11.5 billion for Emergency Solutions Grants to address the impact of coronavirus among individuals and families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness and to support additional homeless assistance, prevention, and diversion activities to mitigate the impacts of the pandemic.

**Emergency Rental Assistance:** \$100 billion to provide emergency assistance to help low income renters at risk of homelessness avoid eviction due to the economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic.

**Project-Based Rental Assistance:** \$750 million to ensure the continuation of housing assistance for low-income individuals and families living in project-based rental assistance properties, and to ensure housing providers can take the necessary actions to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the pandemic.

**Housing for the Elderly:** \$500 million to maintain operations at properties providing affordable housing for low-income seniors and to ensure housing providers can take the necessary actions to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus pandemic. To ensure access to supportive services for this vulnerable population, this includes \$300 million for service coordinators and the continuation of existing congregate service grants for residents of assisted housing projects.

**Housing for Persons with Disabilities:** \$200 million to maintain operations at properties providing affordable housing for low-income persons with disabilities, and to ensure housing providers can take the necessary actions to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus pandemic.

**Housing Counseling Assistance:** \$100 million to enable housing counselors to respond to the surge of demand for services, which include foreclosure and eviction mitigation counseling, in light of the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The bill allows the purchase of technology and equipment so services can be provided through electronic means.

## **CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTIONS**

**Credit Reporting Protections:** Suspends negative consumer credit reporting during the COVID-19 pandemic and other declared major disasters plus 120 days. Credit score furnishers would be prohibited from implementing new credit scoring models that would lower existing consumer credit scores during the COVID-19 pandemic or during other major disaster periods. This section also permanently bans the reporting of medical debt arising out of COVID-19 treatments.

**Consumer Debt Collection Restrictions:** Temporary moratorium on consumer debt collection during the COVID-19 crisis, and for 120 days thereafter; ensures reasonable forbearance and

repayment options for consumers when payments resume, including simply maintaining the same payment schedule by extending the maturity by the same period of time payments were suspended; provides creditors access to a Federal Reserve facility to receive low-interest, long-term loans to enable the debt collection moratorium and forbearance.

**Bankruptcy Protections:** Protects federal relief payments from being taken in bankruptcy proceedings; ensuring that homeowners in bankruptcy proceedings can participate in the mortgage forbearance program created by the CARES Act and other COVID-19 mortgage assistance; increases the amount of home equity protected in the bankruptcy process to \$100,000; makes it easier for homeowners to exit bankruptcy so they can resume normal economic activity and continue paying off their mortgages; and opens Chapter 13 to more homeowners and small business by raising the limits for debt to qualify for a bankruptcy through Chapter 13.

## **WORKING FAMILIES**

**Paid Sick and Family Leave:** Enhances the paid sick and family leave provisions of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act. This includes an extension of the availability of emergency paid sick leave by a year, to 12/31/21, and an extension of refundable payroll tax credits for employers to provide paid sick and family leave.

**Family Care for Essential Workers.** \$850 million for the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) to fund child and family care for essential workers. States can use the grants to pay for child care and adult care providers, and for setting up emergency child care.

**Child Care and Development Block Grants:** \$7 billion (Administration for Children and Families)

## **LOW INCOME INDIVIDUALS & FAMILIES**

**Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP):** \$1.5 billion (Administration for Children and Families)

**Support paying water bills for low income families:** \$1.5 billion (Administration for Children and Families)

**Pandemic Emergency Assistance and Services:** Emergency aid and services to disadvantaged children, families, and households.

- \$9.6 billion for States through the Social Services Block Grant
- \$400 million for federally recognized Indian Tribes and Tribal organizations

**Emergency Flexibility for TANF Programs:** Suspends the work requirements in the federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program in order to allow compliance with social distancing, shelter-in-place, and other public health guidance.

## **WORKER TRAINING & SAFETY**

**Department of Labor:** \$3.1 billion to support workforce training and worker protection activities related to coronavirus, including:

- \$2 billion to support worker training;
- \$925 million to assist States in processing unemployment insurance claims;
- \$100 million for the Occupational Safety and Health Administration for workplace protection and enforcement activities in response to coronavirus
- \$25 million for migrant and seasonal farmworkers, including emergency supportive services;

## **IMMIGRATION** (starting on page 1729)

**Extension for Filing:** Applications for work authorization will be considered timely filed if it was filed during the pandemic period, and individuals with expired non-immigrant visas will not accrue unlawful presence during the pandemic.

**Renewal of Work Authorization:** Automatic renewal of work authorization for non-immigrants and immigrants for 90 days after the expiration of the pandemic period. DACA recipients and TPS work authorization will be renewed for the period of the original work permit (2 years for DACA and 18 months for TPS holders).

**Rolling Over of Unused Visas:** Unused visas will be rolled over for FY 2021 and FY 2022 to clear the backlog of pending immigrant visas.

**Remote Naturalization Oaths:** DHS shall administer naturalization oaths using remote means for qualified, eligible applicants.

**Temporary Protections for Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers:** Grants deferred action and work authorization for [essential critical infrastructure workers](#). The hiring or employment of such workers are not considered a violation of immigration law, and workers are not required to appear in person to a DHS office in order to obtain the benefit.

**Foreign born healthcare workers:** Expedited lawful permanent residence for physicians who engage in the practice of medicine, or medical research involving COVID-19. Expedited visa processing and nonimmigrant visas for medical workers or medical researchers working on COVID-19. Increased visa mobility for non-immigrant COVID-19 workers. Grants special immigrant status for non-immigrant workers and their families if they are engaged in the practice of medicine or medical research related to COVID-19. Such special immigrant status is capped at 4,000 per year for 3 years. Spouses and children of deceased COVID-19 medical workers may adjust their status notwithstanding the death.

**Immigration Detention:** DHS shall review the files of all immigrant detainees to assess eligibility for release. Individuals not subject to mandatory detention will be prioritized for release. Immigrant detainees will have free unmonitored telephone access and videoconference. Detainees are permitted to receive faxes, emails and will be provided sufficient sanitation products. Legal orientation programs are allowed to conduct video conferencing.

## **EDUCATION**

**State Fiscal Stabilization Fund:** \$90 billion for grants to States to support statewide and local funding for elementary and secondary schools and public postsecondary institutions. 65% (about \$58 billion) would be distributed for K-12 education based on the Title I formula, and 30% (about \$27 billion) would be used for public postsecondary education

**Higher Education:** \$10.15 billion to help alleviate burdens associated with the coronavirus for both colleges and students.

**Student Loan Relief:** Expands relief to all student borrowers and extends relief in the CARES Act through September 30, 2021.

## **JUSTICE**

**Bureau of Prisons:** \$200 million to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus in Federal prisons, including funding for medical testing and services, personal protective equipment, hygiene supplies and services, and sanitation services

**Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) programs:** \$100 million, with a waiver of the local match requirement, including \$30 million for grants to combat violence against women, \$15 million for transitional housing assistance grants, \$15 million for sexual assault victims assistance, \$10 million for rural domestic violence and child abuse enforcement assistance, \$10 million for legal assistance for victims, \$4 million for assistance to tribal governments, and \$16 million to support families in the justice system.

**Byrne Justice Assistance Grants:** \$300 million to help prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus, including for purchasing personal protective equipment and controlling outbreaks of coronavirus at prisons, with waivers of the local match and non-supplanting requirements. Public defender funding is also an authorized use of Byrne-JAG grants. The bill additionally prevents the Department of Justice from preventing these funds from going to sanctuary jurisdictions.

**Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS):** \$300 million for law enforcement hiring grants and for the purchase of personal protective equipment, with waivers of the local match and non-supplanting requirements.

**Second Chance Act grants:** \$250 million for grants to help facilitate the reintegration of ex-prisoners back into society and to prevent recidivism.

**Pandemic Justice Response Act Grants:** \$600 million, including: (1) \$500 million to prevent, detect, and stop the presence of COVID-19 in correctional institutions, and for pre-trial citation and release grants, (2) \$25 million for Rapid COVID-19 Testing at correctional institutions, and (3) \$75 million for Juvenile Specific Services.

**Legal Services Corporation:** \$50 million to address legal needs arising from coronavirus.

**Reentry Employment Opportunities:** Allows access to workforce development programs by justice-involved youth, young adults, formerly incarcerated adults, and former offenders during and following the COVID-19 national emergency for employment-related opportunities including subsidized employment, transitional jobs, and bolstering alignment with the workforce system and participant supports, and requires that one-fourth of funds be used for grants to national and regional intermediaries.

**Requirement for Confinement Facility Communications Services:** Mandatory, immediate, interim cap on all rates charged in connection with voice calls and video calls made to or from prisons or jails —both for calls within a state and calls between states — of .04 cents per-minute for debit calls and .05 cents per-minute for collect calls. The bill also gives the FCC the authority to set rates in connection with voice calls and video calls in prisons and jails both for calls within a state and calls between states. Finally, it requires the FCC to adopt rules to replace the mandatory interim caps within 18 months of passage and to review those rates every two years. Prohibits prisons or jails from charging site commissions.

**Emergency Community Supervision Act:** During a declared national emergency relating to a communicable disease, mandates the release into community supervision of federal prisoners and pretrial detainees who are non-violent and, for instance, pregnant women, juveniles, older prisoners and detainees, and those with certain medical conditions. Modifies probation and supervised release policies to avoid unnecessary in-person contact with probation officers and to reduce the numbers of those supervised and those imprisoned for violations. Mandates the release of non-violent pretrial defendants on their own recognizance.

**Court Authority to Reduce Sentences and Temporary Release Authority:** During the COVID-19 emergency, expands court authority to order compassionate release for federal prisoners and to reduce sentences, and removes administrative barriers that slow the ability of prisoners to seek compassionate release. Authorizes courts to temporarily release persons who have been sentenced, but have not yet been transported to a Bureau of Prisons facility, to protect them from COVID-19.

**Exemption for Prisoners from Exhausting Administrative Remedies:** Exempts

individuals from having to exhaust administrative remedies before bringing their concerns to a judge about conditions of incarceration that present a significant risk of harm during the COVID19 emergency.

**Increasing Availability of Home Detention for Elderly Offenders:** Increases the availability of home detention for non-violent elderly prisoners by ensuring that participants in the elderly prisoner home confinement pilot program get credit for good conduct time earned and lowers the eligibility for participation during the COVID-19 emergency period.

**Effective Assistance of Counsel in the Digital Era Act:** Directs the Attorney General to put in place an electronic communication system to be used by persons in federal custody that ensures confidential communication between those in custody and their attorneys.

**COVID-19 Correctional Facility Emergency Response Act:** Provides \$600 million in funding to address the COVID-19 crisis in state and local prisons and jails, including \$500 million to states and local governments that operate correctional facilities to provide testing and treatment of COVID-19 for incarcerated individuals by creating two grant programs—one focused on the release of low-risk individuals who are currently incarcerated and another aimed at reducing COVID-19 exposure for those individuals who are arrested; \$75 million in funding to a new grant program to encourage states and localities to adopt practices that promote juvenile safety and rehabilitation without unnecessarily exposing youth to incarceration during this crisis; and \$25 million for a grant program for state and local governments that operate correctional facilities for rapid testing of inmates who are leaving correctional custody.

**Moratorium on Fees and Fines:** Authorizes the establishment of a grant program that distributes funds directly to state and local courts, with the condition that they impose a moratorium on the imposition and collection of court-imposed fees and fines during the COVID19 crisis.

**Jabara-Heyer NO HATE Act:** Establishes grant funding incentives to state and local law enforcement agencies for the collection of hate crimes data and reporting it to the Department of Justice, which would report the data to Congress.

## **ARTS & HUMANITIES**

**National Endowment for the Arts:** \$10 million for the National Endowment for the Arts for grants to support the general operations of recipients and language to permit the waiver of matching requirements.

**National Endowment for the Humanities:** \$10 million for the National Endowment for the Humanities for grants to support the general operations of recipients and language to permit the waiver of matching requirements.

**Institute for Museum and Library Services:** \$5 million to support libraries and museums with costs and expenses associated with coronavirus, including operational supports and providing technology and resources for their communities.

## **OTHER**

**Elections:** \$3.6 billion for grants to States for contingency planning, preparation, and resilience of elections for Federal office. Includes standards for voter registration, early voting and voting by mail.

**Broadband:** \$1.5 billion to close the homework gap by providing funding for Wi-Fi hotspots and connected devices for students and library patrons, and \$4 billion for emergency home connectivity needs. Includes a temporary prohibition on providers from disconnecting service.

## **Census**

- Census Bureau, Periodic Censuses and Programs – \$400 million for expenses due to delays in the 2020 Decennial Census in response to the coronavirus.
- Census Bureau, Current Surveys and Programs – \$10 million for expenses incurred as a result of the coronavirus.
- Allows a delay of the publication of apportionment and state redistricting data by 120 days due to the postponement of major census operations caused by the coronavirus. The Census Bureau is required to use the same data quality standards used for the 2010 Census.

**Postal Service:** \$25 billion for revenue forgone due to the coronavirus pandemic, plus language providing additional protections to Postal workers. An additional \$15 million is provided for the Postal Service Inspector General for oversight of this funding.

**Federal Emergency Management Agency:** \$1.3 billion to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus, including \$200 million for the Emergency Food and Shelter Program; \$500 million for Assistance to Firefighter Grants (AFG); \$500 million for Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grants; and \$100 million for Emergency Management Performance Grants (EMPG).