

**Selected Funding Priorities for Colorado Communities
in the Third COVID Package**

I. Marshall Plan For Our Health System

Hospitals, Providers, and Public Health Response:

- **Hospitals and Providers:** \$100 billion in a fund for hospitals and providers of all sizes, including rural hospitals, community health centers, rural health clinics, and nursing homes. Funding can be used for PPE, testing supplies, workforce and training, construction to house patients, emergency operation centers, etc. Provides a 20% Medicare reimbursement bump for all COVID-19 services, plus a 2% bump all-around with delay of the Medicare sequester.
- **Medicare Advance Payment Program:** All hospitals can now request an advance of up to 100% of all reimbursement or expected losses over the next six months in order to maintain cash flow. This will be up to 125% for rural Critical Access Hospitals.

Other Health Policies and Emergency Funding:

- **FEMA's Disaster Relief Fund:** \$45 billion – more than doubling the available funding – to provide for the immediate needs of state, local, tribal, and territorial governments, as well as private non-profits performing critical and essential services, to protect citizens and help them 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.
- **Strategic National Stockpile:** \$16 billion to replenish pharmaceuticals, personal protective equipment, ventilators, and other medical supplies, which are distributed to State and local health agencies, hospitals and other healthcare entities facing shortages during emergencies.
- **Federal, State, and Local Public Health Agencies:** \$4.3 billion through the Center for Disease Control (CDC) 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.
- **Increased Access to Telehealth Services:** \$200 Million for the FCC Connected Care Pilot Program to increase access to telehealth services. Ensures that community health centers and rural health clinics have access to telehealth reimbursement. Medicare would be required to pay them at rates similar to those for telehealth services provided from a doctor's office. For veterans that can't access an iPad or tablet to receive telehealth services, there is funding for the VA to enter into partnerships to get veterans these products.

- **Rural Health Services:** Reauthorizes HRSA grant programs (rural health care services outreach, rural health network development, and small health care provider quality improvement grant programs) to strengthen rural community health.

II. General State/Local Fiscal Relief

- **Coronavirus Relief Fund:** \$150 billion to assist states/tribes/local governments that must pay for new, unanticipated expenses related to COVID-19 public health emergency. The U.S. Treasury must allocate funds to states (within 30 days) based on a state's population (provided by the Census Bureau), although every state will be guaranteed at least \$1.25 billion.
 - According to the [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities \(CBPP\)](#), \$2.233 billion is projected to flow to Colorado.
 - According to CBPP, 25% (\$559 million) can be pulled down directly by five larger (500k+) counties (Denver, El Paso, Arapahoe, Jefferson, and Adams) or, if not requested, will go to the state.
 - The remaining 75% (\$1.67 billion) will go to the state and can be used to meet state funding needs and be distributed to local governments.

III. Education and Child Care

- **Emergency support to local school systems and higher education institutions:** \$30.75 billion for grants to continue to provide educational services to their students and support the on-going functionality of school districts and institutions. Overview of the funds:
 - **Pre-K-12 Education:** \$13.5 billion is available for formula-grants to States, which will then distribute 90 percent of funds to local educational agencies to use for coronavirus-response activities, such as planning for and coordinating during long-term school closures; purchasing educational technology to support online learning for all students served by the local educational agency; and additional activities authorized by federal elementary and secondary education laws.
 - Governors in each state will receive an additional \$3 billion to allocate at their discretion for emergency support grants to local educational agencies that the State educational agency deems have been most significantly impacted by coronavirus. These funds will support the ability of local educational agencies to continue to provide educational services to their students and to support the on-going operations of the local educational agency; and provide emergency support through grants to institutions of higher education serving students within the State.
 - **Higher Education:** \$14.25 billion will be available for higher education emergency relief for institutions of higher education to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus. Funds may be used to defray expenses for institutions of higher education, such as lost revenue, technology costs associated with a

transition to distance education, and grants to students for food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and child care.

- **Child Care Development Block Grant:** \$3.5 billion in additional funding to provide child care assistance to health care sector employees, emergency responders, sanitation workers, and other workers deemed essential during the response to the coronavirus.
- **Head Start:** \$750 million for Head Start to meet emergency staffing needs.
- **Community Services Block Grant (CSBG):** \$1 billion for CSBG to help communities address the consequences of increasing unemployment and economic disruption.

IV. Housing:

- **Affordable housing and homelessness assistance programs:** More than \$7 billion for helping low-income and working class Americans avoid evictions and minimize any impacts caused by loss of employment, and child care, or other unforeseen circumstances related to COVID-19, and support additional assistance to prevent eviction and for people experiencing homelessness.

V. Economic Development:

- **Economic Development/Adjustment via the Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) and the Economic Development Administration (EDA):** More than \$6.5 billion in Federal funding to help mitigate the local economic crisis and rebuild impacted industries such as tourism or manufacturing supply chains.
 - **EDA:** \$1.5 billion for economic adjustment assistance to help revitalize local communities after the pandemic. EDA assistance can be used to help rebuild impacted industries such as tourism or manufacturing supply chains, capitalize local funds to provide low-interest loans to businesses of all sizes, and support other locally-identified priorities for economic recovery.
 - **CDBG:** \$5 billion for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program to enable nearly 1,240 states, counties, and cities to respond rapidly to COVID-19 by expanding and supporting community health facilities, child care centers, food banks, and senior services.
- **USDA Rural Development,** including \$100 million to USDA's ReConnect Broadband Program, \$25 million to support distance learning and telemedicine, and \$20.5 million to support \$1 billion in business and industry loans through USDA's Rural Business Cooperative Service.
- **Agriculture Producers:** \$9.5 billion to assist agricultural producers impacted by the coronavirus, including specialty crop producers; producers who support local food systems such as farmers markets, schools, and restaurants; and livestock producers, including dairy.

- **Rural Broadband Re-connect program:** \$100 million for loans and grants to build infrastructure and install equipment that provides modern, reliable, high-speed Internet service in rural America.

VI. Transportation

- **Airports:** The legislation provides \$10 billion in Federal assistance to help publically-owned, commercial airports to address the COVID-19 crisis. These funds will help airport operators meet ongoing needs and to manage current construction projects as operating expenses increase and revenues plummet.
- **Rail:** The bill provides \$1.018 billion to Amtrak to meet changes in operational needs due to significantly reduced passenger rail service and ridership related to COVID-19.
- **Transit:** The agreement includes \$25 billion to public transit operators to protect public health and safety while ensuring transportation access to jobs, medical treatment, food, and other essential services remain available.

VII. Other:

- **Byrne-Justice Assistance Grant Program (Byrne-JAG):** \$850 million for grants to state and local police departments and jails to meet local needs, including PPE, other medical supplies, and overtime pay for those on the frontlines.
- **Forest Service:** \$70 million to the Forest Service to assist with prevention, mitigation, and recovery from COVID-19. This includes law enforcement and deploying emergency personnel to critical areas, which could include some Colorado counties. Senator Bennet has also led two letters calling on FEMA to coordinate with the Forest Service so that Forest Service employees can lend a hand in rural Colorado.
- **Election Assistance:** \$400 million for the states to help prepare for the 2020 election cycle, including to increase the ability to vote by mail, expand early voting and online registration, and increase the safety of voting in-person by providing additional voting facilities and more poll workers.