



FACT SHEET: New Bipartisan Coronavirus Stimulus

More than nine months after the WHO declared COVID-19 a global pandemic, Americans are still suffering. Senator Van Hollen is taking action to enhance our government's medical response and protect Marylanders from the economic fallout. He helped craft and voted for Congress's five coronavirus aid and relief bills, and is working with state, local, and federal officials to ensure Maryland gets the federal resources we need. Senator Van Hollen had a direct hand in negotiations for the most recent round of emergency relief and worked with colleagues to include a number of provisions he has been fighting for since the beginning of the pandemic – including vital funding to extend economic relief for families and small businesses, support our transit systems, and bolster SNAP and other nutrition assistance programs. While not perfect, these critical investments will help Americans make it through the winter. Highlights of the package have been detailed below to help Marylanders stay informed and access assistance.

Details on the \$900 billion bipartisan relief bill

Support for Businesses Most in Need

The new relief bill provides an improved version of the Paycheck Protection Program, created under the bipartisan CARES Act, designed to get aid to those small businesses most in need of support. Additional programs and grant funds have been designed to keep hard-hit industries afloat and get additional funding to minority-owned businesses. To explore ways to access relief, consult the [Coronavirus Relief Options Website](#).

- **A Second Round of the Paycheck Protection Program (\$284 billion)**
 - Small businesses with fewer than 300 employees that can demonstrate a 25% loss in revenue in any quarter of 2020 will be able to apply for this new round of loans.
 - Eligibility for loans has been expanded to include local newspapers, TV, radio broadcasters, housing cooperatives, and small 501(c)(6) nonprofits, including tourism promotion organizations and local chambers of commerce.
- **Extended Small Business Administration Relief Payments and Enhancements (\$5.5 billion)**
 - Senator Van Hollen has advocated for this extension, which will provide \$3.5 billion to resuming debt relief payments of principal and interest on loans guaranteed under the SBA's 7(a), 504, and Microloan programs.

- \$2 billion will go to enhancing these three programs and others, in order to make them more affordable and useful to small business owners.
- **Additional Targeted Support to Minority-Owned Businesses**
 - This year's government spending package, which includes the new coronavirus relief bill, will channel an additional \$6 billion in funds to the federal government's Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA), which promotes the economic success of minority-owned businesses.
 - \$12 billion in PPP loans have been set aside for community financial institutions like [Community Development Financial Institutions](#) (CDFI's) and [Minority Depository Institutions](#) (MDI's) to increase access for minority-owned businesses and other underserved communities.
 - A new \$9 billion program has been established to supply additional loans to CDFI's and MDI's. An additional \$3 billion will go directly to a new CDFI fund. Maryland small business owners that want to get connected to a CDFI or MDI should explore the [National Directory of CDFI's](#) and the list of [OCC-Supervised MDI's](#).

Testing, Tracing, Vaccine Distribution, and Health Care Resources

Ensuring equitable access to safe and effective vaccines will help us get past this pandemic. This package allocates vital funding to Maryland's communities for vaccine procurement and distribution to ensure vaccines are free and accessible. But even with vaccines, we aren't out of the woods yet—this stimulus also channels funds to testing, contact tracing, and COVID-19 mitigation so we can keep new case numbers down and save lives. To learn more about testing, tracing, and vaccine options in Maryland, please visit the [Maryland Department of Health COVID-19 page](#).

- **Testing, contact tracing, and COVID-19 mitigation (\$22 billion):**
 - \$22 billion will go directly to states and localities in order to stop the spread of the coronavirus through investments in testing and tracing. Of those funds, \$2.5 billion will be targeted to protect high-risk and underserved populations, including communities of color and rural communities.
- **Vaccine procurement and distribution (\$32 billion):**
 - \$20 billion have been allocated to the manufacturing, producing, and purchasing of vaccines, therapeutics and ancillary supplies.
 - \$9 billion will go to the CDC and states for vaccine distribution and an additional \$3 billion will go to increasing supplies and equipment in our national medical stockpile.
- **Additional aid for health care and research (\$14.5 billion)**
 - \$9 billion in aid will go directly to health care providers, \$4.5 billion will fund mental health and substance abuse services and supports, and \$1 billion will go to the National Institutes of Health to continue research on COVID-19

Direct Assistance for Schools and Students

The pandemic has disrupted the daily lives of Marylanders and the economic fallout of this crisis has created significant challenges for educators, families, and students, from kindergarten to college. This new package expands on the progress made in the bipartisan CARES act to extend a lifeline up our nation's education system through three targeted channels of funding: state governors, K-12 Title I schools, and colleges.

- **State Discretionary Funding: Governors Emergency Education Relief Fund (\$4.05 billion)**
 - These funds will go directly to states for governors to use at their discretion to address challenges posed by the coronavirus pandemic to our schools. This funding has been used in the past to support technology in K-12 classrooms, community college workforce development, broadband, and other programs.
- **K-12: Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (\$54.3 billion)**
 - This money will be distributed according to guidelines established in Title I, Part A and will go directly toward supporting K-12 public schools. Eligible uses of this funding have been expanded since the CARES Act to include funding for learning loss and school facilities improvements.
- **Colleges/universities: Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (\$22.7 billion)**
 - \$20 billion will be distributed to all public and private non-profit institutions of higher education, with a targeted focus on providing more aid to schools with a high density of Pell Grant students enrolled.
 - \$1.7 billion has been set aside specifically for HBCU's, tribal colleges, and minority-serving institutions.

Economic Relief for Workers and Families

The economy has taken a hit since the start of this pandemic, and unemployment is reaching new heights. Working families are struggling to make ends meet, and many Americans have had to make the difficult choice of skipping on rent in order to feed themselves or their loved ones. Provisions in the new bipartisan bill will help families remain in their homes, keep the lights on, and stay warm this winter. [Click here](#) to learn more on how and when these funds will be distributed.

- **An Additional Round of Direct Stimulus Payments (\$166 billion)**
 - These funds will be used to deliver a one-time \$600 stimulus payment for adults and children, which start to phase down for individuals making more than \$75,000 per year, or married couples making more than \$150,000 per year. For example, a family of four would receive \$2,400 in direct payments.
 - Mixed status households are eligible to receive these payments, and this bill also makes these households newly eligible for the direct payments provided in the CARES Act, so more immigrant families can expect to receive stimulus checks.
- **Expanded Unemployment Insurance (\$120 billion)**

- This provision provides an additional \$300 in weekly payments for those receiving unemployment insurance benefits, starting after December 26th 2020 and ending March 14th, 2021.
- The expansions of unemployment benefits enacted during the pandemic, such as Pandemic Unemployment Assistance for workers not otherwise eligible for unemployment insurance, are extended through at least March 14th, 2021.
- Workers receiving Pandemic Unemployment Assistance or Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation as of March 14th, 2021 who have not exhausted their benefits may still receive up to four additional weeks of benefits after that date.
- **Direct Emergency Rental Assistance (\$25 billion)**
 - The bill establishes a new emergency rental assistance program, which will be distributed to states and localities to administer. Funds will be targeted to families impacted by COVID-19 that are most in need and struggling to make rent. These resources can be used for both rental payments and utilities.
 - The program extends the CDC eviction moratorium through January 31st, 2020.

Nutrition Assistance and Support for Farmers

The food supply chain, from production to consumption, has been ravaged by the pandemic. Many working families cannot get food on the table. Meanwhile, Maryland farmers are struggling to tread water. This new round of pandemic relief addresses both sides of this equation head-on by bolstering nutrition assistance programs and delivering financial support to farmers and food processors who have suffered losses.

- **Combating Food Insecurity (\$13 billion)**
 - This funding will help address rampant food insecurity by increasing SNAP benefits by 15% for six months.
 - \$400 million will go to food banks through The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) and \$188 million will go to helping older Americans get the nutrition assistance they need through the Commodity Supplemental Food Program and other initiatives like Meals on Wheels.
- **Improving Nutritional Support to Families with Children**
 - The new bipartisan package improves the Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) food program by covering the costs of meals that children would have otherwise received at school or in day care.
- **Direct Support to Farmers (\$13 billion)**
 - These funds will go to farmers, ranchers, and food processors who have suffered losses due to the pandemic.
 - The bill also supports local food systems by including \$100 million for Specialty Crop Block Grants, \$100 million for the Local Agriculture Market Program, \$75 million for the Farming Opportunities Training and Outreach Program, and \$75 million for the Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program.

Additional Maryland Priorities Included in this Package

Along with distributing the vaccine, helping working families stay in their homes, and shoring up faltering small businesses, this package will provide vital resources to Marylanders in need. This new bipartisan package delivers support to the child care sector by uplifting both families and providers. It will help keep the transportation industry afloat, preventing layoffs and ensuring that Marylanders get where they need to go. And finally, this stimulus will help close the digital divide.

- **Support for Child Care**
 - \$10 billion in flexible funds for child care will be distributed through the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) program and can be used both to provide child care assistance to families and support to child care providers struggling to meet operating costs during the pandemic.
 - An additional \$250 million will go to Head Start to sustain program operations and continue providing low-income families with access to early childhood education.
- **Transportation Funding (\$45 billion)**
 - These funds will bolster transit agencies, state highway departments, airlines, airports, the motor coach industry, and Amtrak – all of which have been significantly impacted by the coronavirus pandemic and economic fallout.
 - Of this funding, \$18 billion will be provided to private sector transportation companies through the Payroll Support Program for airlines and airline contractors and through funding to private bus companies, schools buses and ferries.
- **Expanding Access to Broadband (\$7 billion)**
 - A \$3.2 billion federal investment will go to expanding broadband access to low-income households through an FCC fund. The bill also creates a \$1 billion tribal broadband fund.
 - Smaller, but equally vital provisions include: \$250 million to telehealth funding, \$300 million to expand broadband to rural communities, and \$65 million to complete new broadband maps to make sure that future broadband support goes to those who need it most.