

## **Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act**

*The Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021* was signed into law on December 27, 2020. The Act provides \$900 billion to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. **This summary outlines key components of the legislation.**

### **Economic Relief for Workers and Families**

- A new round of direct payments to individuals, \$600/person for individuals making up to \$75,000, and \$600/child dependent. The size of the payment decreases for people who earned more than \$75,000 in the 2019 tax year. The check disappears altogether for those who earned more than \$99,000.
  - Taxpayers without an eligible Social Security Number (SSN) are not eligible for the payment. However, unlike the first round of stimulus payments, married taxpayers filing jointly where one spouse has a SSN and one spouse does not are eligible for a payment of \$600, in addition to \$600 per child with a SSN.
- Extends the Employee Retention Tax Credit until June 30, 2021 and expands the credit by providing a 70 percent credit for up to \$10,000 in creditable wages per quarter.
- Extends the refundable payroll tax credits for paid sick and family leave through the end of March 2021.
- Allows families who are eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit and the Additional Child Tax Credit and who experienced an income loss to use their 2019 income to determine these credits.

### **\$120 billion for Unemployment Insurance**

- Extends enhanced UI at extra \$300/week through March 14.
- Extends Pandemic Emergency Unemployment program to March 14, allowing an additional 11 weeks: an individual can claim 50 weeks, instead of 39.
- Provides an extra benefit of \$100 per week for certain workers who have both wage and self-employment income but whose base UI benefit calculation does not take their self-employment into account.

### **Vaccines, Testing and Tracing, Community Health and Health Care Provider Support**

- \$22.4 billion for testing, tracing and COVID mitigation programs. A portion of this funding will go direct to Chicago. In addition, of this total, \$2.5 billion will be sent out as grants specifically targeted at needs in underserved areas, including both communities of color and rural communities.
- \$22.945 billion for vaccine development, administration, and strategic stockpile.
- \$8.75 billion for CDC and states for vaccine distribution, of which \$4.5 billion will be distributed to state and local governments, including Chicago. Additionally, \$300 million is

specifically directed to high risk and underserved areas for distribution, including communities of color.

- \$4.5 billion for mental health programs.
- \$3 billion for hospitals and health care providers.

### **\$45 billion for Transportation**

- \$14 billion for transit, approximately \$450 million expected to support CTA, Metra, and Pace.
- \$2 billion for airports, including O'Hare and Midway.
- \$15 billion for airline payroll support.
- \$2 billion for the private motorcoach, school bus, and ferry industries.
- \$1 billion for Amtrak.

### **\$325 billion Support to Small Businesses**

- \$15 billion in dedicated funding for live venues, independent movie theaters, and cultural institutions.
- \$284 billion for first and second forgivable PPP loans. Expanded PPP eligibility for certain 501(c)(6) nonprofits. Provides higher loan amounts for accommodation and food industries.
- \$20 billion for new EIDL Grants for businesses in low-income communities.
- Extends the Small Business Debt Relief program, as established under the CARES Act, allowing payments of principal and interest on new and existing SBA 7(a), 504, and Microloan programs to be deferred.
- Makes lending programs more affordable and useful to small businesses by increasing the 7(a) loan guarantee to 90 percent, waiving borrower and lender fees on 7(a) and 504 loans, enhancing 504 refinance options, and creating an Express 504 loan program for small loans.

### **Housing**

- \$25 billion for rental assistance to be distributed by state and local governments.
- Extends CDC eviction moratorium through January 31, 2021.

### **\$12 billion for CDFIs and MDIs to Promote Community Development**

- \$9 billion for an Emergency Capital Investment Program (ECIP), administered by the Department of the Treasury, to provide low-cost, long-term capital investments to minority depository institutions (MDIs) and community development financial institutions (CDFIs) that are depository institutions.
- \$3 billion to the CDFI Fund to provide grants and other financial assistance to CDFIs, including CDFI loan funds.

## **Nutrition and Food Security**

- \$13 billion to increase SNAP benefits by 15% for 6 months, and extends SNAP eligibility to college students who are eligible for a federal or state work study program or has an expected family contribution of zero.
- \$400 million in The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) food banks.
- \$175 million for senior nutrition programs.

## **Education**

- \$54.3 billion for K-12, of which CPS expects approximately \$720M from this amount.
- \$22.7 billion for higher education, including:
  - \$20.2 billion for public and private, non-profit institutions of higher education.
  - \$1.7 billion for Historically Black Colleges and Minority Serving Universities.
  - \$113 million for institutions of higher education with unmet need.
- \$4.1 billion for states to spend on education priorities, including \$2.75 billion for private K-12 schools.

## **Child Care Sector and Early Learning**

- \$10 billion in emergency funds for the childcare sector through the Child Care and Development Block Grant program. These funds maintain the flexibility given to states through the CARES Act and can be used to provide childcare assistance to families, and to help childcare providers cover increased operating costs.
- \$250 million for Head Start providers.

## **\$3.2 billion for Low-Income Families to Access Broadband**

- Eligible households may receive a discount of up to \$50 off the cost of internet service and a subsidy for low-cost devices such as computers and tablets.