

STORY

Mar 25, 2020

COVID-19: Advocacy

| by Sarah Yergeau </users/sarah-yergeau>



Third Economic Relief Bill Details & United Way Wins

Thank you to everyone who quickly responded to the #Relief4Charities advocacy calls to action </covid19/stimuluspackage> over the past few days. As you may have seen, Congress reached an agreement on the third coronavirus relief package. On March 25, the Senate unanimously passed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. **The bill is good news for many of United Way's priorities.** A vote is expected in the House on Friday, March 27 and the President is expected to swiftly sign the legislation.

The United Way network mobilized in mass! Over 1,300 people contacted Congress over the last week and we saw thousands of tweets from United Way supporters calling for #Relief4Charities. Your voice was heard!

United Way Wins in Senate Deal for Third Coronavirus Relief

To the best of our knowledge, the following wins were included.

Organizational Assistance and Loans for the Charitable Sector:

- **Small Business Administration (SBA): Many United Ways will be able to access Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL) through the SBA.** The bill provides \$562 million to ensure that SBA has the resources to provide EIDL to businesses that need financial support during this difficult time. These loans will help businesses keep their doors open and pay their employees.
 - This funding is in addition to the significant assistance provided in the Keeping American Workers Employed and Paid Act, which authorizes \$350 billion worth of 100 percent guaranteed SBA loans, a portion of which SBA will forgive based on allowable expenses for the borrower. This small business package also includes \$10 billion in direct grants for businesses that do not qualify for the EIDL program, and \$17 billion to have SBA step in and make six months of principle and interest payments for all SBA backed business loans
 - **We secured a last minute removal of the Small Business Administration (SBA) Loan provision** that would have prevented nonprofits that receive Medicaid funds from having access to the loans.
- **\$425 billion in financial relief for business administered by the Treasury Department.** While nonprofits were not *explicitly* included, we believe the Treasury will have discretion over entities that are eligible. Large charities with over 500 employees may be eligible, which includes many other major charities.
- **Nonitemizer charitable deduction for up to \$300.** This is temporary for 2020 but we will work in extending and expanding it. While the amount may seem modest, this is a huge win and will positively impact many of United Way's donor, a majority of whom give less than \$300 per year.
- **Refundable payroll credits to distressed charities** will be made available to entities whose revenues drop by 50%. There are additional payroll credits included. We will share the details and impacts for nonprofits when they become available.

Funding for Policy Priorities and Programs that Support Health, Education, and Financial Stability:

See a full summary of all appropriations included in the CARES Act is here

<https://www.appropriations.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/032520%20title-by-title%20summary%20final.pdf>.

- **\$200 million emergency funding for the Emergency Food and Shelter Program.** We know that local EFSP boards and agencies are anticipating huge increases in the needs for food, shelter, and supportive services. This funding will help to meet the need.
- **Cash support for individuals:** Provides up to \$1,200 for individuals up to \$75,000 a year or \$2,400 for couples filing jointly and \$500 per child. Benefits start to phase out above \$75,000 for single filers and \$150,000 for married filers. Critically, individuals that did not file taxes are not currently eligible.
 - We will continue to advocate for \$60 million in emergency VITA funding to help reach non-filers.
- An increase in **SNAP funding of an additional \$15.5 billion** to ensure all Americans, including seniors and children receive the food they need.
- **\$3.5 billion for child care** through the Child Care Development Block Grant and **\$750 million for Head Start** to meet emergency staffing needs.
- **\$8.8 billion in additional funding for Child Nutrition Programs** in order to ensure children receive meals while school is not in session.
- **\$900 million for Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)** to help lower income households heat and cool their homes.

We are analyzing the language released shortly for the vote last night and will provide follow up advocacy opportunities. We recommend you pause pushing out the previous action alerts while we adjust the language in response to the current deal. We are also planning a webinar to share additional details about the Families First Relief Act (2nd Coronavirus Relief Legislation), CARES Act and the impact for United Ways. Look for a date and registration details soon.

Next Steps

Additionally, we anticipate a fourth legislative relief bill where there will be additional opportunities to shore up supports – like 211, VITA, expansion of the Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit, and increased Medicaid funding for states – that support financial stability.

The fight is not over yet. We thank you for all you have been doing as you manage the response in your communities

and organizations. We appreciate all of your quick response and mobilization and hope that you join us in celebrating the extensive relief supports secured for both the charitable sector and individuals and families.

Stay tuned!

Questions? Contact the United Way Worldwide Public Policy Team at public.policy@unitedway.org

[COVID-19 Updates / Home Page](#) </covid19> | **[Announcements](#)** </covid19/announcements> | **[Tools / Resources](#)** </covid19/tools-resources> | **[Marketing / Communications](#)** </covid19/marketing-communications> | **[Webinars](#)** </covid19/webinars> | **[Advocacy](#)** </covid19/advocacy> | **[Corporate Partners](#)** </covid19/corporatepartners> | **[Frequently Asked Questions](#)** </covid19/faqs>

Click the orange 'follow' button below to get notifications when this page is updated.

If you would like to receive more regular updates on United Way Worldwide's public policy work, join the Public Policy Listserv or join the UW Public Policy and Advocacy Workplace group

<<https://fb.me/g/1ikd4iwcb/h49f8seb>>.



Follow </flag/flag/commons_follow_node/482654?destination=node/482654&token=hnhytw8suby7ym0kk1kffj20xweqdscxjtuaafqr8vb4>

COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE: **PUBLIC POLICY AND ADVOCACY** <<https://online.unitedway.org/groups/public-policy-and-advocacy>>

COMMENTS

0

No comments yet, be the first to comment below!

ADD NEW COMMENT

Your name

[maryj@unitedway...](#) </users/maryjunedwayselaorg>

Comment *

Format	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

body

Switch to plain text editor

submit preview

Footer Menu

[Local United Way Directory](/system/united-way-directory) [Online People Directory](/directory/users)

[Ask United Way](https://online.unitedway.org/questions?user_search=&user_search=) [Feedback](/content/feedback)

[About UWO](https://online.unitedway.org/help-0) [My Account](/user) [Privacy Policy](/node-380122%3fcont%3dglobal)