



## **Congressional Action for COVID-19 Relief**

### **Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Act, 3/6/20**

On March 6, 2020, the first bipartisan congressional COVID-19 bill (H.R. 6074, the **Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2020**) was signed into law (P.L. 116-123). The package consisted of an **\$8.3 billion** emergency supplemental appropriations bill. It appropriated funds to develop and research a vaccine, fund public health programs, procure pharmaceuticals and medical supplies, facilitate the development of new therapies and treatments, and helped small businesses, to cushion the economic blow of this public health emergency.

### **Families First Coronavirus Response Act, 3/18/20**

On March 18, 2020, the second bipartisan congressional COVID-19 bill (H.R. 6201, the **Families First Coronavirus Response Act**) was signed into law (P.L. 116-127). The Congressional Budget Office estimated the law will cost **\$192 billion** between 2020-2030. FFCRA secured free COVID-19 testing and provided family and worker protections including the following components:

- Established free testing for COVID-19 for all Americans.
- Secured emergency paid leave with two weeks of paid sick leave and up to three months of paid family and medical leave.
- Secured enhanced Unemployment Insurance, a step that will extend protections to furloughed workers.

- Strengthened nutrition security initiatives, including SNAP, student meals, seniors' nutrition, and food banks.
- Increased federal funds for Medicaid to support our local, state, tribal, and territorial governments and health systems, so that they have the resources necessary to combat the crisis.

## **The CARES Act, 3/27/20**

On March 27, 2020, the third bipartisan congressional COVID-19 funding bill (H.R. 748, The **CARES Act**) was signed into law (P.L. 116-136). The nearly **\$2.2 trillion** relief package was designed to help American families, businesses, and workers get back on their feet. It includes:

- \$350 billion for Paycheck Protection Program for small businesses
- \$100 billion for hospitals and health care providers
- Direct one-time payments of \$1,200 to Americans in need
- An expansion of unemployment insurance and other social safety net programs

## **Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act, 4/24/20**

On April 24, 2020, the **Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act** (H.R. 266) was signed into law (P.L. 116-139). This **\$484 billion** coronavirus emergency funding bill allocates \$320 billion to strengthen the Paycheck Protection Program, \$10 billion more for Economic Impact Disaster Loans to small businesses, \$75 billion for hospitals and other health care providers, funding to secure resources for frontline workers, and funding to expand testing capacity nationwide.

## **The CARES 2 Act, 12/27/20**

On December 27, 2020, the second round of direct stimulus checks to Americans were included as part of H.R. 133, the Consolidated FY 2021 Appropriations Act and signed into law (P.L. 116-260), which included a **\$900 billion** COVID-relief package commonly referred to as **CARES 2**. This package included:

- a new stimulus check of \$600 for Americans in need
- a \$300/week supplement for federal unemployment insurance recipients through mid-March 2021
- \$69 billion in virus specific funding, including
  - \$20 billion to purchase vaccines,
  - close to \$9 billion to distribute vaccines, and

- approximately \$22 billion to states for testing, tracing and other COVID-19 mitigation programs
- Additional \$284 billion for a second round of the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), including expanded eligibility for nonprofits, local media outlets, and modifications to help restaurants, arts and cultural programs, live venues and other small businesses;
- Additional \$20 billion for Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL) to help small businesses; and
- Additional \$3.5 billion to resume debt relief payments of principal and interest on small business loans guaranteed by the Small Business Administration.
- Extension of credit for employers who provide paid family and medical leave as well as tax credit for employers who offer paid sick leave; and
- Extension and expansion of the Employee Retention Tax Credit to help employers keep employees on the job during COVID closures or reduced revenue.

### **The American Rescue Plan, 3/11/21**

On March 11, 2021, President Biden signed H.R. 1319, the **American Rescue Plan Act of 2021** into law (P.L. 117-2) to respond to the urgent public health and economic crises which have emerged during the COVID-19 pandemic. The package provides roughly **\$1.9 trillion**, including the following key provisions:

#### **Put Vaccines in Arms:**

- Mounts a national vaccination program that includes setting up community vaccination sites nationwide and addressing disparities facing communities of color
- Scales up testing and tracing
- Addresses shortages of personal protective equipment and other critical supplies
- Invests in high-quality treatments and addresses health care disparities.

#### **Put Money in People's Pockets:**

- Finishes the job on the President's promise to provide \$2,000 in direct assistance to households across America with checks of \$1,400 per person, following the \$600 down payment enacted in December
- Provides direct housing assistance
- Provides nutrition assistance
- Expands access to safe and reliable child care and affordable health care
- Extends Unemployment Insurance
- Expands the Child Tax Credit
- Improves the Earned Income Tax Credit

### **Put Children Safely Back in School:**

- Delivers \$170 billion for education, including
  - \$130 billion investment in K-12 school re-opening and making up for lost time in the classroom, with funds that can be used to reduce class sizes, modify spaces so that students and teachers can socially distance, improve ventilation, implement more mitigation measures and provide personal protective equipment.
  - \$40 billion for higher education.
- Delivers \$45 billion for child care providers

### **Put People Back in Jobs:**

- Provides crucial support for the hardest-hit small businesses, especially those owned by entrepreneurs from racial and ethnic backgrounds that have experienced systemic discrimination, with EIDL grants, expanded PPP eligibility and more
- Provides crucial resources to protect the jobs of first responders, frontline public health workers, teachers, transit workers and other essential workers that all Americans depend on

## **SAVE LIVES Act, 3/24/21**

On March 24, 2021, President Biden signed H.R. 1276, the **SAVE LIVES Act** into law (P.L. 117-4) to expand ability of the Department of Veterans

Affairs (VA) to provide COVID-19 vaccines to all Veterans, Veteran spouses, caregivers and some beneficiaries. The law expands vaccine eligibility beyond the current number of 9.5 million enrolled Veterans to include more than 33 million individuals, depending on vaccine supply, from the following groups:

- Non-enrolled Veterans as defined in the new legislation, including those without service-connected disabilities and who have incomes above VA's threshold,
- Overseas Veterans who rely on the Foreign Medical Program.
- Veteran caregivers who are enrolled in either the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers or the Program of General Caregiver Support Services,
- Veteran caregivers enrolled in certain Geriatrics and Extended Care Programs, such as Veteran Directed Care, Bowel and Bladder, Home Based Primary Care and VA's Medical Foster Home Program,
- Civilian Health and Medical Programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs recipients, and
- Veteran spouses.

### **PPP Extension Act of 2021, 3/30/21**

On March 30, 2021, President Biden signed H.R. 1799, the **Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) Extension Act of 2021** into law (P.L. 117-6) to extend the ability of borrowers to apply for PPP loans through May 31, 2021. The law also extends the authority of the Small Business Administration (SBA) to guarantee and process those applications for an additional month after that date. CBO anticipates that extending the program would increase demand for first- and second-draw PPP loans relative to current law, which would increase direct spending of up to **\$15 billion** by the SBA to guarantee such loans.