

## COVID-19 Stimulus Package Update/Summary

Dear Members and Other ECE Professionals,

A lot has been happening this past week at the federal level, but most importantly a **third COVID-19 stimulus package has just passed the House**. It passed the Senate on Wednesday evening, and it is now on its way to the president's desk to be signed into law. Below is a summary of what is in the bill as well as several other resources. We have also included links to child care regulatory updates from CCL, CDE, and CDSS that occurred this week as well.

[ELCD Management Bulletin 20-05](#)

[ELCD Management Bulletin 20-04](#)

[CCL PIN 20-04](#)

[CDSS ACL 20-25](#)

### **Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (the "CARES Act")**

Congress has passed a third COVID-19 stimulus package. The \$2 trillion package is on its way to the president to be signed into law. The full bill text and a section-by-section summary are attached. Here are the relevant highlights:

#### **A. Child Care**

- i. \$3.5 billion in emergency funding for the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) available through September 30, 2021
  - a. provide continued payments and assistance to child care providers in the case of decreased enrollment or closures related to coronavirus, and to assure they are able to remain open or reopen as appropriate;
  - b. provide child care assistance, without regard to income, to health care sector employees, emergency responders, sanitation workers, and other workers deemed essential during the response to the coronavirus; and
  - c. provide funding to child care providers who were not participating in subsidy prior to the public health emergency for the purposes of cleaning and sanitation and other activities necessary to maintain or resume the operation of programs.
- ii. \$750 million for Head Start

#### **B. Paid Leave - Not Much Change from the Last Stimulus Package, Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA)**

- i. No expansions of paid lead/paid sick day coverage from FFCRA (maintains 500+ employee carve-out and no new FMLA purposes) and no changes in reimbursement rates/caps
- ii. No major limitations or additional carve-outs to FFCRA. There are concerns about broad OMB allowance to exempt executive branch employees
- iii. Good change on employer tax credit provision allowing for advance, rather than reimbursement, of paid leave/paid sick day cost

#### **C. Unemployment Insurance (UI)**

- i. \$250 billion in temporary enhancements to the UI system through 2020,

including:

- a. \$600 increase in the weekly UI checks of unemployed workers;
- b. Special disaster relief program, Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) that expands UI coverage to self-employed workers, gig workers, and independent contractors; and
- c. A temporary 13-week extension of UI benefits.

For more information on the UI provisions in the CARES Act from the National Employment Law Center (NELP), click [here](#). To read NELP's full press release, click [here](#).

#### **D. Recovery Rebates**

- i. The legislation provides for direct payments to individuals called "recovery rebates"
- ii. The rebates are worth a maximum of \$1,200 per person (\$2,400 for a married couple filing a joint tax return)
  - a. An additional \$500 per dependent child age 16 or under
- iii. For more information, such as who is eligible, who is left out, and how the rebates will be issued, click [here](#).

#### **E. U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) Loans/Grants**

- i. \$10 billion for SBA emergency grants to small businesses, including non-profits
  - a. Businesses with fewer than 500 employees could be eligible for up to \$10 million in forgivable small business loans
  - ii. The Bipartisan Policy Center and Committee for Economic Development has put together a thorough summary of these provisions specifically for child care providers, to read the summary click [here](#).

#### **Other Important Federal Updates**

- A.** The IRS has extended the tax filing deadline to July 15. For more IRS-related coronavirus information, click [here](#).
  
- B.** The Department of Education announced last week that it will stop collecting on student loans in default. This break began on March 13 and will last for a minimum of 60 days. To read more, click [here](#).

#### **Next Steps and What You Can Do**

- A.** While we are appreciative of the \$3.5 billion in dedicated support for the child care industry through the Child Care and Development Block Grant, it is far less than what is needed to keep the nation's child care system afloat. We know that there will be a fourth COVID-19 stimulus package, and ECE/Child Care advocates are at the table sharing our critical needs. It is critical that members of Congress are hearing from their constituencies about the need to have robust funding for the child care sector in the fourth stimulus package. If you have capacity, please:
  - i. Work with media to get stories about the needs of child care providers, educators, and front-line workers in the public sphere in your districts and States
  - ii. Work with your governor to speak out on the need for federal funding as part of the fourth stimulus package
  - iii. Share the needs in your district/state with your federal delegation with an ask for federal funding to be included in the fourth stimulus package. This could include putting out statements that you share with your delegation, calling/emailing them, organizing a sign-on letter with other folks in your area or a petition, setting up teleconferences between providers and parents in the state and your delegation, and more.
  
- B.** Webinar: CACFP during COVID-19: New USDA flexibilities offer program options

i. This webinar is an opportunity to learn about new flexibilities designed to support CACFP providers, programs, and sponsors in offering access to nutritious meals for children in the current COVID-19 public health emergency. Child care centers, providers, afterschool programs, sponsoring organizations and shelters can all learn something important from this webinar. On this webinar USDA will explain the new waivers allowing CACFP sites to make adjustments to normal operating rules. The waivers offer options to:

- a. simplify food procurement,
  - b. use meal pattern flexibilities when food supplies are disrupted,
  - c. suspend normal meal-times,
  - d. offer “grab and go” take home meals or delivered meals instead of on-site meal service (non-congregate feeding), and
  - e. drop the activity requirement for at-risk afterschool programs.
- ii. **Date and Time:** Tuesday, March 31, 2020, 2:00pm Eastern, 1:00pm Central, 11:00am Pacific Time

Register [here](#).

Sincerely,  
James Moses, Chair  
Public Policy Committee  
California AEYC

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Sincerely,

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