



National Career
Development
Association

**COVID-19 Support and Information from the
NCDAA Government Relations Committee and NCDAA Lobbyist**

(3/27/2020 - additional updates forthcoming)

The United States federal government aims to inform the public about the following activities:

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program – The bill includes \$15.5 billion in additional funding for SNAP to ensure all Americans, including seniors and children receive the food they need.

Child Nutrition Programs – The bill includes \$8.8 billion in additional funding for Child Nutrition Programs in order to ensure children receive meals while school is not in session.

The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) – The bill provides \$450 million for the TEFAP program. With many communities suffering from job losses, food banks have seen increased needs. These funds are critical so food banks can continue to assist those Americans most in need.

Emergency Food and Shelter Program – \$200 million for shelter, food and supportive services to individuals and families in sudden economic crisis.

Department of Education – For **elementary and secondary education**, \$13.5 billion is available for formula-grants to States, which will then distribute 90 percent of funds to local educational agencies to use for coronavirus-response activities, such as planning for and coordinating during long-term school closures; purchasing educational technology to support online learning for all students served by the local educational agency; and additional activities authorized by federal elementary and secondary education laws. **Governors** in each state will receive a share of \$3 billion to allocate at their discretion for emergency support grants to local educational agencies that the State educational agency deems have been most significantly impacted by coronavirus. These funds will support the ability of such local educational agencies to continue to provide educational services to their students and to support the on-going operations of the local educational agency; and provide emergency support through grants to institutions of higher education serving students within the State.

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) – The bill includes \$900 million to help lower income households heat and cool their homes.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration – The bill provides \$425 million for SAMHSA to increase access to mental health services in our communities through Community Behavioral Health Clinics, suicide prevention programs, and emergency response spending that can target support where it is most needed, such as outreach to those experiencing homelessness.

Institute for Museum and Library Services – The bill includes \$50 million for the Institute of Museum and Library Services to expand digital network access in areas of the country where such access is lacking, including the purchase of internet-enable devices and provisions for technical support services in response to the disruption of schooling and other community services during the COVID-19 emergency.

Emergency Solutions Grants – \$4 billion is included to address the impact of COVID-19 among individuals and families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, and to support additional homeless assistance, prevention, and eviction prevention assistance. Eviction prevention activities including rapid rehousing, housing counseling, and rental deposit assistance will mitigate the adverse impacts of the pandemic on working families.

Rental Assistance Protections for Low-Income Americans – \$3 billion is included for housing providers to help more than 4.5 million low-income households made up of more than 9.6 million individuals currently assisted by HUD to safely remain in their homes or access temporary housing assistance in response to economic and housing disruptions caused by COVID-19.

Campus-based aid waivers – The bill waives the non-federal share requirement for campus-based aid programs. Institutions are allowed to transfer unused work-study funds to be used for supplemental grants. The bill allows institutions to award additional supplemental educational opportunity grants to students impacted by COVID-19.

Federal work-study modifications – Allows institutions to issue work-study payments to students who are unable to work due to work-place closures as a lump sum or in payments similar to paychecks.

Adjustments of Subsidized Loan Limits – For students who dropped out of school as a result of COVID – 19 excludes the term from counting toward lifetime subsidized loan eligibility.

Exclusion from Federal Pell Grant Duration Limit – For students who dropped out of school as a result of COVID -19 excludes the term from counting toward lifetime Pell eligibility.

Institutional Refund and Federal Student Loan Flexibility – For students who dropped out of school as a result of COVID -19, the student is not required to return Pell grants or federal student loans to the Secretary. Also waives the requirement that institutions calculate the amount of grant or loan assistance that the institution must return to the Secretary.

Satisfactory Progress – For students who dropped out of school as a result of COVID -19, the student's grades

do not affect a student's federal academic requirements to continue to receive Pell Grants or student loans.

HBCU Capital Financing Program – Authorizes the Secretary of Education to defer payments on current HBCU Capital Financing loans during the national emergency period so HBCUs can devote financial resources to COVID-19 efforts.

Waiver Authority and Reporting Requirements for Institutional Aid – Authorizes the Secretary of Education to waive certain outcome requirements for FY2021 grant programs for HBCU and other Minority Serving Institutions.

Authorized Uses and Other Modifications for Grants – Authorizes the Secretary of Education to waive or modify current allowable uses of funds for institutional grant programs (TRIO/GEARUP/Title III/Title V/and sections of Title VII) so colleges can re-deploy resources and services to COVID-19 efforts. Permits institutions to request waivers from the Secretary of Education for financial matching requirements in competitive grant and other MSI grant programs in the Higher Education Act so colleges can devote institutional resources to COVID-19 efforts.