



April 24, 2020



THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON:

Funding Round 3.5

Somewhere in between the \$2 trillion of the CARES Act and what many are assuming is a fourth full supplemental, this week Congress passed what many are dubbing the Coronavirus Supplemental 3.5, more officially known as the *Paycheck Protection Program Increase Act of 2020*.

The bill makes no changes to the Coronavirus Relief Fund for state and local governments, so that will be an ongoing issue for a future effort. Earlier this week, the Big 7 put out a press release on the need for federal support:

"The seven leading organizations representing state and local governments at the federal level called on Congress to 'immediately provide robust, flexible relief' to state, territorial and local governments as part an interim relief package for the COVID-19 pandemic."

The vast majority of the funds - \$322 billion - is for replenishing the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), which quickly depleted the first appropriation. Roughly \$60 billion of that total will be allocated to small lenders and community banks. The rest includes \$50 billion for the Disaster Loan Program; \$60 billion for the Economic Injury Disaster Loan program, which reaches communities and small businesses in underserved areas; \$75 billion for hospitals; and, \$25 billion to expand testing.

One of the biggest issues that the PPP faced in the rollout of the program was that small businesses in underserved communities struggled to compete with bigger businesses that had existing relationships with banks. This bill has carve-outs so that community businesses and lenders do not have to compete with bigger businesses and banks for the same funding.

More News from the Nation's Capital...

Selection of Recently Released Federal Resources

Understanding that it is a challenge to quickly review all the available grant programs for COVID-19, we are creating and updating a list of links for information on programs from FEMA, HHS, CDC, HUD, and others. While it is not comprehensive, it can be quickly consulted for resources on topics that have recently been of interest across the federal interagency (e.g. childcare for essential personnel).

[Read More](#)

NGA Releases Public Health Recovery Roadmap

The roadmap provides recommended steps to build the public health infrastructure necessary to reopen state economies in such a way that is not detrimental to community health and safety.

[Read More](#)

EPA Expands COVID-19 Research

Research the agency is undertaking in partnership with the CDC includes environmental cleanup and disinfection techniques, virus behavior in wastewater and the air, and procedures for disinfecting personal protective equipment.

[Read More](#)

Other News from DC and Around the Country:

Homeland Security News Wire: [Extremists Publish 25,000 Email Addresses Allegedly Tied to COVID Fight](#)

The Hill: [Here's When All 50 States Plan to Reopen After Coronavirus Restrictions](#)

Washington Post: [The Western U.S. is Locked in the Grips of the First Human-Caused Megadrought, Study Finds](#)

nemaweb.org



Copyright NEMA 2019. All rights reserved.