



June 5, 2020



## THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON:

### Chaotic Normalcy

D.C. and much of the nation was rocked this week by protests over the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis. D.C. spent much of the week under curfew orders with federal law enforcement clashing repeatedly with demonstrators. On Monday night, tensions escalated around the White House and the week progressed no better in many areas around the country.

Despite the chaos of protests and continues staggering toward reopening the economy in the wake of the Coronavirus, some semblance of normalcy can be seen on Capitol Hill. Several Senators proposed the Exposure Notification Privacy Act to prevent potential abuses of data by contact tracing apps for the coronavirus. Among other things, the legislation would require anyone who operates an exposure notification service to “collaborate” with public health authorities, make usage of the app voluntary, and block the commercial use of any data it might collect. With some states already developing and utilizing contact tracing apps using a basic framework developed by Apple and Google that are understood to be generally compliant with the legislation.

This week the Senate also passed legislation to add flexibility to a loan program helping small businesses survive the economic crisis caused by the novel coronavirus. The legislation gives small businesses more time to use the Paycheck Protection Program funds and allows them to use more money for non-payroll expenses. The legislation, initially passed in the House, now heads to the President’s desk.

The world of Appropriations is starting to see life as well. The House Appropriations Chair, Nita Lowey (D-NY) sent a letter to Appropriations colleagues outlining her vision for marking-up FY21 bills. The letter outlined how she intends to hold all subcommittee and full committee mark-ups the weeks of July 6 and 13 with the goal of having spending bills on the floor the weeks of July 20 and 27. The Committee intends to work within the guidelines issued by the Office of the Attending Physician to ensure Member safety. The specific order of the bills will be released later this month but expect to see Homeland Security bringing-up the rear.

*More News from the Nation's Capital...*

### **Selection of Recently Released Federal COVID-19 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).

This is updated weekly.

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#### **FEMA Announces Pre-Award Eligibility for PDM and FMA**

FEMA announced the pre-award eligibility in sub-applications for Fiscal Year 2019 for Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) and Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) grant funding, which will total over \$460 million.

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#### **GAO: Federal Agencies Need to Coordinate on Cybersecurity Requirements for States**

The Government Accountability Office (GAO) sought to determine the extent to which selected federal agencies' cybersecurity requirements for state agencies varied with each other and federal guidance, and federal agency policies for coordinating their assessments of state agencies' cybersecurity. T

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#### **CHDS Webinar: Ethics in Crisis - Observations from the Frontlines of COVID-19**

Next week, the Center for Homeland Defense and Security (CHDS) will hold a webinar entitled "Ethics in Crisis -- Observations from the Frontlines of COVID-19 with Dr. Sheri Fink." It will take place Wednesday, June 10, 2020, at 2:00 pm EDT.

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*Other News from DC and Around the Country:*

NPR: [Hurricane Season Collides with Coronavirus, As Communities Plan for Dual Emergencies](#)

E&E News: [Flooding Disproportionately Harms Black Neighborhoods](#)

GovTech: [FEMA Administrator's Third Letter to Emergency Managers](#)

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