



Date: March 25, 2020

To: Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Thomas B. Modica, Acting City Manager 

**Subject: COVID-19 Federal Legislation Updates**

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This memorandum summarizes recent coronavirus (COVID-19) emergency relief federal legislation. The federal government has enacted two laws to address the COVID-19 pandemic: the Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act (H.R. 6074) and the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (H.R. 6201). A third legislative response is currently in development to provide economic stimulus and relief through additional lending capacity and direct financial assistance.

#### **H.R. 6074: Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act**

H.R. 6201 was enacted on March 6, 2020, to provide emergency funding for federal agencies to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak. The law allocated \$7.8 billion, plus an additional \$500 million authorization for telehealth services, to provide medical professionals and healthcare workers on the front lines with resources for the COVID-19 public health response.

Of the allocated funding, \$2.2 billion of this funding is allocated to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to support the prevention and response activities of state and local governments. \$475 million must be distributed within 30 days to support efforts such as laboratory testing, infection control and mitigation, and other public health preparedness measures.

Additional funding is provided for developing a vaccine and purchasing critical medical supplies to protect the health and safety of Americans. The law also enabled the Small Business Administration to provide up to \$7 billion in disaster loans to help small businesses affected by financial losses due to COVID-19.

#### **H.R. 6201: Families First Coronavirus Response Act**

H.R. 6201 was signed into law on March 18, 2020, creating emergency paid leave programs and additional funding for public health programs. The law will go into effect on April 2, 2020. Under this law, private sector employers with fewer than 500 workers, as well as government entities, would have to provide as many as twelve weeks of partially paid family leave to care for a child whose school or day care has closed. Employers also would have to provide full- and part-time workers with two weeks paid sick time, which would also apply to a quarantine order or if the employee needed to care for another affected individual. Private employers impacted by this law will be reimbursed through tax credits, while government entities will not.

Additional public health resources provided by this legislation include:

- Resources to cover costs of COVID-19 testing;
- \$500 million for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program;
- \$400 million for the Emergency Food Assistance Program;
- \$250 million for Senior Nutrition programs; and,
- As much as \$1 billion for states to process and pay unemployment benefits to workers affected by the COVID-19 outbreak.

### COVID-19 Federal Relief Legislation Summary

The table below summarizes the two federal legislative relief packages that have been enacted:

Phase I (H.R. 6074)	Phase II (H.R. 6201)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>\$6.5 billion – Health and Human Services Department</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ \$3.4 billion for Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund</li><li>○ \$2.2 billion for Centers for Disease Control and Prevention</li><li>○ \$836 million for National Institutes of Health</li><li>○ \$61 million for Food and Drug Administration</li><li>○ Waived telehealth restrictions (estimated \$490 million increase in mandatory spending)</li></ul></li><li>• <b>\$1.25 billion – State Department &amp; USAID</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Funds for global health programs, humanitarian and health assistance, diplomatic operations, evacuation and emergency preparedness costs</li></ul></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Emergency Paid Leave</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Private sector employers with fewer than 500 workers &amp; government employers have to provide as many as <i>12 weeks of partially paid leave</i> to care for a child whose school or day care was closed</li><li>○ Employers would have to provide full- and part-time workers with <i>2 weeks paid sick leave</i>, including for a quarantine order to care for another affected individual</li><li>○ Paid leave financed through tax credits to private employers, not government employers</li></ul></li><li>• <b>\$1 billion – Agriculture Department programs (SNAP, WIC, food banks)</b></li><li>• <b>\$1 billion – unemployment benefits</b></li></ul>

### Next Steps

Following the passage of H.R. 6201, on March 18, 2020, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) stated that the Senate will remain in session until they pass a third phase of COVID-19 relief legislation. Congress and the administration are currently in negotiations regarding the details of this proposal. Draft legislation language indicates an interest in providing a stimulus package that could include targeted lending to certain industries impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and direct financial help for small businesses and residents.

These federal relief packages are likely to have important impacts on the City's efforts to respond to COVID-19. However, it is unclear at this time how much of the resources will be allocated to the City directly. In addition, the paid leave program mandated by H.R. 6201 does not provide reimbursement to government entities, which may increase the fiscal burden on

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the City. Staff is currently analyzing the full fiscal and workplace impacts of this legislation and will provide additional information once the analysis is complete.

We continue to look for additional resources to help manage the public health crisis and will provide further legislative updates as they are available. If you have questions or comments, please contact Tyler Bonanno-Curley, Manager of Government Affairs, at [Tyler.Curley@longbeach.gov](mailto:Tyler.Curley@longbeach.gov) or (562) 570-5715.

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