What You Need to Know about the Federal Stimulus Package

Supporting the American People – $1,200 Direct Payments

- $1,200 one-time direct payment to all eligible adults making $75,000 and under per year.
  - If you’ve filed a tax return in the last two years, and are income eligible, you will receive a payment. Non-filers will need to file to qualify and further guidance will be made available.
    - Instructions on how to file for previous years, can be found here: https://www.irs.gov/forms-pubs/prior-year
    - Instructions for non-filers will be made available here: https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus
- $500 one-time direct payment per child per household.
- One-time, income based payment for individuals making between $75,000 and $99,000.
- $900,000 million to help low-income households heat and cool their homes through the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).
  - Vermont will receive $4.1 million in LIHEAP funds
  - To apply for heating assistance, call 1-800-479-6151 or click here: https://DCF.VERMONT.GOV/BENEFITS/FUEL-ASSISTANCE

Supporting Working Families – $260 Billion for Unemployment Insurance

- $600 increase in weekly unemployment benefits for up to four months.
  - To apply for unemployment compensation, call 1-877-214-3330 or click here: https://vermont.force.com/DOLClaim/s/
- Unemployment benefits expanded to included part-time, self-employed, and gig economy workers through December 31st, 2020.
- Additional 13 weeks of federally-funded unemployment benefits.

Supporting our Health Care System – $150 Billion for Hospitals and Front Line Health Providers
• **$100 billion** to help hospitals and providers fight this pandemic and continue to protect the health of the American people. This will be used to provide personal protective equipment and testing supplies, set-up facilities to safely house patients, and help struggling hospitals and health centers pay their staff and provide critically-needed care.

• **$16 billion** to replenish the Strategic National Stockpile supplies of personal protective equipment, pharmaceuticals, and other medical supplies so patients and providers stay safe.

• **$1 billion** to increase manufacturing of medical supplies through the Defense Production Act so our country’s manufacturers can play a critical role in getting urgently needed supplies, like masks and ventilators, for our front line health care workers and patients.
  
  o Vermont manufacturers looking to help — visit FEMA’s website to learn more: [https://www.fema.gov/coronavirus/how-to-help](https://www.fema.gov/coronavirus/how-to-help)

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### Supporting the Health of the American people

- Re-authorization of the Community Health Center programs through November 30th, plus an additional **$1.3 billion** in emergency funding.
  
  o More than **1 in 4** Vermonters rely on federally-qualified health centers for their care and this key provision will help keep their doors open and serving their patients.
  
  o Permits FQHCs to offer patient care through telemedicine.

- No out of pocket costs for coronavirus testing and prevention for people with Medicare and private insurance so that no one delays care during this critical moment for public health.
  
  o Vermont Health Connect announced a special enrollment period. If you need health insurance, sign up by April 17th by calling **855-899-9600** or click here: [portal.healthconnect.vermont.gov](https://portal.healthconnect.vermont.gov)

- Medicare is required to allow fills and refills of prescription drugs up to a 3-month supply during this emergency so Americans do not need to fear going without needed medication.

• **$15.85 billion** to provide care for our nation’s veterans impacted by coronavirus.

• **$15.5 billion** to ensure our most vulnerable citizens receive the food they need during this crisis through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).
  
  o To apply for SNAP benefits (3squaresVT), call **1-800-479-6151** or click here: [https://dcf.vermont.gov/benefits/3SquaresVT](https://dcf.vermont.gov/benefits/3SquaresVT)

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### Supporting Small Businesses and Nonprofits – $377 Billion Rescue Plan
• **$350 billion** to small businesses and non-profits to help maintain their existing workforce and help pay for other expenses like rent, mortgage, and utilities through loan forgiveness grants.
  
  o Businesses may apply for up to **$10 million** to cover 8 weeks of average payroll. The loan will be forgiven if the business retains its employees and their salary levels.
  
  o Self-employed and gig workers are eligible for this assistance.

• **$10 billion** in immediate relief to help small businesses and nonprofits with operating costs through Emergency Economic Injury grants.
  
  o A **$10,000** advance will be provided to businesses that apply for an SBA economic injury disaster loan (EIDL). The grant will be released within 3 days of a loan application submission.
  
  o To apply for an EIDL, click here: [https://www.sba.gov/disaster/apply-for-disaster-loan/index.html](https://www.sba.gov/disaster/apply-for-disaster-loan/index.html)

• **$17 billion** to cover 6 months of payments for small businesses with existing SBA loans.

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**Supporting our Communities, Local, State and Tribal Governments – $150 Billion in Direct Aid**

• **$150 billion** in direct aid to states to support the efforts already being done to address this pandemic and economic crisis.
  
  o Vermont will receive **$1.25 billion**.

• **$1.5 billion** for state and local preparedness and response activities through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in addition to the $1 billion previously appropriated.
  
  o Vermont will receive **$5.4 million**.

• **$45 billion** to provide for immediate needs of local and state governments and support entities performing essential services to protect citizens through FEMA’s Disaster Relief Fund.
  
  o Vermont will receive **$826,000** in Emergency Preparedness grants.

• **$1 billion** to help community organizations providing social services and emergency assistance through the Community Services Block Grant.
  
  o Vermont will receive **$5 million**.
  
  o Visit the following site to learn about the services offered by your local community agency: [https://vermontcap.org/](https://vermontcap.org/)

• **$5 billion** to support expansion of critical facilities — health centers, child care centers, food banks and senior services through the Community Development Block Grant.
  
  o Vermont will receive **$4.7 million**.

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**Supporting our Students, Educators and Child Care Providers – $30.75 Billion for Education Services**
• **$30.75 billion** to address the needs of students as they continue their education, and to support K-12 education and higher education institutions through this transition to distance learning.

• **$8.8 billion** to ensure children receive meals while school is not in session through additional funding for Child Nutrition Programs.
  - Contact your child’s school to apply for free meals, and click the following to find information about meal sites and distribution in your district: [https://www.hungerfreevt.org/news/coronavirus](https://www.hungerfreevt.org/news/coronavirus)

• Relief for students in debt — student loan payments for all federally held loans are deferred for 6 months with no interest accrual, and involuntary collection for defaulted loans is suspended.

• **$3.5 billion** to help child care providers, and to provide child care assistance for essential workers through the Child Care and Development Block Grant.
  - Vermont will receive **$4.3 million**.

**Supporting our Elections – $400 million:**

• **$400 million** to ensure the stability of our elections and protect our democratic system — funding will go to the Election Assistance Commission to support the 2020 election cycle.
  - Vermont will receive **$3 million**.

• Funding may go towards increasing the ability to vote by mail, expanding early voting and online registration, and increasing the number of polling places and workers.

**Supporting Renters, Homeowners, and Those at Risk of Homelessness – $7 Billion in Housing Assistance**

• **$4 billion** to support those who are homeless, or at risk of homelessness through Emergency Solution Grants, and **$3 billion** to help low-income Americans avoid evictions through rental assistance.
  - Vermont will receive **$4.6 million** total for housing assistance grants.
  - If you need emergency housing call 2-1-1. To learn about emergency assistance for housing needs click here: [https://dcf.vermont.gov/benefits/EA-GA](https://dcf.vermont.gov/benefits/EA-GA)

• 60 day moratorium on foreclosures and evictions for homeowners with federally backed mortgages, and up to 180 days of forbearance during this crisis.

• 120 day moratorium on evictions, and a ban on late charge fees, in properties receiving any federal assistance.
  - If you need legal advice regarding your housing situation call **1-800-889-2047** or fill out a request form: [https://vtlawhelp.org/vlh-intake](https://vtlawhelp.org/vlh-intake)
Supporting our Farmers – $9.5 Billion

- $9.5 billion to support farmers as they continue to support us and our food system.