

Congressman Hal Rogers
Kentucky's 5th Congressional District
Summary of H.R. 748, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act

Overview

H.R. 784, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, is Phase 3 of Congress's response to the COVID-19 coronavirus, and includes direct payments to most Americans, critical investments in health care, grant and loan packages to keep businesses afloat, and necessary emergency appropriations government-wide.

The CARES Act will provide Americans who make up to \$75,000 (\$150,000 for joint filers) a \$1,200 **rebate**, and adults with children are eligible for an additional \$500 per child. The rebate amount is reduced by \$5 for each \$100 that a taxpayer's income exceeds the phase-out threshold, and the amount is completely phased-out for single filers with incomes exceeding \$99,000 (\$198,000 for joint filers).

The bill provides critical resources for **rural health needs**, including \$100 billion for hospitals to reimburse providers for COVID-19 related expenses and lost revenue, and \$16 billion for the Strategic National Stockpile to procure critical medical equipment. There is also \$1.32 billion for Community Health Centers, and it also reauthorizes grants to rural communities for strengthening rural health care and access to telehealth. H.R. 748 also provides \$275 million for the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)—with \$180 million specifically for rural health needs. It also lifts the 2% Medicare sequester from May 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020. Finally, the CARES Act ensures our veterans are taken care of by providing \$14.4 billion for VA Medical Services and allowing the VA to expand telehealth eligibility and services.

H.R. 748 provides \$150 billion in relief funds to **support local and state governments** with costs stemming from the COVID-19 public health emergency. It creates the "Paycheck Protection program" within the SBA that will provide eight weeks of cash-flow assistance through federally guaranteed loans to small businesses who maintain their payroll and appropriates \$350 billion for this program. It also provides \$250 million to expand access to unemployment benefits for those not traditionally eligible for unemployment insurance (UI).

Finally, H.R. 748 provides significant **economic development** resources for southern and eastern Kentucky. This includes \$1.5 billion for the Economic Development Administration for grants to states and communities suffering economic injury. It also includes \$100M for the USDA ReConnect Program to provide grants to cover the construction, improvement, or equipment for broadband in eligible rural areas. The CARES Act also allows the Appalachian Regional Commission to waive its local cost-share requirement for coronavirus-related grants, allowing existing ARC funding to be used for Appalachian companies in need. The bill also includes \$100 million for the Bureau of Prisons to provide overtime pay to correctional officers and purchase supplies related to clean work and living requirements.

Congressman Hal Rogers
Kentucky's 5th Congressional District
Summary of H.R. 748, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act

Taking Care of Our People

Department of Health and Human Services

- **Provides \$1.32B for Community Health Centers** and reauthorizes HRSA grants to rural communities for strengthening rural health care and expanding access to telehealth.
- **Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund**
 - \$100B to reimburse providers for COVID-19 related expenses and lost revenue, such as being forced to delay elective procedures.
 - \$16B for Strategic National Stockpile to procure PPE, ventilators, and other critical medical equipment.
 - Additional \$11B to the phase I funds for vaccine, therapeutics, and diagnostics research and manufacturing.
 - \$250M to improve hospital preparedness.
 - \$275M for the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to expand services and capacity for rural hospitals, telehealth, poison control centers (Kentucky Poison Control Center is running the state COVID-19 hotline). Of this, \$180M is specifically carved out for Rural Health.
- **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services** - Increases the standard Medicare payment to a provider treating a COVID-19 patient by 20%, and lifts the Medicare 2% sequester from May 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020,
- **Community Health Centers**- Allows Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and Rural Health Clinics (RHCs), collectively known as Community Health Centers (CHCs) to provide telehealth services. There is also language included that allows community health centers to use FY20 funding to maintain or increase staffing and capacity to address COVID-19.
- **Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention**
 - \$1.5B for state and local preparedness response activities.
 - \$500M to invest in state and local public health data infrastructure.
- **Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)**
 - \$425M for SAMHSA to address mental health and substance use disorder.
 - \$250M for behavioral health clinics to increase access to mental health care services.
 - \$100M for SAMHSA Emergency Response Grants to address substance use disorder and mental health during the pandemic.
- **Administration for Children and Families**
 - \$3.5B in grants to states for immediate assistance to childcare providers and to support childcare providers for health care workers, first responders, etc.
 - \$750M for Head Start, which provides grants to help families and children making up for lost learning time during this emergency.
 - \$1B for Community Services Block Grants for local community-based organizations to provide a wide range of social services and emergency assistance.

Department of Agriculture

- **\$8.8B for Child Nutrition Programs** for food purchases and increased flexibility for schools administering meals.

Congressman Hal Rogers
Kentucky's 5th Congressional District
Summary of H.R. 748, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act

- **\$15.5B for SNAP** to cover increased participation as a result of COVID-19.
- **\$450M for Emergency Food Assistance Program** for commodities and distribution of emergency food assistance through community partners, including food banks.

Support for Local and State Governments

- **\$150B for Local and State Governments-** The bill provides aid to local and state governments, including a minimum of \$1.25B per state.

Department of Education

- **Education Stabilization Fund-** Includes \$30.75B for an Education Stabilization Fund for states, school districts and institutions of higher education for costs related to coronavirus.

National Science Foundation

- **\$76M to support NSF's ongoing RAPID grant response to coronavirus**, which will support near real-time research at the cellular, physiological, and ecological levels to better understand coronavirus.

Protecting the Economy

Small Business Administration

- **Provides \$562M** for the SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL) program for businesses that need financial support during this difficult time. SBA has signed an emergency declaration for Kentucky and the EIDL program is available to assist small businesses adversely impacted by COVID-19.
 - It also expedites access to capital for small businesses who have applied for SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL). Business can request an advance of up to \$10,000 on the loan to provide covered leave, maintain payroll, and pay debt obligations.
- **Provides \$350B for the Payment Protection Program** for 100 percent federally guaranteed loans for eight weeks of assistance to small businesses and nonprofits. Sole-proprietors, independent contractors, and other self-employed individuals are also eligible for these loans.
 - This includes \$10B in direct grants for businesses that do not qualify for the EIDL program, and \$17B for SBA step in and make 6 months of principle and interest payments for existing SBA backed business loans.

Department of Treasury

- **Financial Assistance to Individuals and Families** in the form of a one-time \$1,200 payment per person, plus an additional \$500 per child, to help Americans deal with the economic effects of COVID-19. This rebate is capped after a certain threshold.
- **\$250M for Phase II Paid Leave** provisions for Treasury to provide taxpayer services and implementation.

Congressman Hal Rogers
Kentucky's 5th Congressional District
Summary of H.R. 748, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act

Department of Labor

- **\$345M for the Dislocated Worker National Reserve** for states and communities to respond to workforce impacts and layoffs.
- **Expands unemployment coverage** to contractors, self-employed individuals, etc. who would not traditionally qualify for unemployment, but have lost business due to COVID-19.

Federal Reserve

- **Authorizes the Federal Reserve to Provide Liquidity to Markets**, providing \$454 billion for loans, loan guarantees, and investments in support of the Federal Reserve's lending facilities to eligible businesses, states, and municipalities.

Department of Agriculture

- **\$145.5M for USDA Rural Development**, including:
 - **\$20.5M to the Rural Business Cooperative service** to provide the necessary subsidy to make \$1B in lending authority available for the Business and Industry Loan guarantee program, which provides financing to business owners who may not qualify for a loan on their own.
 - **\$100M for the ReConnect Program** to provide grants to cover cost of construction, improvement, or equipment needed to provide broadband in eligible rural areas.
 - **\$25M for the Distance Learning, Telemedicine and Broadband Program**, which supports rural communities' access to telecommunications and related equipment.

Appalachian Regional Commission

- **Waived Non-Federal Match Requirement for Grants** - Allows the Appalachian Regional Commission to waive the local cost-share for coronavirus-related grants. This will allow existing ARC funding to be used for Appalachian companies in need, so they (and new entities) can more quickly bounce back from the COVID-19 crisis.

Federal Communications Commission

- **\$200M for FCC** to support efforts of health care providers to address COVID-19 by providing telecommunications services and devices necessary to provide telehealth.

Housing and Urban Development

- **\$5B for Community Development Block Grants**. This flexible program provides communities and states with funding to provide a wide range of resources to address COVID-19, such as services for senior citizens, the homeless, and public health services. Funding is distributed via a formula.
- **\$4B for Homeless Assistance grants**.

Congressman Hal Rogers
Kentucky's 5th Congressional District
Summary of H.R. 748, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act

Department of Commerce

- **Economic Development Administration** – \$1.5B to support economic development grants for states and communities suffering economic injury as a result of the coronavirus.
- **Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP)** - \$50M to be distributed among the 51 MEP centers, including in Kentucky, to help small- and medium-sized manufacturers recover from the economic impacts of coronavirus. It also waives the statutory cost-match requirements for all FY2020 funding.

Ensuring our Safety & National Security

Department of Justice

- **Drug Enforcement Administration** – \$15M for the safe return of law enforcement stationed abroad due to coronavirus global impacts, personal protective equipment and necessary supplies, and enhanced telework capabilities.
- **State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance** – \$850M to help officers in responding to the crisis.
- **Bureau of Prisons** – \$100M for correctional officer overtime, personal protective equipment, and supplies related to clean work and living requirements, and inmate medical care and supplies.
 - **Covid-19 Response**- Directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services to consider the distribution of infectious disease PPE and COVID-19 test kits to the BOP for use by inmates and BOP personnel to ensure our correctional officers and their families remain safe.

Department of Defense

- **\$1.5B for the National Guard**, which supports the deployment of National Guardsmen to help combat COVID-19. The 123rd Air National Guard Wing, based in Louisville, conducts a variety of flying operations, including the transportation of vital medical supplies to communities in need.
- **\$1.45 billion for Defense Working Capital Fund**, which supports the DoD's efforts to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on production lines, supply chain, military depots, and labs.
- **\$1 billion for Defensive Production Act**, which increases access to materials necessary for national security and pandemic recovery.
- **\$3.8 billion for Defense Health Program**, for increased health care cases for eligible military members, dependents, and retirees. This also supports the procurement of additional medical equipment and physical protective equipment for medical personnel and disease response.

Department of Homeland Security

- **Federal Emergency Management Administration**
 - \$44.987M for FEMA Operations and Support to continue FEMA's entire suite of response and recovery activities.
 - \$45M for the Disaster Relief Fund for reimbursements provided to states and localities for emergency and major disaster declarations.

Congressman Hal Rogers
Kentucky's 5th Congressional District
Summary of H.R. 748, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act

- \$400M for Federal Assistance grants that can be disbursed in a timely manner for firefighters, emergency managers, and providers of emergency food and shelter. Of this amount, \$100M is for Assistance to Firefighter Grants for the purchase of PPE.
- **Extends the Real ID deadline** for states to meet its requirements until Sep 30, 2021.

Department of State

- **\$324M for Diplomatic Programs** to remain available until Sep 30, 2022 to bolster the response at diplomatic facilities and evacuate American citizens overseas.
- **\$88M for Peace Corps** to support the evacuation of American volunteers from overseas posts.

US Agency for International Development

- **\$95M operating expenses** for global coronavirus response, including support for evacuations and ordered departures of overseas staff, surge support, and increased technical support.
- **\$258M for International Disaster Assistance** to address humanitarian and health needs in other countries that are underequipped to respond to the pandemic.

Taking Care of Our Vets

Department of Veterans Affairs

- **\$14.4 billion for VA Medical Services** to support increased demand for healthcare services at VA facilities and through telehealth, including the purchase of medical equipment and supplies, testing kits, and personal protective equipment. It also enables the VA to provide additional support for vulnerable veterans, including through programs to assist homeless or at-risk of becoming homeless veterans, as well as within VA nursing homes and community living centers.
- **\$2.1 billion for VA Medical Community Care** to support increased demand for care in the community, specifically emergency room and urgent care.
- **\$606 million for VA Medical Facilities** to support the development of alternative sites of care and procurement of mobile treatment centers to meet the demand for healthcare services, improvements in security, and maintenance projects to existing infrastructure and utility systems at VA facilities (e.g., reconfiguration of space to support care).
- **\$2.1 billion for VA IT Systems** to support increased telework, telehealth, and call center capabilities to deliver healthcare services directly related to coronavirus and mitigate the risk of virus transmission.
- **Expansion of Telehealth** – Allows the VA to expand eligibility for telehealth services and prioritizes services to veterans in rural areas. This would increase access to telehealth services for veterans who face roadblocks to travelling to VA facilities and allow the VA to partner with telecommunications companies to provide veterans with temporary broadband access.