



North Dakota Legislative Council

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SUMMARY OF UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES BILL NO. 133 - PRELIMINARY ESTIMATE OF CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) PANDEMIC FEDERAL FISCAL RELIEF FUNDING

This memorandum provides information regarding preliminary estimated federal funding that may be available to North Dakota state government agencies and other North Dakota organizations to respond to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic as a result of United States House of Representatives Bill No. 133.

UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES BILL NO. 133

On December 27, 2020, President Donald J. Trump signed H.R. 133, a \$2.3 trillion bill, also known as the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021, of which \$900 billion is to provide economic stimulus in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, also known as the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA). Major COVID-19 provisions of the CRRSAA include:

- \$166 billion for direct payment checks of up to \$600 per adult and child;
- An extension of the refundable credit for mandated paid sick leave and family leave for private sector employers with under 500 employees, passed in the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA), through March 31, 2021. The bill does **not** extend the FFCRA provisions that required state and local government entities to provide emergency paid sick and family leave, resulting in those provisions expiring on December 31, 2020. The bill allows private sector employers and self-employed individuals to claim the tax credit for voluntarily providing emergency paid leave that is provided through March 31, 2021;
- \$8.8 billion to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for the distribution, administration, and monitoring of COVID-19 vaccines;
- \$19.7 billion for manufacturing and procurement of vaccines;
- \$55 million for the Food and Drug Administration to continue efforts to support medical product supply chain monitoring and other public health research and response investments;
- \$25.4 billion to support testing and contact tracing and for grants to hospital and health care providers to reimburse health care-related expenses or lost revenue directly attributable to the COVID-19 pandemic;
- \$4.25 billion for mental health and substance abuse services and support;
- \$10.3 billion for early childhood and child care provider programs; and
- \$100 million to address abuse, neglect, and exploitation of the elderly;
- \$82 billion for an education stabilization fund for schools and colleges and aid to help reopen classrooms safely; including:
 - \$53.3 billion for the elementary and secondary school emergency relief fund;
 - \$22.7 billion for the higher education emergency relief fund, of which \$20.2 billion is to be allocated to public and private nonprofit institutions;

\$4.1 billion for the Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund; and

\$819 million to Bureau of Indian Education-operated and funded schools and tribal colleges and universities;

- \$13 billion for a 15 percent increase of supplemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP) monthly benefits through June 30, 2021;
- \$12 billion for community development financial institutions and minority depository institutions and the creation of a new neighborhood capital investment program for low-income and minority communities;
- An extension of temporary suspension of Medicare sequestration, providing for a 3-month delay of the Medicare sequester payment reductions through March 31, 2021;
- Provides flexibility for maternal, infant, and early childhood home visiting programs to allow the programs to serve at-risk pregnant women and families during the pandemic, for the duration of the public health emergency period;
- \$25 billion for rental assistance and an eviction moratorium extension;
- \$120 billion for unemployment insurance benefit payments;
- An extension of the federal pandemic unemployment compensation program through March 14, 2021, providing \$300 per week for all workers receiving unemployment benefits;
- An extension of the pandemic unemployment assistance program through April 5, 2021;
- An extension of the pandemic emergency unemployment compensation program, which provides additional unemployment insurance benefit payment weeks when state unemployment eligibility has expired, through April 5, 2021, resulting in an increase of available benefits weeks to 24 weeks instead of 13 weeks;
- An increase of the maximum number of weeks an individual may claim benefits through regular state unemployment with the additional pandemic emergency unemployment compensation or pandemic unemployment assistance programs, to 50 weeks;
- An additional \$100 per week for certain workers who have both wage and self-employment income but whose unemployment insurance benefit calculation does not take their self-employment into account;
- \$45 billion to support transportation services, including \$9.8 billion to state departments of transportation, \$15 billion for transit aid; \$2 billion for airports, and \$15 billion for airline employee and contractor payroll support;
- \$13 billion for agriculture aid, including direct payments to farmers, protections for food and agriculture workers, and specific support for smaller producers;
- \$7 billion to expand broadband access for students, families, and unemployed workers;
- \$325 billion for small businesses, including \$284.5 billion for forgivable Paycheck Protection Program loans, \$20 billion for economic injury disaster loan grants for business in low-income communities; and \$15 billion for live venues, independent movie theaters, and cultural institutions;
- An expansion of Paycheck Protection Program eligibility, allowing 501(C)(6) nonprofit organizations to qualify;
- \$10 billion to United States Postal Services operating costs related to the COVID-19 pandemic;
- The return of \$429 billion in unused funds provided by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act for the Federal Reserve's emergency lending facilities; and
- An extension for the expenditure of CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Fund resources until December 31, 2021, rather than December 30, 2020.

The Federal Funds Information for States (FFIS) provided **preliminary** estimates that of the \$900 billion of federal relief funds included in the CRRSAA, approximately \$186.3 billion, excluding the \$120 billion dedicated for unemployment insurance benefit payments, will be provided to state government agencies. Preliminary estimates from FFIS indicated North Dakota state agencies may be eligible for the following federal relief funding as a result of the passage of the CRRSAA, based on guidance from the federal government as of January 19, 2021.

Agency Program	Allowable Uses of Funds	Potential Funding Available
110 - Office of Management and Budget Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund - Public schools	The funding is provided in an emergency block grant designed to enable Governors to decide how best to meet the needs of students, schools (including charter schools and nonpublic schools), postsecondary institutions, and other education-related organizations and is to provide: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency support through grants to local educational agencies the state educational agency deems have been most significantly impacted by COVID-19 to support the ability of local educational agencies to continue to provide educational services to their students and to support the ongoing functionality of the local educational agency; • Emergency support through grants to institutions of higher education serving students within the state which the Governor determines have been most significantly impacted by COVID-19 to support the ability of institutions to continue to provide educational services and support the ongoing functionality of the institution; and • Support to any other institution of higher education, local educational agency, or education-related entity within the state which the Governor deems essential for carrying out emergency educational services to students for authorized activities, child care and early childhood education, social and emotional support, and the protection of education-related jobs. 	\$2,732,339
Total Office of Management and Budget		\$2,732,339
201 - Department of Public Instruction Elementary and secondary school emergency relief fund	The funding is for relief to address learning loss, improve school facilities and infrastructure to reduce the risk of transmitting COVID-19, and purchase education technology. The funding must be allocated to not less than 90 percent of the funds as subgrants to local educational agencies in the state in proportion to the amount of funds local educational agencies received in the most recent fiscal year under Part A of Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.	\$135,924,393
Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund - Private schools	The funding is provided in an emergency block grant similar to the emergency block grant provided for public schools (shown under OMB above).	3,998,745
The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) commodities	Funding is provided to purchase a variety of nutritious and useful commodities and to pay for the direct and indirect costs related to processing, storage, transporting, and distributing commodities to eligible recipient agencies. Funding includes costs associated with the distribution of commodities.	681,562
Total Department of Public Instruction		\$140,604,700

Agency Program	Allowable Uses of Funds	Potential Funding Available
215 - North Dakota University System		
Higher education emergency relief fund - Student aid	Funding to be provided to students as financial aid grants, which may be used for any component of the student's cost of attendance or for emergency costs that arise due to the COVID-19 pandemic, such as tuition, food, housing, health care (including mental health care), or child care. Institutions are required to prioritize students with exceptional need, such as students who receive Pell Grants. The funding is to be allocated as follows:	\$457,033
227 - Bismarck State College		104,937
228 - Lake Region State College		169,405
229 - Williston State College		2,745,776
230 - University of North Dakota		3,864,163
235 - North Dakota State University	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 37.5 percent based on full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment of federal Pell Grant recipients; 	411,676
238 - North Dakota State College of Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 37.5 percent based on headcount enrollment of Pell recipients; 	320,047
239 - Dickinson State University	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11.5 percent based on FTE enrollment of non-Pell recipients; 	156,360
240 - Mayville State University	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11.5 percent based on headcount enrollment of non-Pell recipients; 	637,891
241 - Minot State University	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 percent based on relative share of FTE enrollment of students who were federal Pell Grant recipients and who were exclusively enrolled in distance education courses prior to the qualifying emergency; and 	226,471
242 - Valley City State University	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 percent based on relative share of the total number of students who were federal Pell grant recipients and who were exclusively enrolled in distance education courses prior to the qualifying emergency. 	117,215
243 - Dakota College at Bottineau		
Higher education emergency relief fund - Institutions	Funding available to institutions to continue preparing for, preventing, and responding to the spread of COVID-19 and related costs associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, including keeping staff and students safe while preserving learning environments.	1,377,204
227 - Bismarck State College		266,705
228 - Lake Region State College		602,684
229 - Williston State College		6,234,566
230 - University of North Dakota		8,042,614
235 - North Dakota State University		1,229,741
238 - North Dakota State College of Science		828,374
239 - Dickinson State University		577,364
240 - Mayville State University		1,677,219
241 - Minot State University		641,589
242 - Valley City State University		482,774
243 - Dakota College at Bottineau		
Total North Dakota University System		\$31,171,808
301 - State Department of Health		
CDC - COVID-19 vaccine preparedness	The funding is to support federal, state, local, territorial, and tribal public health agencies to distribute, administer, monitor, and track COVID-19 vaccination to ensure broad-based distribution, access, and vaccine coverage. As of January 12, 2021, FFIS estimates \$6,885,880 has been made available to North Dakota for this program.	\$38,702,878
CDC - COVID-19 testing	The funding is to support testing, contact tracing, and other activities necessary to effectively monitor and suppress COVID-19, as well as improve testing capabilities and contract tracing in high-risk and underserved populations, including racial and ethnic minority populations and rural communities. As of January 12, 2021, FFIS estimates \$43,863,056 has been made available to North Dakota for this program.	172,403,729
Total State Department of Health		\$211,106,607

Agency Program	Allowable Uses of Funds	Potential Funding Available
325 - Department of Human Services		
Substance abuse prevention and treatment block grant	The funding is to help plan, implement, and evaluate activities that prevent and treat substance abuse.	\$6,411,715
Mental health block grant	The funding is to support adults and children with serious mental illnesses, including those with a diagnosable behavioral, mental, or emotional condition that substantially interferes with, or limits, one or more major life activities, such as basic daily living, instrumental living, or participating in a family, school, community, or workplace interactions.	2,972,514
Child care and development block grant	The funding is to provide immediate assistance to child care providers.	17,186,913
Promoting safe and stable families	The funding is for preventing child maltreatment, enabling children to remain safely with their families, and ensuring permanency for children in foster care.	90,342
Chafee foster care program for successful transition to adulthood	The funding is for providing care for older foster youth who would normally "age out" with the assurance that they may continue to receive foster care support and services during the COVID-19 pandemic. Allowable support services include room and board costs, food and shelter, startup costs, rent, utilities, educational assistance, career exploration, mentoring, and preventative health activities.	1,224,837
Chafee education and training vouchers	The funding is for postsecondary education costs of youth leaving foster care.	166,136
Congregate and home delivered meals	The funding is for additional assistance for nutrition services for the elderly.	840,000
SNAP	The funding is for additional monthly SNAP benefits, available through June 30, 2021.	Not yet known
Total Department of Human Services		\$28,892,457
380 - Job Service North Dakota		
Unemployment insurance benefit payments	The funding is for unemployment insurance benefit payments and may be used for the federal pandemic unemployment compensation program, pandemic emergency unemployment compensation program, pandemic unemployment assistance program, emergency relief for government entities and nonprofits, or traditional state unemployment insurance benefit programs.	Not yet known
Total Job Service North Dakota		Not yet known
473 - Housing Finance Agency		
Emergency rental assistance	The funding is for rental assistance programs. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention eviction moratorium has been extended to January 31, 2021. Eligible renters will receive assistance to pay for rent and utility payments. A household may receive up to 12 months of assistance; however, an additional 3 months may be added if it is necessary to ensure the family remain housed.	\$200,000,000
Total Housing Finance Agency		\$200,000,000
801 - Department of Transportation		
Enhanced mobility of seniors and individuals with disabilities	The funding is provided to state agencies to assist private nonprofit organizations to meet the transportation needs of older adults and individuals with disabilities when transportation services provided are unavailable, insufficient, or inappropriate to meeting the needs of the individuals.	\$115,202

Agency Program	Allowable Uses of Funds	Potential Funding Available
Surface transportation block grant	The funding is to preserve and improve the conditions and performance of federal-aid highway, bridge, and tunnel projects on any public road and for pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure. Funding for this program is available until September 30, 2024.	61,646,504
Total Department of Transportation		\$61,761,706
Total		\$676,269,617

The following is a summary of federal relief funding that may be available to other North Dakota organizations, based on **preliminary** estimates from FFIS and guidance from the federal government as of January 19, 2021. The table includes known funding available to local and tribal governments, private organizations, and other institutions, but is not intended to be a complete list of funding available to nonstate government agencies.

Program	Recipient	Potential Funding Available
Agricultural aid, including direct payments to farmers	Agriculture producers	Not yet known
Airport improvement program	Aid grants to 53 airports in the state	\$12,796,010
Head Start	Local Head Start agencies	\$560,559
Higher education emergency relief fund - Student aid	Private and tribal institutions	\$2,276,568
Higher education emergency relief fund - Institutions	Private and tribal institutions	\$6,066,574
Higher education emergency relief fund - Other	Proprietary institutions	\$304,525
Paycheck Protection Program	Small businesses	Not yet known