

North Dakota Legislative Council

Prepared by the Legislative Council staff LC# 21.9590.04000 March 2021

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 FFRCA 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 contract 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 March 16, 2021.

Agency	Allowable Uses	Potential Funding	Deadline to
Program	of Funds	Available	Use Funding
110 - Office of Management and Budget		71100000	9991 0
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:	\$2,732,339	Governor must award funds within
	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;		1 year of receipt; recipients have until September 30,
	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		2023, to obligate
	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.		
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	award funds; available for obligation by subrecipients
			through September 30, 2023
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	6 months from receipt of funds to award; remaining funds revert to general governor's emergency education relief funds;

Agency Program	Allowable Uses of Funds	Potential Funding Available	Deadline to Use Funding
			recipients have until September 30, 2023, to obligate
The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) commodities Total Department of Public Instruction	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 \$140,604,700	
215 - North Dakota University System Higher education emergency relief fund - Student aid 227 - Bismarck State College 228 - Lake Region State College 229 - Williston State College 230 - University of North Dakota 235 - North Dakota State University 238 - North Dakota State College of Science 239 - Dickinson State University 240 - Mayville State University 241 - Minot State University 242 - Valley City State University 243 - Dakota College at Bottineau	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: 37.5 percent based on full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment of federal Pell Grant recipients; 11.5 percent based on headcount enrollment of Pell recipients; 11.5 percent based on headcount enrollment of non-Pell recipients; 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 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.	\$457,033 104,937 169,405 2,745,776 3,864,163 411,676 320,047 156,360 637,891 226,471 117,215	Use within 1 year
Higher education emergency relief fund - Institutions 227 - Bismarck State College 228 - Lake Region State College 229 - Williston State College 230 - University of North Dakota 235 - North Dakota State University 238 - North Dakota State College of Science 239 - Dickinson State University 240 - Mayville State University 241 - Minot State University 242 - Valley City State University 243 - Dakota College at Bottineau Total North Dakota University System	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.	1,377,204 266,705 602,684 6,234,566 8,042,614 1,229,741 828,374 577,364 1,677,219 641,589 482,774 \$31,171,808	Use within 1 year

Agency Program	Allowable Uses of Funds	Potential Funding Available	Deadline to Use Funding
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 26, 2021, FFIS estimates \$6,885,880 has been made available to North Dakota for this program.	6,885,880	June 30, 2024
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 26, 2021, FFIS estimates \$43,863,056 has been made available to North Dakota for this program.	43,863,056	July 31, 2023
Total State Department of Health	1 5	\$50,748,936	
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.	\$6,123,948	None
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.	1,435,102	None
Child care and development block grant	The funding is to provide immediate assistance to child care providers.	19,448,230	None
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	None
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	None
Chafee education and training vouchers	The funding is for postsecondary education costs of youth leaving foster care.	166,136	None
Congregate and home delivered meals	The funding is for additional assistance for nutrition services for the elderly.	840,000	September 30, 2022
SNAP	The funding is for additional monthly SNAP benefits	\$81,300	June 30, 2021
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	Available through December 31, 2021; unobligated funds are

		Potential	
Agency	Allowable Uses	Funding	Deadline to
Program Long-term care ombudsman program	The funding is for ombudsman activities related to the COVID-19 pandemic in long-term care facilities. The funding is intended to enhance, improve, and expand the ability of ombudsman programs to investigate allegations of abuse, neglect, and exploitation related to COVID-19. Examples of the use of the funding includes the purchase of personal protective equipment, technology expenses, outreach and educational material expenses, and costs related to the investigation of complaints of abuse, neglect, and poor care.	Available \$20,000	redistributed on October 1, 2021 September 30, 2022
Adult protective services	The funding is intended to enhance, improve, and expand the ability of adult protective services programs administered by state and local government agencies to investigate allegations of abuse, neglect, and exploitation related to COVID-19. Examples of the use of the funding includes the purchase of information technology equipment and other costs to support telework for program employees, outreach, advertising, and educational material expenses, postage and printing of educational materials, and costs related to the response of alleged scams and frauds related to COVID-19 vaccine or cure scams.	\$704,100	September 30, 2022
Total Department of Human Services		\$230,133,995	
380 - Job Service North Dakota Unemployment insurance benefit payments	compensation program, pandemic unemployment assistance program, emergency relief for	differentiated from prior federal legislation	Not yet known
Total Job Service North Dakota		Not yet known	
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	Available until expended
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.	61,584,858	Available until September 30, 2024
Total Department of Transportation		\$61,700,060	
Total		\$517,091,838	

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 March 16, 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.

		Potential Funding
Program	Recipient	Available
Agricultural aid, including direct payments to farmers	Agriculture producers	Not yet known
Airport improvement program	Aid grants to 53 airports in the state	\$13,167,764
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