

Summary of Key Provisions in HEROES Act (H.R. 6800) for the Health Care for the Homeless Community

May 2020

On May 15, the House of Representatives passed a fourth stimulus bill in response to COVID19, providing \$3 trillion through the *Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions (HEROES) Act*. See the [legislative text](#) and [section-by-section summary](#). The HEROES Act includes significant funding for housing and homelessness, and many other resources to boost the nation's public health response. Key provisions relevant to the HCH community are summarized below. Note: these provisions are not final and negotiations are expected if/when the Senate decides to act.

HOUSING/HUD

This [detailed analysis](#) of the \$200 billion provided for housing programs comes from the National Low Income Housing Coalition.

- **New Homeowner Assistance Fund:** \$75 billion to states to help people with mortgage payments, taxes, utilities to be distributed through state housing finance agencies.
- **New Emergency Vouchers:** \$1 billion for 100,000 emergency housing vouchers.
- **Moratorium on evictions:** replaces the 120-day moratorium on evictions (as passed in previous stimulus bills) with a 1-year uniform moratorium on evictions.
- **Additional funding for existing HUD programs:**
 - \$11.5 billion for Homeless Assistance Grants/ESG
 - \$100 billion for Emergency Rental Assistance
 - \$750 million for Project-Based Rental Assistance
 - \$4 billion for Tenant-Based Rental Assistance
 - \$2 billion for Public Housing Operating Fund
 - \$15 million for Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS
 - \$5 billion for Community Development Block Grant

HEALTH CENTERS

This [detailed analysis](#) of provisions relevant to health centers comes from the National Association of Community Health Centers, including information on business loans, look-alike funds, provider student loan forgiveness, Medicaid, Medicare, broadband, and more.

- **\$7.6 billion for Health Centers** to "expand the capacity to provide testing, triage, and care for COVID19 and other health care services."

HEALTH PROGRAMS

- \$1.5 billion for the **Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant**
- \$1 billion for the **Community Mental Health Services Block Grant**
- \$1.5 billion for the **Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)**
- \$100 billion for the **Public Health and Social Services Emergency fund** (adding to the \$175 provided in previous stimulus bills) to reimburse providers for health care expenses, testing, and contact tracing. [See more](#) about this fund from the House Ways and Means Committee.

ECONOMIC IMPACT PAYMENTS

- Provides for a second payment of \$1,200 per individual (the first was provided in a previous stimulus bill). Retroactively makes those with an Taxpayer Identification Number eligible (rather than the more limiting social security number as designated previously) and makes all dependents eligible (rather than only dependent children under 17 as designated previously) for the \$500 additional amount per dependent.

OTHER NOTABLE PROVISIONS

- **FEMA Emergency Response:** \$1.3 billion for FEMA that covers 100% of disaster-related costs, eliminating the 25% share-of-cost requirement. \$200 million is designated for the Emergency Food and Shelter program. [See more](#) on using FEMA funds for homeless response from Community Solutions.
- **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP/Food stamps):** \$10 billion to support increases in participation and to cover program cost increases. [See more](#) about this and other food and nutrition provisions from Food Research & Action Center.
- **Elections:** \$3.6 billion for state and local governments to conduct elections under pandemic conditions. [See more](#) from the Brennan Center for Justice.
- **State Fiscal Relief:** \$500 billion of flexible funding to assist state governments in responding to the coronavirus. [See more](#) on how this would be used and distributed from the House Appropriations Committee.

Learn more about the resources available from previously passed stimulus bills in our [FAQ on federal funds and policies](#) and our [FAQ on economic stimulus payments](#). Check our [COVID19 policy page](#) for federal guidance, local resources, and other materials.