



CORONAVIRUS

EXPLAINER

**CONGRESSIONAL
PROGRESSIVE
CAUCUS CENTER**

Progressive Priorities for a Next Coronavirus Relief Package

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Movement organizations, think tanks, and unions recognize the important measures included in the first three coronavirus packages but are united in their conviction that more must be done to ensure everyone gets the relief they need, hold corporations accountable and strengthen government oversight.

Below, we present several key policy priorities that progressive partners would like to see as cornerstones of the next relief package.

FINANCIAL RELIEF

Preventing Layoffs and Providing Income Assistance (AFL-CIO, Americans for Financial Reform, Children's Defense Fund, Center for Economic and Policy Research, CPC Center, Economic Policy Institute, National Women's Law Center):

The CARES Act: Provides one-time payments of \$1,200 per adult for those earning up to \$75,000 until it phases out at \$99,000 (\$150,000 - \$198,000 for joint filers). People who use Individual Tax Identification Numbers (ITINs) for anyone in their family will not be eligible to receive those payments. Others not eligible for payments include 17-18 y.o. dependents, 19-23 y.o. in school FT, and adult dependents.

Recommendations for a next package:

- Congress should provide a federal payroll guarantee that ensures federal funds to employers that are fully or partially shut down to cover payroll and maintenance costs (including employer-sponsored benefits, rent, and other associated business expenses). These funds should be conditioned on employers maintaining their workforce and continuing to provide employer-sponsored benefits. This way employees can shelter-in-place while keeping their jobs, and be ready to return to work when stay-at-home orders are lifted.
- Fund additional rounds of income assistance are needed; these additional rounds of income assistance should be available to all families regardless of immigration status and should not exclude dependent adults, dependent children over 17, or dependent college students.
- Fund additional payments in June and September; increase funding for additional weeks of PUC Unemployment Insurance benefits.

- Make cash payments monthly, tying the continuation of payments to the employment rate. Along these lines, Sen. Bennet’s cash assistance proposal recommended that payments continue quarterly until the unemployment rate falls to 0.5 percentage points above “the coronavirus-induced economic damage.”
- Adopt a Jobseeker’s Allowance that provides cash income to workers not eligible for unemployment insurance (such as graduating students entering the job market, returning caregivers, contractors).
- Integrate discussion of income assistance with payroll protection, if large-scale payroll protection was made more automatic (so wages were simply continued through periods of temporary high unemployment) then the need for income assistance would be somewhat lessened, though not eliminated.
- Help people cope with the extra expenses they are facing as a result of this crisis by increasing Social Security payments, including Social Security Disability Insurance and Supplemental Security Income by at least \$200 each month
- Require automatic payment for low-income individuals not filing tax returns who are already in government databases, including individuals with disabilities and veterans

Unemployment Insurance (Economic Policy Institute, National Employment Law Project, National Women’s Law Center):

The CARES Act: Includes a number of important measures to strengthen UI, including an estimated \$260 billion in enhanced and expanded unemployment insurance (UI), an additional \$600 per week to all claimants through July 31, 2020, in addition to their regular benefits and 13 additional weeks of UI benefits, above the number of weeks that states now permit claimants to receive UI (26 weeks in all but 8 states). It also includes a temporary UI program for part-time, self-employed, gig economy, and other workers excluded from regular UI through December 31, 2020.

Recommendations for a next package:

- Require all states to participate in the federal work sharing program; remove the minimum employee limit; lower the work hours requirement to ensure small businesses can participate; and allow additional hours to be covered by unemployment insurance.
- Provide additional weeks of Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (PUC).
- Permanently increase the wage replacement rate to two-thirds of an employee’s wages.
- Use the employment rate or total aggregate hours as triggers to determine the duration of the PUA, PUC and PEUC programs, rather than the unemployment rate, which is an inaccurate measure of the health of the

economy under current economic conditions, or ending the programs on specific, predetermined dates.

- Ensure eligibility for expanded UI includes immigrant workers.
- Provide \$10 billion in additional administrative funding for states.

EITC and CTC (National Women's Law Center)

The CARES Act does not address EITC or CTC.

Recommendations for a next package:

- Mandate temporary expansions to refundable tax credits. Expand the EITC for workers not claiming dependent children, full CTC refundability, and a CTC increase for children under age 6 .

TANF (Center for Economic and Policy Research, Center for Law and Social Policy, National Women's Law Center)

The CARES Act does not address TANF.

Recommendations for a next package:

- Waive TANF work requirements (as in the House marker bill) and other TANF provisions that limit access to assistance, including requirement to sign over rights to child support.
- Require states to provide Temporary Assistance (monthly income assistance) to all eligible low-income families. The federal government should cover 100 percent of benefit cost, as is already the case with SNAP and SSI benefits.

Assistance for Child Care Providers (Community Change, National Women's Law Center):

The CARES Act: Allocated \$3.5 billion for Child Care and Development Block Grants (CCDBG) and \$750 million for Head Start. The last House proposal called for an additional \$1 billion in CCDBG and \$750 million in Head Start.

Recommendation for the next package:

- Provide \$50 to \$100 billion to protect existing child care infrastructure by providing immediate relief to providers, educators and families and ensure families have emergency access to child care if they have to work.
- Support child care through assistance to frontline workers with continuing child care needs, provide subsidies to child care providers that have closed or seen large drops in attendance, tie assistance to enrollment and not current attendance levels, address staffing shortages, provide needed resources, training and supplies to keep staff and children safe, eliminate copayments or tuition for families during the crisis while ensuring that providers are still paid,

and support for childcare providers going through the small business loan application process.

K-12 Education (American Association of People with Disabilities, American Federation of Teachers, Center for American Progress, National Education Association, National Women’s Law Center):

The CARES Act: Provides no funding to help low-income students with the technology they need for distance learning. Sets aside \$13.5 billion in formula grants to elementary and secondary education as part of the \$30 billion Education Stabilization Fund.

Recommendations for a next package:

- Close the “homework gap” by creating a one-time \$4 billion fund to help schools procure Wi-Fi hotspots, equip school devices with Wi-Fi, and loan those devices to students whose schools close; ensure virtual education supports are inclusive of the needs of people with disabilities, including requirements under the Disabilities Education Act.
- Provide an additional \$75 million in emergency funding to states to continue elementary and secondary educational activities.
- Funding for virtual mental health counseling from children.

State and Local Aid (American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, Center for Economic and Policy Research, DC Vote, Planned Parenthood Federation of America, Americans for Financial Reform):

The CARES Act: Provides \$100 billion in a Coronavirus Relief Fund for states and municipalities.

Recommendations for the next package:

- Provide additional funds for states and local governments. \$100 billion is a downpayment and states will need \$75 billion or more in additional funding.
- Fund equivalent to ten percent of all state and municipal budgets or \$220 billion.
- Create parity between DC and states for funding. DC is currently considered a territory and guaranteed only \$500 million while states, even states with smaller populations than DC, are guaranteed at least \$1.25 billion.
- Protect reproductive rights. The inclusion of Hyde amendment language in the Coronavirus Relief Fund has led to some states using the public health emergency as an excuse to reduce abortion access and should be removed.
- Create a direct lending backstop for assistance with pandemic related needs and to buffer the economic effects of the crisis on state and local tax receipts.

Student Debt (Freedom to Prosper, Americans for Financial Reform, Demos, National Women’s Law Center)

The CARES Act: Federal student loan payments suspended for 6 months with no interest accrual. Income tax exclusion for employers to provide up to \$5,250 for student loan repayment assistance.

Recommendations for a next package:

- Provide full student debt cancellation.
- House marker bill called for \$10,000 in student debt cancellation for student loan borrowers (keeping borrowers current on payments).
- Provide an additional \$50 billion in emergency funding to states for post-secondary education, including cancellation of up to \$30,000 in student debt for all borrowers with federal loans, payment deferral with a grace period for the restart in loan repayment, ceasing interest capitalization and accrual through any pauses on borrower repayment, providing emergency financial aid to current college students to take care of basic needs, such as housing, food, and child care; and preventing predatory for-profit institutions from exploiting students in the after effects of a public health and economic crisis.

Housing and Financial Protection (Americans for Financial Reform, National Fair Housing Alliance, National Women’s Law Center, Poor People’s Campaign)

The CARES Act: Provides \$4 billion for Emergency Solutions Grants for those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, \$3 billion in rental assistance, 120-day moratorium on evictions in properties receiving any federal assistance, 60-day foreclosure moratorium on federally backed mortgages and up to 180 days of forbearance during emergency.

Recommendations for a next package:

- Impose a moratorium of 120+ days on all evictions and foreclosures.
- Provide mortgage forbearance for up to 1 year. (as in House bill)
- Impose a moratorium on consumer and business credit payments – including mortgages, car, student, and personal loans, and credit cards, and suspend negative consumer credit reporting. (as in House bill)
- Suspend rental payments for all federally-subsidized housing programs and facilities (as in House bill) and provide rent forbearance for the same duration as the forbearance the landlord is receiving on the building.
- Suspend work requirements for federal housing programs (as in House bill).
- Prevent shutoff of electricity, internet, home heating and cooling, drinking water, and wastewater services during coronavirus public health emergency (as in House bill).
- Provide additional funding for civil legal services programs to assist with housing, benefits access, consumer and issues related to the pandemic.
- Provide flexible and affordable options for repayment for mortgages, rent, and all other credit obligations.

- Prohibit garnishments, repossessions, setoffs, and any other mechanisms used to take away a consumer's ability to access to his/her bank account, car, wages, tax refunds, government benefits, or other assets that are especially important to have during this crisis.
- Allow Continuums of Care (CoC) funding to go toward medical respite care, short-term residential care for people experiencing homelessness who need medical care but do not need hospitalization, to reduce the risk of death.

Small Businesses

The CARES Act: \$350 billion for new Paycheck Protection Program to assist small businesses and nonprofits. Forgivable loans for 8 weeks of payroll (up to \$10 million) to employers (including nonprofits) with less than 500 employees, self-employed individuals, and gig workers. Loan forgiveness is reduced if there is a reduction in employees or pay.

Recommendations for a next package:

- Create debt protections for small businesses: suspend commercial rent payments for small businesses, prohibit internet cutoff, prohibit adverse action by debt collectors against small businesses and nonprofits until 120 days after pandemic, and streamlined bankruptcy protections (as in House bill).
- Provide direct payroll and health benefits assistance for workers at small businesses that experience pandemic-related shutdowns could be made available in the future, without the need for borrowing or even application by the business owner, so long as such workers are not laid off (Americans for Financial Reform).

Oversight (Center for Economic and Policy Research, Institute for Policy Studies, Public Citizen, Sierra Club, Americans for Financial Reform, Demand Progress):

The CARES Act: Creates a Special Inspector General, Pandemic Response Accountability Committee, and a Congressional Oversight Commission to provide oversight.

Recommendations for a next package:

- Empower the Special Inspector General and the Congressional Oversight Commission to have any enforcement powers, and provide meaningful oversight of the funds to be disbursed by the Treasury Secretary.
- Repeal of the Secretary Mnuchin waiver provision allowing him to lift prohibitions on stock buybacks, dividends and compensation limits.
- Ensure that funds given to companies that used them for capital distributions or exorbitant executive compensation should be clawed back as well as funds made available to companies that laid workers off during the pandemic.

- Ensure that the oil and gas industry do not qualify for loans or loan guarantees or a taxpayer-funded bailout, whether in the form of low-interest loans, purchases into the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, royalty relief, or new tax subsidies.
- Strengthen Congressional oversight. President Trump issued a Presidential Signing Statement on the Coronavirus that undermines the implementation of duly enacted federal law and strikes at Congress's ability to legislate and conduct oversight. Congress should enact legislation, akin to that it has considered in the past, to prohibit any funding to be used for the issuance of presidential signing statements and to allow for congressional intervention should one be issued.
- Limit executive pay at bailed-out companies to no more than 50 times the firm's median typical worker pay or a fixed dollar amount of \$425,000.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Coronavirus Testing and Treatment (American Association of People with Disabilities, Center for American Progress, Public Citizen)

The CARES Act: Requires private insurers and Medicare to cover coronavirus preventative services and vaccines at no out-of-pocket costs. Requires diagnostic test providers to make the price for the coronavirus test publicly available on the internet.

Recommendations for a next package:

- Multiple groups are calling for access to treatment and future vaccines with no out-of-pocket expenses for everyone, including 11 million non-citizens and the 87 million un- and under-insured.
- Provide a federal backstop to reimburse for all coronavirus-related health services for any remaining uninsured population, regardless of immigration status.
- Require the federal government to issue open, non-exclusive licenses for any coronavirus vaccine or treatment developed with government support, and require reasonable pricing and access globally in all coronavirus grants, contracts and licensing arrangements including taking into account public support for research and development, how pricing impacts access globally, and what would constitute a reasonable return on private investment.
- Create a special open enrollment period for the ACA Marketplace (as in House bill).
- Include new incentives for states to expand Medicaid (as in House bill).
- Include surprise billing protections similar to the bipartisan bills from the Energy & Commerce and Education & Labor Committees.
- Create a permanent pandemic response team

Health Care Capacity (Center for Economic and Policy Research, CPC Center, Institute for Policy Studies, National Nurses United, Service Employees International Union)

The CARES Act: Provides \$100 billion to health providers and \$1 billion to ramp up manufacture of medical supplies through the Defense Production Act.

Recommendations for a next package:

- Congress should direct the Administration to make full use of the Defense Production Act (DPA) and other executive authority to order -- with transparency and equity -- procurement, production, and distribution of personal protective equipment (PPE) like masks and respirators, including N95s, for frontline health care workers.
- Immediate distribution of the masks and equipment held in the Strategic National Stockpile.
- Identifying reserves of masks/equipment in other industries, such as construction, and redistributing them to healthcare providers.
- Increase rural hospital capacity for the 60 million people living in rural America.

Increased Access to Health Care (American Association of People with Disabilities, Center for American Progress, National Women’s Law Center)

Recommendations for a next package:

- Extend Medicare and Medicaid coverage to everyone who has lost their insurance after being laid off or losing their jobs, including gig workers and contractors, regardless of immigration status.
- Fund HCBS grants, such as the ones found in the Corona Virus Relief for Seniors and People with Disabilities, to support the Direct Support Professional (DSP) and Home Health Workforce.
- Increase FMAP match to 12 percent to ensure that Medicaid and state governments have the resources they need to ensure care for people with disabilities.
- As Congress recognized in the CARES Act, everyone should have access to medication and supplies refills for 90 days, including allowances for partial fills and controlled substances, without cost-sharing and with financial assistance to allow for self-isolation for at-risk people with disabilities. The protections extended in the CARES Act to Medicare beneficiaries should be extended to all payers and should include controlled substances.
- Expand and extend Medicaid coverage so that women do not have to worry about their access to health care ending at 60 days postpartum.

Paid Leave (Paid Leave for All, Demand Progress):

The Families First Coronavirus Response Act: Provides an emergency paid leave program for many workers, but others must continue to work if they or a family member is sick.

Recommendations for a next package:

- Expand paid sick leave protections to match the House bill and cover the millions of workers left out of the second coronavirus package.
- Ensure all workers have access to paid sick days and paid family and medical leave by ending the exclusion for employers with more than 500 employees and removing the Labor Secretary's authority to provide hardship exemptions to businesses already receiving reimbursement for those costs (as in the House bill).
- Extend allowable use of leave to include individuals caring for themselves, a family member (using an expansive definition), or a senior family member or an adult child with disability (as in the House bill).
- Provide full wage replacement for all uses of emergency paid sick days.
- Provide \$15 million to extend paid medical leave to every personnel, committee, leadership, and support office staffer.

Nutrition (Center for Economic and Policy Research, Center for Law and Social Policy, Georgetown Center on Poverty & Inequality, National Women's Law Center)

The CARES Act: \$15.8 billion in additional funding for SNAP. Emergency funding for other nutrition programs, including \$8.8 billion for child nutrition programs and \$450 million for food banks through TEFAP.

Recommendations for a next package:

- Increase maximum SNAP allotment by 15% and increase minimum SNAP benefit from \$18 to \$30 (as in House bill).
- Ensure immigrant families have access to any expanded nutrition assistance.
- Bar Administration rules that would tighten eligibility for nutrition assistance for those in poverty (as in House bill).

Worker Protections (AFL-CIO, Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, National Women's Law Center)

The CARES Act: Does not provide an OSHA standard.

Recommendations for a next package:

- Implement an emergency OSHA standard to protect frontline workers (as in the House bill).
- Extend filing deadlines for labor and employment and civil rights charges and complaints, so that workers and others who have experienced violations of their civil rights do not lose those rights because of the current emergency.
- Protect worker pensions by passing the Butch-Lewis Act (H.R. 397).

PROTECTING OUR INSTITUTIONS

Elections (American Association of People with Disabilities, American Postal Workers Union, Democracy for All 2021/Declaration for American Democracy, Demos, Institute for Policy Studies, Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights NAACP Legal Defense Fund, Policy Link, Public Citizen)

The CARES Act allocates \$400 million for states to prepare for elections.

Recommendations for a next package:

- Appropriate an additional \$3.6 billion in grant funding for states through the Election Assistance Commission (as in House bill).
- Impose national requirement for 15 days of early voting and no-excuse absentee voting (as in House bill).
- Maintain in-person voting, so that those who don't have a residential mailing address, don't know how or otherwise do not choose to vote-by-mail can still vote in person.
- Expand voter registration opportunities – universal online voter registration & same day registration.
- Insist on full vote at home with early voting options in an emergency, with postage paid, self sealing ballots sent proactively to voters to be returned to early and same day voting locations curbside, via mail, drop box.
- Keep optional grants for state led risk-limiting audits, require the same public video livestream and bipartisan observer access.
- Count ballots postmarked by election day; COVID-19 should add an additional 7-10 days past election day to accept ballots and a date to report results should be set.
- Provide additional funding to support accessibility provisions for the multitude of voter registration and voting options for the disability community, including but not limited to same-day registration, early voting, and on-site voting.
- make clear the funding can be used for vote centers and curbside voting.
- Add support for public education campaigns to make sure the public expects to have to wait for election results up to 10 days after the elections (assuming ballots must be accepted if postmarked on election day).
- Incentivize centralized count for vote by mail at state or regional level. Provide pass-through amounts to local election jurisdictions that agree to support running their vote by mail through state or regional count centers, which could be organized at the state or local level. Regional counts should serve a minimum number of voters to qualify and should only be set up in the absence of a statewide central count, to avoid confusion.
- For those states that have already funded and implemented vote by mail and early voting / are in full compliance with this bill, clarify that this funding can

and should be used for election security in compliance with the report language included in the FY2020 appropriations.

- Create a national right to vote by mail, with the funding needed to allow the postal service to keep our democracy functioning while the country is locked down.

Continuity of Congress (Demand Progress)

The Coronavirus supplemental provided \$93.1 million for the legislative branch, which includes only \$25m for the House, and \$10m for the Senate. Additional funds are necessary to empower oversight of the coronavirus response and to implement a robust remote work capability, so that the legislative branch can hold hearings, conduct markups, and vote on legislation, as well as for personal offices to respond to constituent communications and engage in the legislative process, and for the GAO to conduct oversight of spending and advise Congress on pandemic response.

Recommendations for a next package:

- Ensure that Congress can vote remotely. The House of Representatives should be provided \$125 million -- and the Senate \$75 million -- which will cover the costs of an emergency transition to a remote House that is capable of legislating and conducting oversight, and to increase the number and pay for committee staff so they can conduct appropriate oversight in the months ahead.
- Ensure that there is proper oversight. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) should be provided \$75 million, to assist with its oversight of spending in the executive branch and also to further enhance its Science, Technology Assessment, and Analytics team, which will provide timely advice to Congress on how to address the pandemic.

US Postal Service (American Postal Workers Union and Institute for Policy Studies)

The CARES Act: \$10 billion line of credit for the USPS though demand for postal home deliveries is soaring and U.S. Postal Service revenue is plummeting as businesses shutter.

Recommendations for a next package:

- Appropriate emergency funding to the Postal Service for revenue forgone during the COVID-19 crisis.
- Repeal of the 2006 mandate that puts extraordinary burdens on USPS to fund their retiree health benefits decades in advance.
- Provide additional public investment so the USPS can purchase all necessary safety supplies.

INFRASTRUCTURE

- Provide \$2 trillion for a comprehensive infrastructure proposal that includes transportation, education, broadband, housing, health care and other critical needs that would create millions of jobs, stimulate the economy, and strengthen our resilience against future crises.

Broadband (The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights)

- Appropriate a minimum of \$2 billion per month for the duration of the crisis, and for 30 days after, that will support an emergency broadband benefit for low-income households for \$50 per month.

Workforce Responses (Center for American Progress, Center for Law and Social Policy, National Youth Employment Coalition, Sierra Club)

While response efforts made thus far will provide many families and communities needed economic relief over the short-term, CV-4 must also make the structural adjustments needed to address equity gaps and the disproportionate effect workforce and employment policies have on vulnerable workers.

Recommendations for a next package:

- Incorporate set-asides targeting immediate reemployment and training services to workers in low-wage jobs, including workers eligible for the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance Program, who have experienced job losses or extended unemployment over the long-term due to the coronavirus.
- Implement a [workforce systems redesign](#).
- Create clean water jobs: \$4.5 billion in additional funding for Safe Drinking Water Act / Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds -- all in grants, all to fund full (not partial) LSL replacement, and to provide Point of Use Filters in all homes and child care centers with LSLs.
- Create clean energy jobs: Put people back to work in the clean energy economy (estimates indicate 155,000 of the roughly 400,000 workers in the solar and wind industries alone are likely to lose their jobs) by providing direct pay for existing renewable federal tax incentives.
- Create healthy communities jobs: Fund \$20 billion for Superfund site cleanup to protect communities from toxic pollution. Fund PFAS cleanup, stop sewage overflows, and prevent flooding: \$6 billion for wastewater infrastructure to prevent sewage overflows/stop runoff pollution - all in grants - to be spent over the next 18 months, with a 30% carve out for natural/green infrastructure projects.
- Create jobs to reduce energy costs in homes and buildings: Expand funding for retrofits of all buildings to support energy efficiency, electrification, rooftop solar, and climate resilience in line with the provisions of the Green New Deal for Public Housing Act (S.2876). This includes passing and fully

funding the GND for Public Housing Act and substantially expanding funding for the Weatherization Assistance Program. In addition, provide \$3.2 billion to the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) program.

- **Create clean transportation jobs:** Increase funding for the Mass Transit Account within the Highway Trust Fund for cities and states to support clean and affordable public transit (e.g., light rail, electric buses). Increase funding and financing for DOT's Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and enhance block and competitive grant programs to spur integrated community infrastructure investment, deliver local economic development and environmental benefits, and expand clean and affordable options for transit between communities.
- **Create outdoors jobs:** Create a new workforce (inspired by the Civilian Conservation Corps, but with equitable employment) to hire local workers to restore forests, wetlands, and other ecosystems, as outlined in the Climate Stewardship Act (S.2452). In addition, create a climate resilience training and workforce program to equip workers to build and upgrade climate-resilient infrastructure, as outlined in a pending Climate Resilience Workforce Act. Promote the outdoor economy by permanently funding the Land and Water Conservation Fund.
- **Ensure high-quality jobs:** Ensure all infrastructure investments include Buy America and Buy Clean criteria for materials and parts to reduce emissions and support manufacturing jobs. Also ensure that all infrastructure projects abide by Davis Bacon prevailing wage requirements and include requirements to provide training, project labor agreements, and bans on contractors with prior labor or environmental violations.

VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES

Immigrants and People in Immigrant Families (Center for Economic and Policy Research, Poor People's Campaign, United We Dream)

The CARES Act: Gaping holes in terms of coverage of immigrants and people, including U.S. citizens, living in immigrant families.

Recommendations for a next package:

- Include individuals with ITINs, including the 15 million immigrants and individuals with SSNs who are in the same tax unit as people with ITINs should be eligible for current cash assistance payments and any future payments.
- Reduce immigration enforcement activities and increase use of alternatives to detention to reduce the population in immigration detention facilities.
- Suspend immigration court operations and relax immigration deadlines

- Existing restrictions on immigrant eligibility for public benefits (including Medicaid, TANF, SNAP, and SSI) should be waived, and states should be prohibited from discriminating against immigrants in these programs during the pandemic.
- Waive existing restrictions on immigrant eligibility for public benefits (including Medicaid, TANF, SNAP, and SSI), and states should be prohibited from discriminating against immigrants in these programs during the pandemic.
- Prohibit DHS and the State Department from using federal funds to carry out the expanded “public charge” regulation adopted by the Trump administration.
- Automatically renew and extend DACA and TPS during the pandemic (as in House bill).
- Allow states to provide coronavirus treatment through Medicaid regardless of immigration status (as in House bill).
- Include immigrant workers with temporary visa/work authorization (certain farmworkers, care workers, etc.) who may be “able and available to work” but are currently ineligible for the new Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program because their visa status is temporary rather than permanent.

People Who Are Incarcerated (Color of Change, Policy Link, The Sentencing Project)

The CARES Act: \$100 million for Bureau of Prisons for coronavirus prevention, preparation and response. \$850 million for Byrne Justice Assistance Grants to law enforcement and jails for coronavirus, preparation and response, including PPE.

Recommendations for a next package:

- Protect and release inmates. While the third bill provides some funding for coronavirus prevention and preparedness, it lacks clear direction on protecting inmates and releasing those who pose minimal safety risk. The Sentencing Project has called on Congress to facilitate the release of individuals who do not pose a public safety risk including people housed in pre-trial detention in jails and those serving long sentences who have aged out of jail through programs such as parole consideration, executive clemency and compassionate release.
- Eliminate requirements that force incarcerated people to perform jobs that put them at risk for contracting the virus and institute a minimum wage for incarcerated workers who are providing vital services during this crisis.
- Release those who have an anticipated release date in 2020 and 2021 to parole supervision.
- Ensure the protection of civil rights and access to counsel.

People with Disabilities (American Association of People with Disabilities, Center for American Progress):

The CARES Act: Does very little to address the concerns of the disability community during this pandemic. The disability community's needs are serious and urgent. If they are not addressed right away, people with disabilities will lose important services that support us in our homes, schools, and communities. They will not get the health care that they need, and their civil rights will be violated.

Recommendations for a next package:

- Mandate that the Social Security Administration and Treasury should share the necessary data to automatically process Recovery Rebates to low-income individuals with disabilities and older adults who rely on Supplemental Security Income.
- Boost Social Security and Supplemental Security Income for the duration of the epidemic to help people with disabilities afford the increased costs of health care supplies and medically necessary isolation.
- Fund HCBS grants, such as the ones found in the Corona Virus Relief for Seniors and People with Disabilities, to support the Direct Support Professional (DSP) and Home Health Workforce.
- Classify direct support professionals (DSPs) and other direct care workers as Essential Workers so that they can be prioritized for access to personal protective equipment. (PPE)
- Ensure that service providers have access to the necessary training, equipment and medical supplies.
- Mandate Ventilator and PPE Production: Congress must appropriate funds specifically for ramping up production of both Personal Protective Equipment and ventilator production. The Secretary of Health and Human Services should be given authority to expedite bringing new production facilities online and do everything possible to mobilize a “whole-of-country” response to meet these production challenges.
- Ensure the rights of individuals with disabilities and older adults, to be free from discrimination on the basis of disability or age in programs and activities, are protected during all phases of disaster preparation, response, recovery, and mitigation.
- Do not allow any weakening of the protections of the ADA for businesses or in the building of new facilities if necessary.
- Provide additional funding to states to ensure accessible voting as states are moving to absentee and mail-in voting.
- Convene the Coordinating Council on Access & Mobility to identify alternatives to receiving services, groceries, care etc if / when transit shuts down and traveling is not an option (it already has in some areas).
- Provide protective gear and cleaning supplies for transportation providers.
- Maintain paratransit service areas during and after COVID-19.
- Prohibit discrimination in COVID-19 transportation policies.

The Under-Banked and Unbanked (National Women's Law Center, the Roosevelt Institute)

The CARES Act: Provides cash payments and expands UI benefits, but individuals who do not have bank accounts will face challenges accessing these funds.

Recommendations for a next package:

- Ensure unbanked people can access relief. To facilitate income assistance cash payments and UI benefits more efficiently and effectively, we recommend the creation of "FedAccounts," a bank account at the Federal Reserve available to all U.S. citizens, residents, and domestically domiciled businesses and institutions. Given the challenge of shovel-ready programs, this program has an added advantage of a timely implementation.
- Use EBT cards to transfer cash payments: EBT cards can typically be activated [within two hours of receipt](#) and are portable from state to state. Working with states to [administer direct cash payments](#) using EBTs would utilize existing infrastructure and allow individuals with very low incomes (who may not file tax returns) to access direct assistance.

FOREIGN POLICY

Center for Economic and Policy Research, Friends Committee on National Legislation, Institute for Policy Studies, Ploughshares Fund, Win Without War

- Immediately pass additional emergency appropriations to allow expedited USAID hiring, support R&D for COVID-19 responses, strengthen food security programs, and extend appropriations into FY21 to allow for stable fiscal footing for the response for at least six months.
- Congress must call on the US Treasury to work with international financial institutions (IFIs) to take strong action so that developing nations have the resources needed to meet immediate needs in the face of the pandemic. This includes a major issuance of Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) by the International Monetary Fund.
- Congress must seek to have sanctions lifted in order to allow medication, medical supplies, and critical infrastructure to flow to affected countries.
- Ensure that Pentagon and defense contractor budgets are not further bloated in COVID-19 emergency response. The third emergency aid package appropriated an additional \$10 billion to the military. Instead of more taxpayer money, coronavirus-related expenses for the military should come out of unused allocations in the existing military budget, including the Overseas Contingency Operations Fund.