



April 28, 2020

# Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act CARES Act

Presented By:

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County Administrative Officer

# Federal COVID-19 Actions Taken

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- Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriation Act passed March 6, 2020
- President declares National Emergency related to COVID-19 on March 13, 2020
- Families First Coronavirus Response Act enacted March 18, 2020
- Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act: CARES Act enacted March 27, 2020.

# CARES ACT - \$2.2 Trillion Bill

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## Major funding categories:

- \$877 billion for small business and distressed business
- \$510 billion in individual direct payments/unemp. ins
- \$300 billion in additional federal spending
- \$150 billion for State and Local Governments
- \$150 billion for hospitals and healthcare facilities

# CARES ACT - Legislative Guidance

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Three general requirements:

- Necessary expenses incurred due to COVID-19
- Were not accounted for in current budget as of March 27, 2020
- Eligible expenses between March 1, 2020 through December 30, 2020

# CARES ACT Eligible Expenses

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County of Fresno allocation \$81.5 million:

- Medical and Public Health expenses
- Costs for improving telework support for employees complying with public health orders
- Costs for providing paid sick, family and medical leave
- Payroll costs for employees substantially dedicated to COVID-19
- Any other COVID-19 costs reasonably necessary
- Can't be used to make up for lost revenue

# CARES ACT Eligible Expenses

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## Economic Support:

- Costs to care for homeless to mitigate COVID-19
- Provision of grants to small businesses to offset closure costs
- Unreimbursed unemployment insurance costs
- Expenses related to State, territorial, local or tribal govt

# CARES ACT Funding Considerations

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## Virus activity and political landscape:

- Severity of COVID-19 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> waves
- COVID-19 legislation 3.5, \$500 billion passed on April 23, 2020
- COVID-19 (4.0) passes with funding for lost revenue or CARES Act get amended to provide for lost revenue
- CARES Act does not get amended
- No additional COVID-19 support legislation

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**From:** Leslie Martinez <lmartinez@leadershipcounsel.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 28, 2020 8:23 AM  
**To:** BOSComments  
**Subject:** Agenda Item 3 - Comments

Regarding the distribution of funds from the CARES Act to the county, we are glad to see that the county is receiving funds to address the impacts of COVID-19 in Fresno County. The staff report to this item does not adequately disclose to the public how the County intends to allocate resources or the public process it will use to make these decisions. The County must be forthcoming, transparent, and ensure that the public can participate in decision making with respect to federal economic relief efforts. We recommend the County work with communities, local nonprofits and agencies to establish a public process by which the County will make decisions to allocate local, state, and federal economic relief dollars.

We also take this opportunity to provide initial recommendations for the use of economic relief dollars based on our conversations with residents in Fresno County. Our Recommendations include :

- Ensure all Fresno County residents have access to COVID-19 Testing and provide emergency assistance to cover the cost of treatment for lower-income Fresno County Residents
- Establish a disaster assistance fund for low-income residents who cannot afford their water and/or wastewater, rent, mortgage, utilities, broadband bills, or groceries.
- Direct resources to local food banks to facilitate and increase the frequency of food distribution in food deserts, including delivery services for vulnerable populations.
- Provide for PPE for essential workers and volunteers on the frontline of the pandemic, including farmworkers, food processing workers, healthcare workers, warehouse workers, and others in essential sectors.

Finally, we formally request that the county provide more information and/or clarify how it will pay for expenses that are not covered by the CARES Act per statement included on the agenda item.

"Any expenditures disallowed by the CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Fund will be further reviewed for claiming against other revenue streams up to and including any future FEMA claims the County may file" it is not clear how the county will bill them.

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