



December 22, 2020

## **COVID-19 Emergency Relief Package**

*Passed by Congress on December 21, 2020.*

This is a summary of many of the provisions of the COVID-19 Emergency Relief Package passed by Congress on December 21, 2020. We will provide more details and fact sheets about individual provisions soon.

### **Financial Assistance**

#### **One-time payments (aka “stimulus”):**

- \$600 for each adult and child under age 17 (for households with income up to \$75,000/\$150,000 for a couple)
- Mixed status families eligible for payment – if one parent is US citizen and other has ITIN, the citizen parent is eligible for the \$600 payment, as are eligible citizen children in the family.
- The new eligibility for mixed status families is retroactive to cover the stimulus payment under the CARES Act, so eligible individuals will be able to claim the \$1,200 (adult) and \$500 (child under 17) when they file taxes in 2020.

#### **Unemployment Insurance:**

- Additional unemployment benefit of \$300/week from December 26, 2020 through March 14, 2021
- People who are self-employed, gig workers, part-time workers and others who don't qualify for state unemployment benefits continue to be eligible for federal unemployment benefits. Number of weeks increased from 39 to 50.
- Federally-funded unemployment benefits for workers who exhaust state-funded benefits increased from 13 to 24 weeks.
- Shared Work program continued through March 14, 2021

**Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit:** Families can claim these credits based on their earnings in 2019, if they were unemployed or had reduced wages in 2020, thus increasing their tax refund.

**Paid Sick and Family Leave:** Tax credit to support employers offering paid sick and family leave, based on Families First Coronavirus (FFC) framework.

### **Housing**

**Additional rental assistance.** Targeted to families impacted by COVID. Can pay current, future, and past-due rent. Can also be used for utility and energy expenses.

**Moratorium on evictions**, enacted by CDC, extended through Jan 31, 2021.

Enhancement of **Low-Income Housing Tax Credit** to increase affordable housing construction

### **Nutrition**

**SNAP benefits** are increased by 15%. (Individual: \$204 to \$234; household of 2: \$374 to \$430; household of 3: \$535 to \$615; household of 4: \$680 to \$782).

Additional funds for **food banks**.

Improves the **P-EBT program** (Pandemic EBT) that provides additional SNAP benefits for families with children who are eligible for free lunch to help cover the cost of meals children would otherwise have received at school.

### **Education and Child Care**

Additional funds (\$110 billion) for **childcare providers** through the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) for personnel costs, PPE, rent, utilities and other child care related services.

Additional funds (\$250 million) for **Head Start providers**.

Additional funding (\$81.77 billion) for **elementary schools and higher education** institutions.

### **Health Care**

**Surprise Medical Bills:** This type of billing is made illegal as of 2022. Patients incur these bills when they are treated by a provider who is not in their insurance coverage's network, for example an emergency room doctor.

**Vaccines:** Funding for vaccine procurement and distribution. Some funds specifically directed to high risk and underserved areas for distribution, including communities of color.

**Testing:** Funding to states for testing, tracing and COVID mitigation programs. Some funds targeted at needs in underserved areas including communities of color and rural areas.

**Mental Health Services:** Additional funding.

Funding for **community health centers** extended for 3 years.

Eliminates **Medicare co-payments** for colonoscopy treatment

New **mental health parity** requirements

Expands access to **rural health care and mental health telehealth** treatment

### **Broadband access**

**Emergency Broadband** fund for low-income families to access broadband. Funding for telehealth.

### **Pell Grants**

Expansion of program to reach 500,000 new recipients, including allowing incarcerated individuals to access the grant. Provide maximum benefit to more than 1.5 million recipients.

### **Coronavirus Relief Funds to States**

No new funds for states, however allows states to use the Coronavirus Relief Funds already appropriated through the CARES Act through December 31, 2021. RI received \$1.25 billion in funds.