

On March 27, 2020, Congress passed the federal act known as the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act). This Act includes funding for a variety of State agencies for the response and mitigation of the public health crisis. It is anticipated that this will be an iterative process, with numerous additional items forthcoming as funding opportunities arise. This package includes a variety of known items that have been received by the State. Several other items such as homeless grants, housing programs, and broadband grants will be put forward as additional federal guidance becomes clear.

CARES Act Funding

This funding is provided to the State for items that “are necessary expenditures incurred due to the public health crisis with respect to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).”

Commerce – Direct Municipal Relief (\$562.5 million):

- Funding will be allocated using existing state distribution methods and metrics to provide assistance to municipalities due to the COVID-19 public health crisis. This allocation is aligned with the CARES Act §601 provision that 45% of the State’s funding shall be distributed to local governments. Municipalities shall submit monthly reports to the Office of Management & Budget (OMB) that list the expenditures used to cope with the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Commerce/AHFC/AIDEA – Small Business Relief (\$300.0 million):

- The Alaska Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC), the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority (AIDEA), and the Investments Section of the Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development will temporarily bolster their existing loan programs to provide support to struggling small businesses.

Health – Non-Profit Support (\$50.0 million):

- Basic essential human services, including, but not limited to: soup kitchens & food banks, non-residential emergency shelters, religious non-profits, homeless shelters, clothing items, and other entities supporting social welfare. No RPL is required as DHSS has adequate authorization to accept federal receipts.

Health – Health-Related COVID-19 Costs (\$337.5 million):

- Support ongoing response and mitigation efforts with federal receipts and maintain a contingency for potential unknown impacts. No RPL required as DHSS has adequate authorization to accept federal receipts.

Direct Agency Funding Items Included in RPL Package:

Education - Emergency Education Relief Funds (\$48.0 million):

- Emergency grants to Local Education Agencies that are impacted by COVID-19.

Education – Child Nutrition Funding (\$5.0 million):

- Funding to schools and other institutions participating in the National School Lunch Program and related programs.

Education – National Endowment for the Arts Funding (\$0.4 million):

- Grants to arts organizations, local arts agencies, and partners for emergency relief to sustain operations in response to COVID-19.

Transportation - Federal Transit Administration Grants (\$29.0 million):

- Funds are available for operating expenses for all Federal Transit Administration 5311 recipients (non-urbanized areas) including Anchorage, Fairbanks, and the Alaska Marine Highway System

Transportation - Federal Aviation Administration Rural Airport System Maintenance (\$49.0 million):

- Airport Grants will be used for statewide aviation and rural airport system operating and maintenance expenses, where revenue or expenditure impacts have occurred.

Transportation - Measurement Standards and Whittier Tunnel Support (\$3.0 million):

COVID-19 RESPONSE FUNDING

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- Funding for unbudgeted and unanticipated expenditures related to ensuring continuity of operations and program delivery within this appropriation.

Commerce - Economic Stimulus for Alaskan Fisheries (\$100.0 million)

- Through the Federal CARES Act funding is being allocated to the National Fisheries Marine Service who will distribute funding to states to provide assistance to subsistence, charter/guide, and commercial fishery participants affected by COVID-19

Public Safety - U.S. Department of Justice Byrne-JAG Grant (\$3.6 million):

- The program provides states with critical funding necessary to support a range of program areas including law enforcement, prosecution, indigent defense, courts, corrections, crime victim and witness initiatives, and mental health programs.

University – Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (\$5.0 million):

- Grants directly to students and institutions impacted by the COVID-19 public health crisis.

Items Not Requiring RPL

Transportation - International Airport (\$32.1 million)

- Funds will be accepted directly by the International Airport System.

Office of the Governor – Elections Support (\$3.0 million)

- Funds are used to support modifications to the current elections process in light of the COVID-19 public health crisis. Authority already exists to deposit funds into the Election Fund, but a subsequent project appropriation will be required in the near future.

Commerce - Community Development Block Grants (\$2.8 Million):

- Funds to alleviate the causes and conditions of poverty in communities. Sufficient prior-year funding exists to receive these federal receipts.

COVID-19 Response (\$millions)			
Appropriation Items	State Funds	Federal Funds	Total
Public Health, Emergency Programs (HB205/234)	\$ 94.1	\$ 9.0	\$ 103.1
Open Ended Federal Medicaid Authority (HB205/234)	\$ -	*	*
Grants to Cruise Ship Communities (HB234)	\$ 8.5	\$ -	\$ 8.5
Disaster Relief Fund (HB205)	\$ 5.0	\$ -	\$ 5.0
Open Ended Federal Unemployment Insurance Authority (HB205)	\$ -	*	*
Open Ended Federal Workforce Services Authority (HB205)	\$ -	*	*
RPL Package	\$ -	\$ 243.0	\$ 243.0
Items not Requiring RPL	\$ -	\$ 37.9	\$ 37.9
Coronavirus Relief Fund	\$ -	\$ 1,250.0	\$ 1,250.0
Total Support	\$ 107.6	\$ 1,539.9	\$ 1,647.5

*Open ended authorization allows the agencies to accept any amount of federal funds that may be received in connection to COVID-19 response