

## **Short Summary of the COVID-19 Stimulus and Supplemental Funding Bill: CARES Act March 25, 2020**

The final stimulus and supplemental funding bill provides some critical unemployment assistance and funding for medical care but much of the additional coverage and funds for testing and treatment of the virus, and to cushion the economic blow, will not be available to millions of immigrants and their families. The result will be that many immigrants will be forced to work to provide for their families because they are ineligible for the assistance provided to others and even when sick they will also disproportionately go untested and untreated.

### **Final Bill: General Health and Support Provisions Available to the Community**

- \$100 billion for a new program to provide grants to hospitals, public entities, not-for-profit entities, and Medicare and Medicaid enrolled suppliers and institutional providers to cover unreimbursed health care related expenses or lost revenues attributable to the public health emergency resulting from the coronavirus.
- \$27 billion for the Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund
- \$45 billion for the FEMA Disaster Relief Fund
- \$450 million for food banks (Emergency Food Assistance Program).
- \$1.3 billion for Community Health Centers for COVID testing and treatment and an increase of more than \$2 billion for Community Health Centers for general services in 2020.
- \$3.5 billion to states for the Child Care Development Block Grant.
- Small business relief for small business owners, including self-employed individuals and independent contractors, through the Paycheck Protection Program.

### **Final Bill: Immigration-Specific Provisions**

- Many self-employed workers and contractors who are not eligible for regular unemployment benefits will be eligible for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance. However, noncitizens who are not work authorized or were not work authorized when they were working are ineligible.
- People who use Individual Taxpayer Identification Numbers (ITINs) for anyone in the family are excluded from the direct cash assistance that is a centerpiece of this bill, even if some in the family have Social Security Numbers (SSNs) that are valid for employment. There is a limited exception for military families if at least one spouse has a valid SSN. “Non-resident aliens” (noncitizens who don’t have green cards and haven’t been physically present here long enough to establish “substantial presence”) are also excluded from the direct cash payments.
- \$350 million for “Migration and Refugee Assistance” under the Department of State.
- No new funds are included for Immigration and Customs Enforcement or Customs and Border Protection. Transfer and reprogramming restrictions attached to Department of Homeland Security operational money. The bill prevents Department of Defense funds from being diverted for border wall construction on the southern border.

**Important Measures Needed to Fill the Gap in Protections for Immigrant Communities Not Included in the Bill that Should Be Included in the Next Package:**

The House version of the supplemental funding bill, [H.R. 6379](#), the Take Responsibility for Workers and Families Act, included the following important measures that should be enacted in the future. The final stimulus bill did not include these measures and future legislation should address these concerns:

- Give states the option to provide Medicaid to all individuals regardless of immigration status, including DACA recipients, TPS holders, green card holders, and undocumented individuals to ensure that they have access to testing and treatment.
- Provide cash benefits for all individuals who file taxes with an ITIN.
- Provide permanent Medicaid restoration of Medicaid for citizens of the Freely Associated States residing in the U.S.
- Automatically extend work permits for individuals with DACA and TPS and nonimmigrant visas for the same time period as the individual's status or work authorization.

**Neither version contained this measure and future legislation should address:** Fund the Office of Refugee Resettlement to ensure refugees and populations who receive resettlement services who have already arrived in the last 12 months can receive cash payments.