The Senate, House of Representatives and President reached agreement on the third stimulus/recovery bill in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, enacting $2 trillion in emergency spending. NYCOM thanks the National League of Cities and U.S. Conference of Mayors for their lobbying efforts and their assistance in informing this update.¹

**Coronavirus Relief Fund**

$150 billion was included for a state and local government Coronavirus Relief Fund. Ultimately and unfortunately, negotiators would not budge and kept the 500,000 population threshold in order for a municipality to receive a direct share of the funding. There is no requirement that states share any of their allocation with local governments under 500,000 in population. This funding includes $5.1 billion directed to the State of New York, $1.4 billion for New York City and the remainder for counties above the 500,000 population threshold: Suffolk ($257 million); Nassau ($236 million); Westchester ($168 million); Erie ($159 million); and Monroe ($128 million) -- for a total of $7.5 billion. The United States Department of the Treasury has recently established a [web portal](https://tms.treasury.gov/) for state, local, and tribal governments eligible for payments to help offset the costs related to their response to the COVID-19 outbreak. **Governments eligible for payments must submit payment information and required documentation through the web portal no later than 11:59 PM EDT on April 17, 2020.** Additional information can be found on the [U.S. Department of Treasury](https://tms.treasury.gov/) website.

**FEMA Disaster Relief Fund**

The bill includes funding for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) of $45.4 billion for the FEMA Disaster Relief Fund (DRF) for response and recovery, including $400 million for grants for fire/ems, emergency management, and food & shelter providers. The Major Disaster Declaration (MDD) allows for FEMA to provide New York and other states with specific categories of Public and Individual Assistance under the Stafford Act at a cost share of 75 percent federal to 25 percent state for eligible expenses and activities related to coronavirus efforts. In addition, $25 billion of this funding goes to areas with major disaster declarations (including the states of New

¹This document was produced with various sources including summaries from the U.S. Conference of Mayors, National League of Cities, National Association of Towns and Townships, National Small Business Association, Government Finance Officers Association, International City/County Management Association, New York Housing Conference, and information provided by congressional leadership and representatives.
York, California, Washington, Iowa, Louisiana, Texas, Florida, North Carolina, New Jersey, Illinois, Maryland and Missouri). Applicants, including local governments, may directly apply for reimbursement through the Public Assistance Grants Portal without waiting for FEMA to assign a Program Delivery manager. **Funding is immediately available should state, tribal, territorial or local officials request expedited assistance.** Reimbursable activities include: medical response, PPE, National Guard deployment, coordination of logistics, safety measures, and community services. The national emergency declaration authorized Public Assistance Category B reimbursement for emergency protective measures. It does not include additional categories of assistance, such as infrastructure repair and replacement, which are needed after typical natural disasters. Unfortunately, this FEMA funding does not cover costs associated with this healthcare crisis (i.e., lost services due to shut downs, lost revenue due to being shut down, loss of AIM funding, loss of Sales Tax, etc.) but rather more direct expenses (i.e., cleaning services and supplies utilized to clean for Covid-19, overtime if directly related to Covid-19, contract costs with vendors directly related to Covid-19). Information regarding firefighter resources, Intercity Bus Security Grant Program, Emergency Food and Shelter Program, Port Security Grant Program, and other important resources, can be found on FEMA’s website. FEMA has extended the deadline to submit applications to **April 30, 2020** for the Intercity Bus Security Grant and the Port Security Grant Program. The Staffing for Adequate Fire & Emergency Response Grants application period is now open and will close by **5 P.M. EDT on May 15, 2020**. FEMA’s Bulletin is available at [https://www.fema.gov/fema-bulletin](https://www.fema.gov/fema-bulletin). You can also contact the New York State Office of Emergency Management for direct guidance to determine if your facilities, work, and costs meet the eligibility criteria.

**Community Development Block Grants**
The bill provides for $5 billion via a Community Development Fund, to be allocated by HUD within 30 days of enactment of the bill to include:

- $2 billion for direct allocation to states and local governments through the regular Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) formula whereby 70% is for entitlement cities and counties, and 30% is for the states (all grantees that received a CDBG entitlement allocation in FY20 will receive this funding); to put this amount in perspective, the current funding level for CDBG is $3.45 billion.
  - Included in this figure is $193 million for New York State in immediate CDBG funds with additional funding directed to need-based programs for states (based on formula including public health needs, number of coronavirus cases, etc.) and an additional $2 billion funding for hotspots based on new cases and new needs in the coming months, and
Initial formula funding of CDBG grants to support New York State cities and villages specifically including:

- Albany $2,013,537.69
- Auburn $523,695.20
- Binghamton $1,140,771.21
- Buffalo $8,264,773.44
- Dunkirk $273,748.41
- Elmira $727,915.63
- Glens Falls $288,800.04
- Ithaca $401,823.18
- Jamestown $705,205.77
- Kingston $440,629.93
- Middletown $292,353.71
- Mount Vernon $1,006,558.44
- Newburgh $513,754.56
- New Rochelle $854,361.28
- New York City $102,227,501.25
- Niagara Falls $1,404,267.05
- Poughkeepsie $490,456.73
- Rochester $4,883,258.22
- Rome $612,447.05
- Saratoga Springs $181,717.15
- Schenectady $1,365,690.42
- Syracuse $2,978,895.73
- Troy $1,076,579.63
- Utica $1,510,841.43
- Watertown City $541,926.18
- White Plains $518,991.49
- Yonkers $2,098,779.42

Virtual public hearings acceptable for grantees: A grantee may create virtual public hearings to fulfill applicable public hearing requirements for all Community Development Fund grants made available by this Act.

Emergency Solutions Grant:
New York secured $192 million -- out of a total $2 billion awarded to states -- in Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) to support families and individuals experiencing homelessness. This funding can be used to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus among people who are experiencing homelessness or receiving homeless assistance and for homelessness prevention activities. These activities would include: decreasing density at congregate shelters, expansion of services and housing options to prevent further homelessness, offering eviction prevention or rental assistance to prevent families entering shelters. [HUD released a publication](https://example.com) on how to use ESG funds to protect people from the new coronavirus.

Byrne Justice Grants
$850 million in funding will be awarded using FY 2019 formula allocations to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus. The legislation specifies that the funding shall not be subject to the restrictions and conditions imposed on awards in FY 2018 that forbid interference with federal law enforcement. New York is expected to receive approximately $45 million in total with $27 million going directly to the State and $18 million for local governments eligible for Byrne-Justice Assistance Grants. This funding
provides local law enforcement with additional resources to cover expenses including:
overtime, supplies and personal protective equipment (PPE), hiring, training, travel
expenses related to the crisis and handling the medical needs of inmates. Applications,
including federal SF-242 forms, narrative, and budget are due by May 29, 2020. Visit
the U.S. Department of Justice’s Bureau of Justice Assistance to apply.

Economic Stabilization Fund
$454 billion that permits the US Treasury to purchase obligations, including those of
states and local governments, thus permitting the Federal Reserve to participate as an
institutional investor in securities that mature in greater than 6 months. This fund also
provides loans and loan guarantees to small businesses. Stability in the municipal bond
market is of great importance during this crisis as it provides critical support for the
infrastructure needed to care for the citizens of our state and country.

Economic Development Administration
$1.5 billion is also included to support economic development for states and
communities suffering economic injury as a result of the coronavirus.

Unemployment Insurance
This bill significantly expands eligibility and benefit levels for Unemployment Insurance
(UI) by allowing part-time, self-employed, and gig economy workers access to UI
benefits through self-attestation. Additionally it increases weekly benefits by $600 on top
of state UI benefits, waives waiting weeks to recipients, and provides an additional 13
weeks of federally-funded unemployment insurance benefits. New York State is
estimated to receive $15 billion of the $260 billion in Unemployment Insurance Benefits.

Direct Payments to Americans
This bill provides $15.5 billion in direct payments to New York residents, including the
retired and unemployed. Individuals making up to $75,000 will receive a $1,200 direct
payment, $2,400 for couples, plus $500 per child. The amount of direct payments to
individuals who make more than $75,000 decreases as the income level rises and
phases out completely at $99,000 per individual and $198,000 per couple. Forbes has a
calculator tool that helps estimate how much an individual can expect to receive which
you can utilize here.

Small Business Relief: Paycheck Protection Program
The Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) provision of the law authorizes up to $349
billion toward job retention and certain other expenses for small businesses. This
funding provides small businesses up to 8 weeks of payroll costs which includes costs
of benefits. Funds may also be used to pay interest on rent, mortgages and utilities. This funding is in the form of a loan and has no associated fees to recipients and deferred payment for six months. All loans will have a maturity of 2 years and an interest rate of 0.5%. Terms will be the same for all borrowers. Additionally, the loans may be forgiven if 75 percent of the loans are used on payroll -- only 25 percent of the forgiveness amount may be used for rent, utilities, and interest on mortgage. To apply for this program, borrowers should fill out the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) Sample Application Form found on the United States Small Business Administration’s (SBA) website. Applications can be submitted to any SBA-approved private lender or through federally insured depository institutions, federally insured credit unions, and Farm Credit System institutions that are participating. Please review this PPP fact sheet from the U.S. Department of the Treasury as application time-frame and specifics vary based on the organization type.

**Small Business Relief: Emergency Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) grant**

$10 billion in funding for the SBA emergency EIDL grants of up to $10,000 to provide immediate relief for small business operating costs. Additionally there is $17 billion for SBA to cover 6 months of payments for small businesses with existing SBA loans through the Business Loans Program Account. Borrowers of the EIDL grant may receive a $10,000 emergency advance within three days after applying for the EIDL grant. If the application is denied, the borrower is not required to repay the $10,000 advance. Borrowers may apply for the EIDL grant, even if they are applying for the Paycheck Protection Program, as long as the funds are not used for the same purpose. The U.S. Department of the Treasury is administering this program and more information can be found on their website. Additional information regarding programs including PPP, EIDL, Express Bridge Loans and SBA debt relief can be accessed on the U.S. Small Business Administration’s Corona Relief Options webpage.

**Election Security Grants**

This funding is to be used to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus, domestically or internationally, for the 2020 Federal election cycle. This funding can help states make voting safer by increasing the ability to vote by mail, expanding early voting, and expanding online registration. New York is expected to receive $20.46 million of this funding out of the program total of $400 million.

With the postponement and uncertainty surrounding upcoming local elections the potential shortage of election workers, and the medical crisis we are currently experiencing, more funding may be necessary to ensure villages and cities have the resources and tools they need to handle 2020 elections in uncertain times. Current
legislation such as the Take Responsibility for Workers and Families Act (H.R. 6379) co-authored by Representative Zoe Lofgren, would provide $4 billion to states to require officials mail in absentee ballots and also supports provisions including no-excuse absentee voting.

**Housing Assistance:**
- $1.25 billion in **HUD tenant-based** and $1 billion in project-based rental assistance resources
- $685 million for public housing authority operations

*Additional funding by department:

**Department of Agriculture**
- $20.5 million for the Rural Business Program
- $25 million for the Distance Learning and Telemedicine and Broadband Program
- $8.8 billion for Child Nutrition Programs
- $15.81 billion for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
- $80 million for the Food and Drug Administration

**Department of Commerce**
- $1.5 billion for the Economic Development Administration Programs (this figure represents approximately five times the FY 2020 regular appropriations allocated for the EDA)
- $50 million to the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) centers across the country to help small- and medium-sized manufacturers recover from the economic impacts of coronavirus. Due to the emergency nature of the crisis, this funding waives the matching requirements for FY 2020. The [New York Manufacturing Extension Partnership (NY MEP)](http://www.nymep.org) has contact information, including regional offices in New York State.

**Department of Education**
- $6 billion for the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund. The [U.S. Department of Education](https://www.ed.gov) has developed a chart to determine the allocation of funding by individual institutions of higher education.

**Department of Health and Human Services**
- Centers for Disease Control
- $4.3 billion for CDC-Wide Activities and Program Support
The CDC has a lot of resources, such as [guidance documents](https://www.cdc.gov) on how to respond to
the Coronavirus. For more information on how to access resources, visit the New York State Department of Health’s website.

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
-$200 million for Program Management Account

Administration for Children and Families
-$3.5 billion for Payment to States for the Childcare and Development Block Grant Program
-$1.87 billion for Children and Family Services Programs
-$750 million for carrying out activities under the Community Services Block Grant Act
-$250 million for Head Start
-$2 million for the National Domestic Violence Hotline
-$50 million for Family Violence Prevention and Services formula grants