

Health Resources: Coronavirus (COVID-19)

March 31, 2020

NO. 4

US Congress Approves Historic \$2.2 Billion “Coronavirus Aid Relief & Economic Security Act”

On March 27, 2020, the US Congress passed the “CARES ACT”. The purpose of this historic legislation is to provide economic, emergency assistance and health care response to seven main groups: individuals, small businesses, big corporations, hospitals and public health, federal safety net, state and local governments and education. Go to: [www.congress.gov>bill>senate-bill>3458>text](http://www.congress.gov/bill/senate-bill/3458/text)

What’s in the \$2.2 trillion CARE ACT stimulus package?

\$560 billion > Individuals	\$154 billion > Hospitals & Public Health
\$500 billion > Big Corporations	\$ 44 billion > Education
\$377 billion > Small Businesses	\$ 26 billion > Safety Net
\$340 billion > State & Local Governments	

Individual Provisions

An estimated 25 million Americans will receive cash recovery rebate payments.

Who qualifies for recovery rebates?

The bill provides \$1200 with income up to \$75,000 for individuals, and \$2400 for married couple joint tax filers with income of \$150,000. For income between \$75,000 to \$99,000 the payment falls \$5 for every \$100 earned. Heads of household will receive \$1,200 if they earn up to \$112,500. Reduced checks on a sliding scale are available for heads of household earning up to \$136,500. Heads of household receive an additional \$500 for each child.

How are tax returns used? Are rebates taxable?

The 2018 or 2019 tax return will be used to calculate the rebate to taxpayers. The rebates will be sent to the address on the latest tax return filed. Rebates are not taxable. However, if a person’s income in 2020 exceeds the limits to receive the rebate, the taxpayer might have to pay back the part of the rebate in 2021.

When will the payments arrive?

Payments will be mailed the week of April 6. It may take 8 weeks for all to arrive.

What about Social Security recipients?

Social Security recipients will get the recovery rebates if their income does not exceed the income limits. Low-income Americans who are on Social Security only and owe no taxes do not need to file a tax return. As long as they receive an SSA-1099 form, the payment will be sent via the way they get their Social Security payment (check or direct deposit). Retirees and people on Social Security Disability will get the rebate.

What about the increase in unemployment insurance?

The “CARE ACT” provides a set amount of unemployment income by adding \$600 to the current unemployment income amount (average \$300) for four months. The unemployment income covers workers who are currently eligible for unemployment income, those who are out of work only because of the pandemic, and those who must quit their jobs due to the pandemic because of illness or to care for others. The law extends compensation 13 weeks beyond the current eligibility period of states.

Hospitals and Public Health Provisions

The “Care Act” provides \$180 billion for the US healthcare infrastructure for coronavirus treatment, research, and prevention. Provisions:

- * provides funding for the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of COVID-19
- * limits liability for volunteer health care professionals
- * prioritizes Food and Drug Administration review of certain drugs
- * allows emergency use of certain diagnostic tests that are not FDA approved
- * expands health-insurance coverage for testing, preventive services and vaccines
- * makes provisions for medical supply chain, the national stockpile, health workers, telehealth services, food stamps, child nutrition services, Medicare and Medicaid
- * provides \$100 Billion to hospitals for health worker protective gear, test supplies, emergency operations, health care workforce
- * funds community health centers, home service, public agencies (CDC)

CfA LGBT Social Engagement Committee of Tarrant County: We serve as a resource to promote the health and well-being the senior LGBT community.
website: cfa.lgbt Facebook: Coalition for Aging LGBT (Tarrant County)

CDC UPDATE: COVID-19 Cases in U.S. as of March 30,2020

Total cases: 140,904 Total deaths: 2,405

Reporting: 50 states, District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, Northern Marianas, US Virgin Islands