**CARES Act Funding in South Carolina**

**Understanding Relief Resources Available in the State your Communities**

Beyond the Payroll Protection Program, individual stimulus dollars, and corporate relief packages there are several key streams of resources available to fund critical areas of need in healthcare, food security, shelter, senior and social services.

The $2 trillion CARES Act included an array of other programs and funding streams that should benefit South Carolina residents and assist nonprofits in providing critical services. Here’s what we know as of April 20, 2020 about these other parts of the CARES Act. Much of the information below is sourced from [Mayer Brown’s](https://www.mayerbrown.com/en/perspectives-events/publications/2020/04/summary-of-cares-act-state-and-local-government-relief-provisions) states and localities COVID relief provisions page.

**Coronavirus Relief Fund - $1.996 Billion**

The Coronavirus Relief Fund includes $150 billion for states, tribal governments, and local governments with populations exceeding 500,000. States receive money based on populations with a minimum $1.25 billion per state. South Carolina’s allocation is $1.99 billion with $91 million designated to Greenville County specifically based on the population. This fund is intended to cover necessary expenditures related to COVID-19 that were not accounted for in that government’s budget and are incurred between March 1 and December 30, 2020. [**See Tax Policy site here.**](https://taxfoundation.org/federal-coronavirus-aid-to-states-under-cares-act/)

Guidance from the Treasury Department indicates that “necessary” can be fairly broadly interpreted to include payroll expenses for public sector workers whose services are substantially dedicated to COVID in some way as well as economic relief (including packages for individuals and small businesses). Governments CANNOT use to close revenue gaps.

**Unemployment Insurance Relief**

Most of you know that unemployment benefits have been expanded to boost weekly payments by $600, waive the one-week waiting period to receive benefits, and extend benefits 13 weeks beyond when the state’s payments end, all of which has been provided through the CARES Act.

According to Mayer Brown, “The CARES Act additionally provides strong support to short-time compensation programs, where employers reduce hours instead of laying off workers and the employees’ unemployment benefits are reduced pro rata for the hours they continue to work.” *We will be learning more about how/whether those provisions will be pursued in South Carolina*

**Child Care Development Block Grant - $63.6 Million**

*Child Care and Development Block Grants* to allow states to provide continued payments and assistance to childcare providers in the case of decreased enrollment or closures related to COVID-19 and to assure they are able to remain open or reopen. States are encouraged to include conditions to their payments that ensure providers use a portion of the funds received to pay the salaries of wages and staff. These funds may also be used to provide childcare assistance to healthcare employees, emergency responders, sanitation workers and other workers deemed essential in response to COVID-19.

South Carolina Funds are being used for the following purposes:

* Offset decreased enrollment losses at childcare centers
* Childcare vouchers for essential employees [Click Here for List of Essential Employees](https://www.scchildcare.org/media/71331/CC-Assistance_Essential-Staff-List_4-23-20.pdf)
* Grants to Childcare Centers – Eligibility and parameters still under consideration.
* South Carolina Department of Social Services has [received](https://www.everycrsreport.com/reports/R46324.html) $63,641,788 in CARES Act funds.

**Community Services Block Grant**

*Community Services Block Grants* to combat poverty and provide social services and activities to low-income individuals and families are distributed through Community Action Agencies. The CARES Act additionally provides a tweak to the Community Services Block Grant Act for services furnished under the act during fiscal years 2020 and 2021 to allow states the option to define the poverty line as 200% of the official poverty line.

**The Grants listed below are administered by local Community Action Agencies:**

[Click Here for a List of Community Action Agencies by County](http://oeo.sc.gov/help.html)

**LIHEAP – Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program**

*Low Income Home Energy Assistance* grants have also been expanded to help low-income households affected by COVID-19 that pay a high proportion of household income for home energy. SHARE also administers that program here in Greenville County.

**Head Start**

Head Start has been funded to operate supplemental summer programs to help reduce the effects of school closures on learning opportunities.

**SC Department of Social Services Community Service Block Grant Programs:**

*The Stephanie Tubbs Jones Child Welfare Services Program* was funded, and any matching requirement waived to boost payments through the states for children in one’s care (foster care or group homes) during COVID.

* South Carolina Department of Social Services will receive and administer the funds through a $90 payment boost per child per month in foster care.

*Family Violence Prevention and Services* formula grants will be available for the states to prevent domestic violence and provide shelter and support to victims, with any matching requirement waived.

* South Carolina Department of Social Services will receive and administer the funds through grants to domestic violence organizations.

*The Runaway and Homeless Youth Act* has received additional funding for programming, with any matching requirement waived.

* Unknown

**FEMA - Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP)**

*$445 million nationally – SC Share to Be Announced May 1st, 2020*

Congress allocated an additional $200 million dollars to the fiscal year 2020. This is in addition to $120 million for FY 2019 and $125 million for FY 2020. Each county has a local board that determines how funds are used in their community specifically. Below are the allowable expenditures for EFSP funding:

* Food Service – Congregate meals or groceries
* Shelter – Rent, 30-day hotel/motel vouchers
* Utility Assistance – One month of utility assistance

$320 million will be announced on May 1st, 2020. The remaining $125 million will be disbursed before the end of 2020.

**Education**

*Emergency Education Relief* grants were made to the governor of each state to provide emergency support through grants to local education agencies, higher education institutions, and other education-related entities that the state deems most affected by COVID-19.

* Gov. McMaster’s [grant amount](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/afterschoolSnack/Implementation-process-begins-for-CARES-Act-education-funds_04-15-2020.cfm) is $47.3 million.

*Elementary and secondary school emergency relief grants,* to be awarded to each state educational agency with an approved application, and then largely subgranted to local educational agencies in the proportion those entities received funds under ESEA in the most recent fiscal year. These funds may be used for a number of COVID-19 and more general purposes, including broad authorization to use the funds for any activity authorized by ESEA. South Carolina’s [award](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/afterschoolSnack/Implementation-process-begins-for-CARES-Act-education-funds_04-15-2020.cfm) is $204 million.

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*Higher education institutions*, with most funds apportioned 75% according to each institution’s relative share of full-time equivalent enrollment of Pell Grant recipients and 25% according to its relative share of full-time equivalent enrollment of students who were not Pell Grant recipients. The remaining funds will be used for additional awards for minority serving institutions and institutions the Education Secretary determines have the greatest unmet needs related to COVID-19. These funds are generally to be used by the institutions to cover costs associated with significant changes to the delivery of instruction due to COVID-19; at least 50% of the funds are to be used for emergency financial aid grants to students for expenses related to the crisis.

Local educational agencies receiving these funds must provide equitable services to students and teachers in non-public schools. Any agency, state, institution of higher education, or other entity receiving these funds must, to the greatest extent practicable, continue to pay its employees and contractors during the period of any disruptions or closures related to COVID-19.

In addition to the funds described above, an additional $100 million was appropriated to Project SERV *(School Emergency Response to Violence)*, to provide additional funds to help elementary, secondary, and post-secondary schools pay for cleaning and disinfecting affected schools, counselling, and distance learning. Application-based grants are also available for education in states with the highest COVID-19 burden.

**Community Development Block Grant**

Community Development Block Grant funds are provided directly to the Cities and County Redevelopment Authority. There are 17 Counties that qualify for these funds in South Carolina

**CDBG CARES Funds** **Emergency Solutions Grants**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Florence | $161,263 | $0 |
| Greenville | $463,903 | $0 |
| Hilton Head Island | $140,213 | $0 |
| Rock Hill | $312,492 | $0 |
| Spartanburg | $399,188 | $0 |
| Summerville | $166,633 | $0 |
| Sumter | $183,595 | $0 |
| Charleston County | $1,090,016 | $535,900 |
| Greenville County | $1,640,656 | $804,966 |
| Horry County | $1,159,107 | $622,221 |
| Lexington County | $1,086,200 | $542,372 |
| Richland County | $957,993 | $0 |
| Spartanburg County | $919,038 | $0 |
| South Carolina Nonentitlement | $12,456,807 | $8,745,852 |

These are in addition to the regular fund allocated to counties in the following amounts/purposes:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Recipient | State | Community Dev. Block Grant |  | HOME Investment | Emergency Solutions |
| Charleston County | SC | $1,852,927 | $0 | $809,420 | $155,411 |
| Greenville County | SC | $2,788,964 | $0 | $1,194,249 | $233,440 |
| Horry County | SC | $1,970,375 | $0 | $1,042,458 | $180,444 |
| Lexington County | SC | $1,846,440 | $0 | $708,445 | $157,288 |
| Richland County | SC | $1,628,500 | $0 | $754,220 | $0 |
| Spartanburg County | SC | $1,562,279 | $0 | $599,983 | $0 |
| South Carolina Nonentitlement | SC | $21,201,972 | $0 | $7,235,247 | $2,536,297 |
| CNSRT-Sumter County | SC | $0 | $0 | $786,278 | $0 |
| CNSRT-Beaufort County | SC | $0 | $0 | $654,336 | $0 |
| CNSRT-Anderson County | SC | $0 | $0 | $611,333 | $0 |
| CNSRT-Orangeburg County | SC | $0 | $0 | $1,024,576 | $0 |

*Homeless Assistance Grants* for the purpose of fighting COVID-19 among the homeless are administered by the county.

*Tenant-based rental assistance* is provided by local housing authorities.

*Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS* (HOPWA) program funding, is administered locally by cities.

Emergency Solutions Grant can be used for the following purposes:

* Build more emergency shelters for homeless individuals and families.
* Operate emergency shelters by providing maintenance, rent, repair, security, fuel, equipment, insurance, utilities, food, furnishings, and supplies necessary for the operation.
* Provide Hotel/Motel Vouchers for homeless families or individuals.
* Provide essential services to people experiencing homelessness including childcare, education services, outreach, employment assistance, outpatient health services, legal services, mental health services, substance abuse treatment services, and transportation.
* Prevent individuals from becoming homeless and rapidly rehouse homeless individuals.

**USDA Food Assistance Program**

$19 billion nationally to provide immediate relief program and critical support to farmers and ranchers, maintain the integrity of the food supply chain, and ensure every American continues to receive and have access to the food they need.

USDA will partner with regional and local distributors, whose workforce has been significantly impacted by the closure of many restaurants, hotels, and other food service entities, to purchase $3 billion in fresh produce, dairy, and meat. USDA undertakes the procurement of an estimated $100 million per month in fresh fruits and vegetables, $100 million per month in a variety of dairy products, and $100 million per month in meat products. The distributors and wholesalers will then provide a pre-approved box of fresh produce, dairy, and meat products to food banks, community and faith based organizations, and other non-profits serving Americans in need.

***USDA has up to an additional $873.3 million available in Section 32 funding to purchase a variety of agricultural products for distribution to food banks***. The use of these funds will be determined by industry requests, USDA agricultural market analysis, and food bank needs.

$8.8 billion to school meal programs

$15.8 billion to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

$450 million for USDA’s [Commodity Assistance Program](https://www.fns.usda.gov/csfp/commodity-supplemental-food-program).

USDA will issue a solicitation to invite proposals from offerors to supply commodity boxes to non-profit organizations, identified by the offeror, on a mutually agreeable, recurring schedule. USDA will award contracts for the purchase of the agricultural products, the assembly of commodity boxes and delivery to identified non-profit organizations that can receive, store and distribute food items.

FAQs on the Farmers to Families program can be found [here](https://www.ams.usda.gov/publications/content/farmers-families-food-box-program-faqs).

For a list of participating SC farms by region click [here](https://agriculture.sc.gov/coronavirus/local/)

\*\*\*More information to come on South Carolina food banks receiving USDA support.

**Senior Citizen Programs**

The CARES Act included $1 billion dollars in grants for services to Senior Citizens. South Carolina was awarded $14,147,372 on April 21st along with $3,901,311 awarded on March 18th specifically for meal programs.

South Carolina’s funding breaks down in the following categories:

* Home and Community Based Services: $6,157,851
* Nutrition Programs under Title III: $7,802,623
* National Family Caregiver Support Program: $1,618,038
* Ombudsman Program: $325,109
* Centers for Independent Living: $1,088,909
* Tribal Funds: $61,600

South Carolina Office on Aging does not have public information on how the resources are allocated from county-to-county.

**Supplemental Nutrition Assistants Program (SNAP) & Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)**

Both programs are administered primarily at the federal level, so resources are not actually allocated to the state, but rather to beneficiaries of the program. Benefit qualifications remain the same, however $3.5 billion was allotted to TANF increase benefits to the maximum amount allowed for a household and $2 billion to the USDA budget for SNAP benefits. This means additional dollars to every household currently enrolled and to those eligible applicants who will receive benefits during the coronavirus pandemic timeframe.

USDA increased SNAP benefits by 40%

It also waives work requirements.

**Other Programs**

*Veterans Affairs* has grants for the construction of state extended care facilities for veterans, to be used for COVID-19-related purposes, including modifying or altering existing hospital, nursing home, and domiciliary facilities in state homes. Additionally, the Department of Veterans Affairs, during the course of the COVID-19 emergency, will continue to pay state homes per diem payments (regardless of whether they meet the occupancy rate or veteran percentage requirements), as well as provide state homes with medicines, personal protective equipment, medical supplies, and other assistance.

* Unknown.

*National Endowments for the Arts and the Humanities* has been funded, and 40% is to be distributed to state arts agencies, regional arts organizations, and state humanities councils (the SC Arts Commission in our state).

* SC Arts Commission has [received](https://www.arts.gov/sites/default/files/CARES-Act-Funding-to-SAAs-RAOs.pdf) $460,000, which it will award in grants to artists and arts organizations in $1,000 grants.

*The Institute of Museum and Library Services* was funded to provide grants to states to expand digital network access, purchase internet accessible devices, and provide technical support services.

* Unknown

**Other Government and Public Health**

*State and local law enforcement agencies* are funded to cover overtime pay for officers, personal protective equipment and supplies, and medical needs and supplies for inmates in state and local facilities. These funds will be awarded through the formula allocation used in fiscal year 2019 for the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistant Grant program under the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968.

Funding formula source available [here](https://bja.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh186/files/media/document/fy20-cesf-allocations-sc.pdf) by county:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **COUNTY** | **GOV. TYPE** | **AMOUNT** |
| AIKEN CITY | Municipal | $48,996 |
| AIKEN COUNTY | County | $119,531 |
| ANDERSON CITY | Municipal | $58,388 |
| ANDERSON COUNTY | County | $196,224 |
| BEAUFORT COUNTY | County | $113,619 |
| BERKELEY COUNTY | County | $105,036 |
| CHARLESTON CITY | Municipal | $91,997 |
| CHARLESTON COUNTY | County | $94,507 |
| CHESTER COUNTY | County | $33,202 |
| COLLETON COUNTY | County | $57,741 |
| COLUMBIA CITY | Municipal | $255,666 |
| CONWAY CITY | Municipal | $34,984 |
| DARLINGTON COUNTY | County | $60,576 |
| DILLON CITY | Municipal | $34,175 |
| DILLON COUNTY | County | $39,601 |
| DORCHESTER COUNTY | County | $92,725 |
| FAIRFIELD COUNTY | County | $37,578 |
| FLORENCE CITY | Municipal | $100,825 |
| FLORENCE COUNTY | County | $82,360 |
| GEORGETOWN COUNTY | County | $38,225 |
| GOOSE CREEK CITY | Municipal | $37,578 |
| GREENVILLE CITY | Municipal | $101,150 |
| GREENVILLE COUNTY | County | $440,793 |
| GREENWOOD CITY | Municipal | $70,374 |
| GREENWOOD COUNTY | County | $43,487 |
| HORRY COUNTY | County | $227,483 |
| KERSHAW COUNTY | County | $32,800 |
| LANCASTER COUNTY | County | $60,415 |
| LAURENS COUNTY | County | $52,640 |
| LEXINGTON COUNTY | County | $131,517 |
| MARLBORO COUNTY | County | $32,880 |
| MOUNT PLEASANT TOWN | Municipal | $35,390 |
| MYRTLE BEACH CITY | Municipal | $125,363 |
| NORTH CHARLESTON CITY | Municipal | $229,590 |
| OCONEE COUNTY | County | $41,705 |
| ORANGEBURG COUNTY | County | $78,796 |
| PICKENS COUNTY | County | $60,737 |
| RICHLAND COUNTY | County | $487,360 |
| ROCK HILL CITY | Municipal | $106,492 |
| SPARTANBURG CITY | Municipal | $106,170 |
| SPARTANBURG COUNTY | County | $207,884 |
| SUMMERVILLE TOWN | Municipal | $36,766 |
| SUMTER CITY | Municipal | $73,370 |
| SUMTER COUNTY | County | $92,483 |
| WEST COLUMBIA CITY | Municipal | $39,521 |
| WILLIAMSBURG COUNTY | County | $33,608 |
| YORK COUNTY | County | $89,406 |
|  |  |  |

*Election Assistance Commission* is funded to help states address COVID-19-related challenges affecting the 2020 federal election, to be paid within 30 days after the date of enactment. Within 20 days of each election in the 2020 federal cycle in a state, the state must submit to the commission a report within 20 days of the election that includes a report of how that state’s uses of the payments allowed it to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19.

* South Carolina Election Commission has [requested](https://www.eac.gov/sites/default/files/paymentgrants/cares/SC_CARES_Disbursement_RequestLetter.pdf) $6,348,000.

*Dislocated Worker National Reserve*, a program of the Department of Labor, was funded to allow states and communities to respond to COVID-19’s impact on workforce and layoffs.

* Unknown.

*Centers for Disease Control and Prevention* was funded and includes grants to or cooperative agreements with states, localities, and other entities to carry out surveillance, epidemiology, laboratory capacity, infection control, mitigation, communications, and other preparedness and response activities. SCDHEC will receive at least $9.9 million based on last year’s Public Health Emergency Preparedness grant.

* South Carolina has [received](https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/04/23/updated-cdc-funding-information.html) $8,926,132.50 in Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act funds and $9,917,925 in CARES Act funds, a total of $18,844,057.50.

*FEMA Disaster Relief Fund* was funded and will include reimbursements to states and local governments under emergency and major disaster declarations.

* $45 billion was allocated nationally to this fund, but we do not know how this is used in states and localities.

*FEMA Emergency Food and Shelter Program* supports local private or public organizations to provide food, lodging, rent, transportation costs, emergency repairs, and more. Details of this program are outlined earlier in this document. FEMA Programs overall - <https://nlihc.org/sites/default/files/COVID-19_FEMA-Toolkit.pdf>

Information comes out daily on these and other funds, and as we’ve reported in meetings, negotiations on CARES Act 3.5 and 4.0 are underway. Please let us know what you learn about CARES Act opportunities – including the need for advocacy by our philanthropic and nonprofit partners.