

## THE CARES ACT AND NEW JERSEY

*“This public health and economic crisis demands a massive and immediate federal response.*

*Though the challenges we face are far from over, the relief package Senator Menendez and I fought for will go a long way toward protecting our health and safety while helping families and small businesses in New Jersey and across our country stay afloat.*

*But our work isn’t done yet. It’s critical that we continue bipartisan efforts to provide New Jersey hospitals, medical professionals, families and businesses the support they desperately need.”*

*- Senator Cory Booker*

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act is a \$2 trillion disaster relief and economic stimulus package to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **For New Jersey, it means:**

- ❑ **Direct payments to 80% of New Jersey Families.** The vast majority of New Jersey residents will receive direct cash payments of up to \$1,200 for individuals and \$2,400 for couples, plus an additional \$500 per child. Individuals and couples earning less than \$75,000 and \$150,000, respectively, will receive the maximum payment.
- ❑ **An additional \$600 per week in expanded Unemployment Insurance for out of work New Jerseyans.** The CARES Act increases the maximum unemployment benefit amount by \$600 per week above one’s base unemployment compensation benefit through July 2020 and ensures that workers who are laid off or out of work will receive, on average, close to their full pay for four months. It also extends unemployment assistance to individuals who have previously been ineligible, including independent contractors and workers in the “gig economy.”
- ❑ **Up to \$10 million per business available to New Jersey small businesses** with less than 500 employees under the new [Paycheck Protection Program](#). These come in the form of loans, which are forgivable for up to 8 weeks of payroll costs, mortgage interest payments, rent and utilities to help keep businesses afloat and workers employed. Loan repayments would be deferred for six months.
- ❑ **Up to \$10,000 in SBA Emergency Grants for New Jersey small businesses** through the Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) program.

- ❑ **\$1.25 million in funding from the Manufacturing Extension Program to New Jersey small and medium-sized manufacturers** to provide them with resources to grow, reduce costs, improve efficiencies, develop their workforce, create new products, find new markets, etc.
  
- ❑ **\$100 billion in national hospital and health facility funding that New Jersey hospitals will have access to** in order to cover unreimbursed health care related expenses or lost revenues attributable to the public health emergency resulting from COVID-19.
  
- ❑ **At least \$15.4 million from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to New Jersey's health system** in preparation for and response to the coronavirus. This can be used to fund laboratory testing to detect positive cases, infection control and mitigation at the local level to prevent the spread of the virus, and other public health preparedness and response activities. The state is still eligible to apply for additional funding from a separate \$750 million fund.
  
- ❑ An additional **\$1.32 billion in national funding for Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) which New Jersey will have access to**. This comes in addition to the \$1.8 million recently distributed to New Jersey Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) from a previous coronavirus relief package.
  
- ❑ **\$3.44 billion in funding to New Jersey governments from the COVID state fund**. This funding will help to continue essential services as resources are being diverted to address the economic slowdown and COVID-19 response.
  
- ❑ **\$1.76 billion in funding for NJ Transit** from a new \$25 billion fund designed to help support the nation's transit systems during this unprecedented crisis.
  
- ❑ **\$53.5 million in Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) to New Jersey communities** to fund infrastructure, economic development projects, public facilities installation, community centers, housing rehabilitation, public services, clearance/acquisition, microenterprise assistance, code enforcement, homeowner assistance, etc.
  
- ❑ **\$10.2 million in funding to New Jersey's effort to prepare for the 2020 election**, including to increase the ability to vote by mail, expand early voting and online registration, and increase the safety of voting in-person by providing additional voting facilities and more poll workers.
  
- ❑ **A \$45 billion national FEMA Disaster Relief Fund will be available to New Jersey** and other states to provide for the immediate needs of state, local, tribal, and territorial governments, as well as private non-profits performing critical and essential services, to protect citizens and help them recover from the overwhelming effects of COVID-19.

- ❑ **\$18.3 million in Byrne-JAG grant funding to New Jersey** to help state and local law enforcement and prisons and jails meet needs, including the purchase of personal protective equipment (PPE) and other needed medical items.
- ❑ **\$70 million in added funding to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) in New Jersey** to ensure everyone, including New Jersey’s seniors and children, receive the food they need.
- ❑ **\$53 million in Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) to help New Jerseyans** experiencing homelessness.
- ❑ **\$12.4 million in Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) funding to New Jersey low-income families and seniors** to offset home heating, cooling, and other energy costs.
- ❑ **\$1.7 million in Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) grants to benefit low-income New Jerseyans living with HIV/AIDS.**
- ❑ **Up to one-year forbearance for New Jerseyans on all federally-backed mortgages.**
- ❑ **60-day foreclosure and eviction moratorium for New Jerseyans on all federally-backed mortgages.**
- ❑ **90-day forbearance on federally-backed loans for New Jerseyans** who own multifamily rental properties, during which period they may not evict or charge late fees or other penalties to tenants for nonpayment of rent.
- ❑ **120-day eviction protection for New Jersey tenants.** Owners of federally-subsidized properties or properties with a federally-backed mortgage loan may not evict or charge penalties or fees to a tenant who cannot pay rent for 120 days following this act.
- ❑ **\$310 million in funding to support New Jersey’s K-12 education** that can be used for a variety of purposes, including to help educators and students in local school districts transition to online and remote learning.
- ❑ **\$316 million in direct grants to New Jersey institutions of higher education** to defray expenses associated with COVID-19, including transitioning to distance education and supporting students to meet emergency financial needs.

- ❑ **\$69 million in funding to New Jersey through a Governor’s Emergency Education Relief Fund** that New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy can use to provide support to school districts and institutions of higher education hardest hit by COVID-19.
  
- ❑ **\$1.15 million in funding to New Jersey arts institutions** from the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities.
  
- ❑ **\$62.6 million in Child Care and Development Block Grants (CCDBG) to New Jersey** to help provide access to high-quality child care for frontline workers like healthcare sector employees, emergency responders, sanitation workers, and others deemed essential during the response to the coronavirus, and to provide continued payments to child care facilities that face closure or decreased enrollment due to COVID-19.