



**IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE FEDERAL CORONAVIRUS
RESPONSE AND RELIEF WITHIN CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS
ACT OF 2021**

Summary as of January 6, 2021

LEGISLATIVE OVERVIEW:

- A bipartisan \$900 billion Covid-19 relief bill, that includes another round of stimulus checks for adults and children, rental assistance, SNAP assistance, and an extension to unemployment benefits, small business loans, transportation-related assistance, funding for education and funding to distribute Covid-19 vaccines and expand testing. The bill also funds (\$1.4 trillion) the federal government through the end of the current fiscal year (FY 21) until September 30, 2021. [See House Bill](#)
 - The Bill was signed by President Trump on December 27, 2020

KEY BENEFITS:

Direct Check Payments

- Direct check payments of [\\$600 for every adult earning](#) up to \$75,000, based on their 2019 tax returns. Eligible families with dependent children under 17 will receive \$600 per child
 - For individuals earning between \$75,000 and \$99,000, they will receive smaller checks. No check will be given to individuals earning over \$99,000
 - Heads of household who earn up to \$112,500 and couples with a combined income of \$150,000 will get twice this amount
 - For anyone with an income above the levels above will receive a partial payment that declines by \$5 for every \$100 in income

- Unlike in the CARES Act, spouses of undocumented immigrants who file taxes jointly, will be allowed to claim benefits
- Those who signed up to receive a refund by direct deposit when filing their 2018 and/or 2019 taxes will receive the funds through direct deposit. Other eligible individuals will receive a paper check or a prepaid debit card
 - IRS began distributing checks on December 29, 2020 to those who provided direct deposit on their 2019 tax returns. The initial mailing of paper checks began on December 30, 2020. [See Press Release](#)
 - Check the status of your payment: <https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/get-my-payment>

Extended Unemployment, Food and Rental Assistance

- Extended unemployment benefits for 11 weeks. Jobless workers will receive up to \$300 per week through mid-March. Self-employed people and gig workers will also receive this benefit.
 - Pandemic Unemployment Assistance has also been extended for the same amount of time, for an additional \$100 per week
 - For more information about NYS Unemployment Benefits, go here: <https://www.ny.gov/services/unemployment-o>
- SNAP assistance, including an additional \$13 billion for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
 - College students, who are eligible for federal or state work-study programs or whose financial aid application shows an expected family contribution of zero dollars, may be eligible
 - Apply to NYS SNAP: <https://www.ny.gov/services/apply-snap>
 - Learn more about SNAP for college students: <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-announces-actions-expand-eligibility-and-ease-access-food-assistance-new-yorkers>
- Rental assistance of \$25 billion for families struggling to stay in their homes and an extension of the eviction moratorium until January 31. The money can be used for rent, back rent, utilities and other related expenses
 - To receive assistance, the household income cannot exceed more than 80 percent of the area median income;

- At least one household member must be a risk of homelessness or housing instability;
- And individual must qualify for unemployment benefits or have experience financial hardship as a direct or indirect result of the pandemic
- In NYS, Governor Cuomo signed the COVID-19 Emergency Eviction and Foreclosure Prevention Act of 2020, placing a moratorium on evictions for tenants facing hardships as a result of the pandemic until May 21, 2021.
[See Press Release](#)

COVID-19 Vaccines

- Provides \$68 billion for public health measures
 - \$20 billion for the purchase of vaccines
 - \$8 billion for vaccine distribution
 - \$20 billion to help states continue their test-and-trace programs
 - Bill provides money for federal Covid-19 research

Internet Access

- Increase access to broadband internet with a fund of \$7 billion, including a new Emergency Broadband Benefit that will help students, families and unemployed workers
 - Offers up to \$50 per month in assistance to people with low incomes, including households with a Pell grant recipient or a child qualifying for free lunch
 - Also eligible, are individuals who can document a substantial decline in income because of job loss, furlough or show a successful unemployment benefits application

HIGHER EDUCATION:

- \$22.7 billion in funds for higher education emergency fund. Funding has been split into the following categories:
 - \$20.2 billion will go to public and private nonprofit colleges and universities based upon a formula considering head count and full-time equivalent enrollment;

- \$1.7 billion will specifically go to historically Black colleges and universities and other minority-serving institutions;
 - \$113 million for institutions with the greatest unmet needs or those not served under the previous two categories; and,
 - \$681 million for emergency aid for students attending for-profit universities
- Provides an extension until December 31, 2021 to spend funds provides to states and localities through the CARES Act

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

- [Here is What's In Congress' COVID=19 Relief Package](#)
- [Higher Education Receives More Than \\$20 Billion in COVID-19 Relief Funding](#)
- [House: COVID-19 Relief FY21 Omnibus](#)
- [Congressional Deal Would Give Higher Ed \\$23B](#)
- [Covid Vaccines and \\$600 payments: key provisions in the US stimulus bill](#)
- [The Second Stimulus Package: Here's What's Included](#)
- [Treasury and IRS begin delivering second round of Economic Impact Payments to millions of Americans](#)