

# Presenters

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COVID-19

# Federal Relief

An Overview for Local Governments

# Treasury

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# Coronavirus Relief Fund

Texas allocated approximately \$11.23 Billion for State Stabilization Fund

Municipalities with populations of 500,000 or greater apply directly to Treasury for stabilization funds; others apply to Governor

# Emergency Relief and Taxpayer Protections

Treasury and Federal Reserve currently looking at additional loan program for nonprofits and business between 500-10,000 employees; guidance forthcoming

# Helpful tax provisions for nonprofits

- **Section 2204. Allowance of partial above the line deduction for charitable contributions**
  - The provision encourages Americans to contribute to churches and charitable organizations in 2020 by permitting them to deduct up to \$300 of cash contributions, whether they itemize their deductions or not.

## Higher income/Corporate donations

- **Section 2205. Modification of limitations on charitable contributions during 2020**
  - The provision increases the limitations on deductions for charitable contributions by individuals who itemize, as well as corporations. For individuals, the 50-percent of adjusted gross income limitation is suspended for 2020. For corporations, the 10-percent limitation is increased to 25 percent of taxable income. This provision also increases the limitation on deductions for contributions of food inventory from 15 percent to 25 percent.

## Employer assistance to students

- **Section 2206. Exclusion for certain employer payments of student loans**
  - The provision enables employers to provide a student loan repayment benefit to employees on a tax-free basis. Under the provision, an employer may contribute up to \$5,250 annually toward an employee's student loans, and such payment would be excluded from the employee's income. The \$5,250 cap applies to both the new student loan repayment benefit as well as other educational assistance (e.g., tuition, fees, books) provided by the employer under current law. The provision applies to any student loan payments made by an employer on behalf of an employee after date of enactment and before January 1, 2021.



## Other attractive tax provisions

- **Section 2302. Delay of payment of employer payroll taxes**
  - The provision allows employers and self-employed individuals to defer payment of the employer share of the Social Security tax they otherwise are responsible for paying to the federal government with respect to their employees. Employers generally are responsible for paying a 6.2-percent Social Security tax on employee wages. The provision requires that the deferred employment tax be paid over the following two years, with half of the amount required to be paid by December 31, 2021 and the other half by December 31, 2022. The Social Security Trust Funds will be held harmless under this provision.

# Small Business/Non-Profits

## Commerce/EDA

- \$1.5 billion to the Economic Development Administration to support economic development grants for states and communities suffering economic injury as a result of the coronavirus.
- \$300 million to provide direct financial assistance to all manner of fishers, fishery participants, and communities that have been affected by the coronavirus. Guidance to apply for this assistance will be forthcoming from the U.S. Department of Commerce - <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/noaa-fisheries-coronavirus-covid-19-update>

## Small Business Administration

\$17 billion for small business debt relief, and as such would require the SBA to pay all principal, interest, and fees on all existing SBA loan products, including 7(a), Community Advantage, 504, and Microloan programs, for six months to provide relief to small businesses negatively affected by COVID-19. Guidance on available SBA programs is available [here](#).

# Small Business Administration

Economic Injury Disaster Loans: At the request of Governor Greg Abbott, the Small Business Administration (SBA) issued an Economic Injury Disaster Declaration on March 20, 2020 for all 254 Texas Counties in response to COVID-19 for the provision of Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL) to businesses and private non-profits in affected communities. Information on how to apply is available [here](#).

- Emergency loans up to \$10,000 within 3 days

# Small Business Administration

- The CARES Act established several new temporary SBA programs to address the COVID-19 outbreak, among them are:

- **Paycheck Protection Program** –This loan program provides loan forgiveness for retaining employees by temporarily expanding the traditional SBA 7(a) loan program.

<https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/loans/coronavirus-relief-options/paycheck-protection-program-ppp>

# Small Business Administration

**SBA Express Bridge Loans** – Enables small businesses who currently have a business relationship with an SBA Express Lender to access up to \$25,000 quickly.

<https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/loans/coronavirus-relief-options/sba-express-bridge-loans>

# Homeland Security

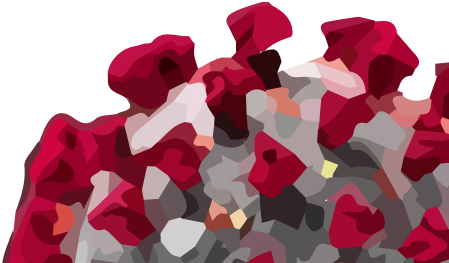
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# Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

\$45.4 billion to continue FEMA's entire suite of response and recovery activities and reimbursements provided to states and localities nationwide by the Disaster Relief Fund for emergency and major disaster declarations, as well as funding for FEMA facilities and information technology required to support FEMA's lead role in coordinating federal response activities.





# Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

The President approved Governor Abbott's request for a Major Disaster Declaration on March 25, 2020. The declaration grants funding under Public Assistance Category B - emergency protective measures. Allowable uses are included [here](#). Information on how to apply for Public Assistance is available [here](#).

The Major Disaster Declaration also provides Individual Assistance for Crisis Counseling. Funding is provided through the state to Local Mental Health Authorities and Local Behavioral Health Authorities to provide telehealth and crisis counseling services.

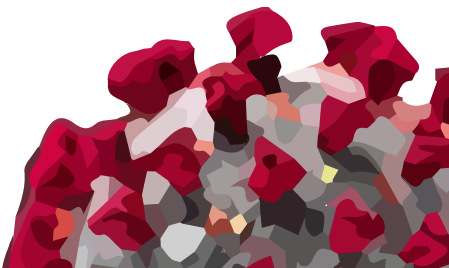




# Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

To apply, go to: <https://tdem.texas.gov>, and click the box for “Local Officials: Request for Public Assistance”.

If you have an account, login and submit an RPA for DR-4485. If you do not have an account, send an email to [TDEMRecovery.RPA@tdem.texas.gov](mailto:TDEMRecovery.RPA@tdem.texas.gov) to request one.



# Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

\$400 million for existing FEMA grant programs:

- \$100 million Assistance to Firefighter Grants to provide personal protective equipment, supplies, and reimbursements.
- \$100 million for Emergency Management Performance Grants which focus on emergency preparedness
- \$200 million for the Emergency Food and Shelter Program which provides shelter, food, and supportive services through local service organizations

# Justice/Police

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## Byrne JAG Program

\$850 million will be marked for the Byrne JAG Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding Program to assist state, local, and tribal officers in responding to coronavirus. These funds will go directly to state and local governments, with no match required, and will support criminal justice needs related to coronavirus, including overtime for state, local, and tribal officers; personal protective equipment and supplies; and medical needs and other supplies for inmates in state, local, and tribal prisons, jails, and detention centers. Application guidance from the Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance is available [here](#).

## Texas Jurisdictions

Information on funding allocations for Texas jurisdictions is available [here](#). States, U.S. Territories, the District of Columbia, units of local government, and federally recognized tribal governments that were identified as eligible for funding under the Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 State and Local Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program are eligible to apply under the Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding (CESF) Program solicitation. NOTE: Only the State Administering Agency that applied for FY 2019 JAG funding for a state/territory may apply for the state allocation of CESF funding.

# Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding Program

## Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding Program Solicitation FY 2020 Formula Grant Solicitation

CFDA #16.034 Solicitation Release Date: March 30, 2020  
Application Deadline: 11:59 p.m. eastern time on  
May 29, 2020

<https://bja.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh186/files/media/document/bja-2020-18553.pdf>



# Transit/HUD

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## Department of Housing and Urban Development

- \$5 billion for Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) with funding distributed using formula. Information on funding allocations and allowable expenditures is available [here](#).
- \$4 billion for Homeless Assistance Grants for state and local governments
- \$1.25 billion for Tenant-Based Rental Assistance; and
- \$1 billion for Project Based Rental Assistance.

# Department of Transportation

- \$10 billion to maintain operations at airports with funds will be distributed by formula. Information on funding allocations is available [here](#).
- \$25 billion for transit providers, including states and local governments, for operating and capital expenses. Funding will be distributed using existing FTA formulas. Funding allocations are available [here](#). Answers to frequently asked questions can be found [here](#).

# Department of Transportation

## Final Order - Airline Continuation of Air Service Requirements

The CARES Act authorizes the Department of Transportation to require, “to the extent reasonable and practicable,” that an air carrier receiving financial assistance maintain minimum levels of scheduled air service at every community it serve served on March 1. The Final Order, which DOT issued today, lists every community in the United States and the minimum levels of air service that each airline will need to provide. In some instances, DOT is allowing airlines to provide as few as five flights per week at large hub airports and fewer flights at non-hub airports.

# HHS/Health

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# Overview

## Hospitals

- **Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund** - \$100 billion to reimburse eligible healthcare providers for healthcare-related expenses or lost revenues not otherwise reimbursed that are directly attributable to COVID-19
- \$250 million to improve the capacity of health care facilities to respond to medical events

## Other Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund

- **Hospital Preparedness Program:** Provides \$250 million available for grants to or cooperative agreements with entities that are either grantees or sub-grantees of the Hospital Preparedness Program

# Overview

- \$275 million to expand services and capacity for rural hospitals, telehealth, poison control centers, and the Ryan White HIV/AIDS program. Language is also included to allow Community Health Centers to use FY2020 funding to maintain or increase staffing and capacity to address the coronavirus
- \$1.5 billion in designated funding for CDC state and local preparedness and response activities.



# Overview

- \$100 million SAMHSA Emergency Response Grants in flexible funding to address mental health, substance use disorders, and provide resources and support to youth and homeless during the pandemic
- \$250 million to Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics to increase access to mental health care services.

<https://hhs.texas.gov/doing-business-hhs/provider-portals/behavioral-health-services-providers/certified-community-behavioral-health-clinics-ccbhcs>

## Administration for Children and Families

- \$3.5 billion in Child Care and Development Block grants to states for immediate assistance to childcare providers to prevent them from going out of business and to otherwise support childcare for families, including for healthcare workers, first responders, and others playing critical roles during this crisis.
- \$750 million for grants to all Head Start programs to help them respond to coronavirus related needs of children and families, including making up for lost learning time.

## Administration for Children and Families

- \$1 billion in Community Services Block Grants- direct funding to local community-based organizations to provide a wide-range of social services and emergency assistance for those who need it most.
- \$900 million in Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program grants to states to support immediate home energy assistance for low-income households affected by coronavirus.

<https://liheapch.acf.hhs.gov/db/index.php>

## Administration for Children and Families

- \$45 million in Family Violence Prevention and Services to provide additional support to family violence shelters,
- \$25 million Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs- for additional immediate assistance to current programs providing critical services and housing for runaway and homeless youth. Child Welfare Services: \$45 million for grants to states to support the child welfare needs of families.
- <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/fysb/programs/runaway-homeless-youth>

## Rural Health (HRSA, CMS)

- **Sec. 3719. Expansion of the Medicare Hospital Accelerated Payment Program During The COVID-19 Public Health Emergency:** Expands medicare accelerated payment program. Qualified Hospitals can request up to a six-month advance payment.
- <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/Accelerated-and-Advanced-Payments-Fact-Sheet.pdf>

## Rural Health (HRSA, CMS)

### Healthcare Providers

- \$1.32 billion in **supplemental funding to community health centers** on the front lines of testing and treating patients for COVID (\$6 million awarded to 72 Texas centers as of 4/15/20)
- **Telehealth network and telehealth resource centers grant programs:** Reauthorizes HRSA grant programs that promote the use of telehealth technologies for health care delivery, education and health information services.

## Rural Health (HRSA, CMS)

- **Rural Health Care Services Outreach, Rural Health Network Development, and Small Health Care Provider Quality Improvement Grant Programs:** Reauthorizes HRSA grant programs to strengthen rural community health by focusing on quality improvement, increasing health care access, coordination of care, and integration of services.

## Rural Health (HRSA, CMS)

### Telehealth

- Allowing Federally Qualified Health Centers and Rural Health Clinics to Furnish Telehealth in Medicare: This section would allow, during the COVID-19 emergency period, Federally Qualified Health Centers and Rural Health Clinics to serve as a distant site for telehealth consultations. A distant site is where the practitioner is located during the time of the telehealth service. Medicare would reimburse for these telehealth services based on payment rates similar to the national average payment rates for comparable telehealth services under the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule.



## Other Medicare Provisions

- **Increasing Provider Funding through Immediate Medicare Sequester Relief:** This section aids health care providers on the front lines, helping them to furnish needed care to affected patients. Temporarily lifts the Medicare sequester, which reduces payments to providers by 2 percent, from May 1 through December 31, 2020, boosting payments for hospital, physician, nursing home, home health, and other care.
- **Medicare Add-on for Inpatient Hospital COVID-19 Patients:** This section would increase the payment that would otherwise be made to a hospital for treating a patient admitted with COVID-19 by 20 percent.

## Medicaid

- **Delay of Disproportionate Share Hospital Reductions:**  
Delays scheduled reductions in Medicaid disproportionate share hospital payments through November 30, 2020.

# Labor/Arts

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# Department of Labor

\$345 million to Dislocated Worker National Reserve for states and communities to respond to the workforce impacts and layoffs resulting from the coronavirus. Program guidance at:

<https://www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/dislocated-workers/grants/covid-19>

The Texas workforce commission has received a 12 million-dollar grant



## National Endowment for the Arts

- \$75 million for grants through the National Endowment for the Arts, including funding to state arts agencies <https://www.arts.texas.gov/resources/covid-19-arts-resources/> and other partners, as well as direct grants, to help local, state, and regional communities provide continued access to cultural organizations and institutions of learning.
  - The grant opportunity closes at 11:59 p.m. ET on April 22, 2020. Application details are available at: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=326140>.

## Grants

\$75 million for grants, including funding for state humanities councils and other partners, as well as direct grants to help local, state, and regional communities provide continued access to cultural organizations and institutions of learning.

NEH will announce funding opportunities no later than April 30; additional information is available at:

[https://www.neh.gov/COVID19\\_FAQs](https://www.neh.gov/COVID19_FAQs)

## Bureau of Indian Affairs/Indian Education

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS –\$453 million for coronavirus containment in detention facilities; aid to tribal governments; tribal welfare assistance and social services programs; information technology including teleworking capabilities; and increased staffing and overtime costs

## Bureau of Indian Affairs/Indian Education

BUREAU OF INDIAN EDUCATION –\$69 million for extended teacher and workforce salary needs; transportation needs associated with the pandemic; information technology, including teleworking capabilities; and aid for tribal colleges and universities. Separate funding is also provided to the Institute of American Indian Arts (IAIA) to respond to the pandemic



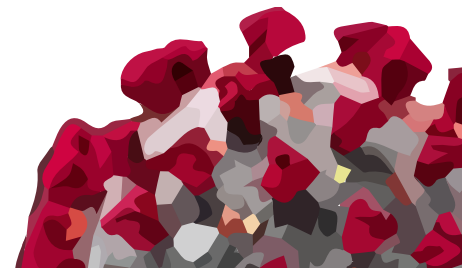
# Education

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Unless otherwise noted, guidance for provisions under this heading will be posted at <https://www.ed.gov/coronavirus>.

Please note that the CARES Act (Sec. 18006) specifies that a local education agency, State, institution of higher education or other entity that receives “Education Stabilization Funds” shall to the greatest extent practicable, continue to pay its employees and contractors during the period of any disruptions or closures related to coronavirus.



## Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund

\$2.95 billion for the Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Fund allocated proportionately to governors using a formula based on each State's student-aged population and poverty levels.

- \$307,026,008 GEER funding for Texas announced on April 14.
- Distribution of funds will be at Gov. Abbott's discretion, but ED specified that the funds can be used to "meet the current needs of students, schools (including charter schools and non-public schools), postsecondary institutions, and other education-related organizations in your State so that faculty continue to teach and students continue to learn."

## Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund

\$13.23 billion for the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund will be distributed to states based on Title I eligibility. 90% of the funds must go to local education agencies for coronavirus-response activities—including charter schools). This funding can also be used for non-public schools and can be used for any activity authorized under the major education laws (ESSA, IDEA, Perkins CTE, Adult Education and Family Literacy, McKinney-Vento Homeless Education).

Funds should be available no later than April 26; more information is available at: [https://oese.ed.gov/offices/education-stabilization-fund/elementary-secondary-school-emergency-relief-](https://oese.ed.gov/offices/education-stabilization-fund/elementary-secondary-school-emergency-relief-fund/)

## Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund

\$13.95 billion for the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund allocated as follows:

- \$12.558 billion for grants to each institution of higher education based on a formula heavily weighted on full time Pell enrollment. The Department of Education has released total funding amounts for each institution as well as guidance on the student-share of this fund; details available here: <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/caresact.html>.
- \$1.046 billion for additional awards to Minority Serving Institutions eligible for Title III, Parts A and B; Title V, Parts A and B, and Title VIII-A-4 grants.
- \$349 million for institutions of higher education that the Secretary deems to have the greatest unmet needs related to coronavirus that have received less than \$500,000 in funding from previous sections.

## Specifications for the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund

- Funding will be disbursed through the Department's G5 system.
- Institutions must distribute at least 50% of funds received as emergency grants to students which can be used for any component of cost of attendance.
- Institutional funds may be used to cover any costs associated with significant changes to the delivery of instruction due to coronavirus EXCEPT for pre-enrollment recruitment; endowments; or capital outlays for facilities related to athletics, sectarian instruction, or religious worship.

## Project School Emergency Response to Violence

\$100 million for Project School Emergency Response to Violence (SERV) to supplement funds, including to help elementary, secondary and post-secondary schools clean and disinfect affected schools, and assist in counseling and distance learning and associated costs. Information on Project SERV is available at <https://www2.ed.gov/programs/dvppserv/eligibility.html>.

## Corporation for Public Broadcasting

\$75 million for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting - uses include fiscal stabilization grants to public telecommunications entities, to maintain programming and services and preserve small and rural stations threatened by declines in non-Federal revenues. Applications will likely be posted at <https://www.cpb.org/grants>.



## Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS)

\$50 million for the Institute for Museum and Library Services - grants to States, territories and tribes to expand digital network access, purchase internet accessible devices, and provide technical support services. Matching funds requirements for States, tribes, libraries and museums are waived for grants provided through this provision.

<https://www.imls.gov/coronavirus-covid-19-updates>

- On April 13, IMLS announced the first \$30 million in funding to provide relief through state libraries. Through that allocation, Texas received \$2.6 million.

## Section A

The CARES Act (Section A) automatically pauses all federal student loan payments and interest for six months, continues student loan and Pell Grant eligibility for those who have to drop out, allows states and institutions of higher education to apply for waivers from certain requirements, and allows flexibility in the use of institutional and campus-based aid.

The provisions are listed next:

## Additional Flexibilities

- Waives the institutional match for campus-based aid (Section 3503);
- Allows institutions to use Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (SEOG) for pandemic-related emergency student aid (section 3504);
- Federal Work-Study payments can continue to students whose jobs closed (Section 3505);

## Additional Flexibilities

- For students who had to drop out, doesn't count this semester or grades for eligibility for student loans and Pell Grants or make the students or institutions return the loans or grants (Sections 3506, 3507, 3508, and 3509);
- Allows distance learning for US students who were at foreign institutions (Section 3510);
- Allows the Secretary to waive regulations under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act except for civil rights (Section 3511);
- HBCU capital financing payments can be waived by the Secretary of Education during the national emergency (Section 3512);

## Additional Flexibilities

- Automatically defers student loan payments, interest, and collections through September 30 for all federal student loans (Section 3513);
- Continues national service education awards and extends eligibility for participants whose jobs closed (Section 3514);
- Provides additional flexibility to Workforce Boards (Section 3515);
- Makes technical amendments to the FUTURES Act (Section 3516);
- Allows waivers for certain outcomes for HBCUs and Minority-Serving Institutions in FY 2021 (Section 3517);

## Additional Flexibilities

- Allows waivers for authorized use of institutional grants (TRIO, GEAR-UP, Title III, Title V, and parts of Title VII) to redirect funding for COVID-19 needs (Section 3518); and
- Continues teacher loan forgiveness and TEACH grant service requirements this school year even though schools closed (Section 3519).

# Agriculture/Food Programs/ Rural Development

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## Agricultural Producers

\$9.5 billion in emergency response funding to support agricultural producers impacted by COVID-19, including producers of specialty crops, producers that supply local food systems, and livestock producers. Also includes \$14 billion in additional funding for the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) and authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to extend the term of Marketing Assistance Loans (for crops currently in the loan) from 9 months to 12 months.

- Guidance to apply for this assistance will be forthcoming from the U.S. Department of Agriculture - [www.usda.gov](http://www.usda.gov)



## Child Nutrition Programs and SNAP

- \$8.8 billion for Child Nutrition Programs or food purchases and demonstration projects to increase flexibility for schools.
  - For information, contact the Texas Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Division, at <http://www.squaremeals.org/>
- \$15.51 billion for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
  - For information contact - <https://hhs.texas.gov/services/health/coronavirus-covid-19> or at USDA - <https://www.fns.usda.gov/disaster/pandemic/covid-19>

# TEFAP

\$450 million for The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) for commodities and distribution of emergency food assistance through community partners, including food banks, \$150 million of which can be used for distribution purposes.

- For information contact the Texas Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Division, at <http://www.squaremeals.org/>

## Business and Industry Loans

\$1 billion in lending authority available for the Business and Industry loan guarantee program, which provides much-needed financing to business owners that might not be able to qualify for a loan on their own. For more information, contact:

- USDA Rural Development at [https://www.rd.usda.gov/files/USDA\\_RD\\_SA\\_COVID19\\_ProgramImmediateActions.pdf](https://www.rd.usda.gov/files/USDA_RD_SA_COVID19_ProgramImmediateActions.pdf) or
- State Rural Development office at <https://www.rd.usda.gov/tx>

## ReConnect Loans

\$100 million for ReConnect loans and grants to cover up to approximately \$400 million in costs of construction, improvement, or acquisition of facilities and equipment needed to provide broadband service in eligible rural areas

- <https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/all-programs/telecom-programs>

## Distance Learning, DLT, and Broadband

\$ 25 million for the DISTANCE LEARNING, TELEMEDICINE (DLT), AND BROADBAND grant program, which supports rural communities' access to telecommunications-enabled information, audio, and video equipment, as well as related advanced technologies for students, teachers, and medical professionals. USDA will make an announcement in coming weeks when these funds are available.

## Distance Learning, DLT, and Broadband

On April 3, USDA announced that \$72 million is available under this program and electronic applications may be submitted through [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) beginning April 14, 2020, and are due no later than July 13, 2020.

- Find more information at <https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/distance-learning-telemedicine-grants>

## Purpose CARES Act Educational Initiative

Phase 1: Address the issues that state and local governments are facing with the federal relief package.

Through digital engagement, AgriLife Extension will provide education to local county officials, municipalities, communities and schools.

First online course—targeting local officials (city and county), and school districts—to be available on TrainTraq on April 21.

Designated Extension liaisons to take the TrainTraq by Tuesday 4.21.20 to become familiar with content. All agents take TrainTraq by Friday 4.24.20.

Phase 2: Additional courses to be developed.

# Agent Expectations

Agents in all counties will be responsible for making direct contact with:

- Commissioners Court Members
- City Mayors/City Managers
- School Superintendents (Public and Private)

Our role is to make them aware of the training and resources, as well as serve as liaison to help them get answers to questions and assistance with grants and reimbursement.

There will likely be additional information to share after this initial push of information related to CARES Act training.



## Process and Protocol

- Initial email (template provided) to assigned contacts
  - CARES Act Educational Initiative
  - April 22
- Email Follow up
  - Noon on Friday the 24th
  - Talking Points Page
- Communicate Questions or Issues
  - Virtual Assistance Center
  - Via email to [CARESACT@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:CARESACT@ag.tamu.edu)
  - Rebuild Texas Hotline – (979) 458 6098
  - 72-hour return response goal
  - Liaison follow-up Communication
- Weekly Check-in Contact
  - Ask preferred method and to whom
  - Continue each week
- Tool Kit

# Conclusion

Questions?