

COVID-19 Response Legislation Overview

Phase 1 Advocacy:

\$26,537,000 for EMERGENCY SERVICES GRANTS. This is a one time appropriation and is available until February 1, 2021, or until 60 days after expiration of the peacetime emergency declared by the governor in an executive. Money in these various pots of funds could be transferred between them as needs require. Of this amount:

\$15,206,000 is for additional Shelter Space - For purchasing vouchers for the cost of a motel or hotel room; or for funding other housing options, in order to provide housing that promotes health and safety, or to isolate homeless individuals exposed to COVID-19 or who are experiencing respiratory illness. Vouchers for the cost of a motel or hotel room may not be issued to motels or hotels that receive funding from another source for the cost of the same motel or hotel room;

\$6,331,000 is for Hiring staff - For hiring staff necessary to protect the health and wellness of program recipients, for increasing the number of persons served, or for providing staffing when workers are quarantined or cannot work because they are caring for someone with COVID-19.

\$5,000,000 is for Hygiene/Sanitation Supplies - For purchasing hygiene, sanitation, and cleaning supplies to support compliance with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidance on sanitation and personal protective equipment.

\$5,530,000 for HOUSING SUPPORT to increase room and board limits and rates and supplementary service limits and rates under Minnesota Statutes, section 256I.05, subdivisions 1 and 1a, by 15 percent for three consecutive months for purposes of maintaining access to room and board from March 1, 2020, through May 31, 2020, including activities necessary to comply with federal and state health and safety guidance, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This is a one time appropriation.

\$6,200,000 for MILITARY VETERANS COVID-19 RESPONSE ASSISTANCE - To provide financial assistance to any veteran or a surviving spouse of a veteran in need of assistance as a result of COVID-19. The COVID-19-related assistance authorized under this section may be used for emergency financial relief, hospitalization assistance, medical care or treatment, or any other COVID-19-related assistance as determined by the commissioner. The amount appropriated under this section is available until June 30, 2021.

\$9,000,000 for FOOD SHELF PROGRAMS - To address food bank, food shelf, and transportation needs in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. Hunger Solutions shall allocate funds to food banks, food shelves, and transportation organizations in accordance with this section and report to the commissioner regarding distribution and use of funds. This is a one time appropriation and is available until June 30, 2021. Grant funds shall be used as follows:

(1) to support regional food banks to enable specialized responses to community needs;

- (2) to allow food shelves to purchase food, diapers, toilet paper, and other necessary supplies and to enable specialized responses to community needs; and
- (3) to support a network of transportation organizations to assist in the distribution of food and supplies from food banks and food shelves to persons affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

FOOD SHELVES; PEACETIME EMERGENCY DISTRIBUTION. Notwithstanding Minnesota Statutes, section 256E.34, during the period of a declared peacetime emergency pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 12.31, in response to a potential or actual outbreak of COVID-19: (1) additional funds may be distributed to the statewide network of food banks, food shelves, and additional transportation providers; and (2) additional funds may be distributed to the statewide network of food shelves to purchase, transport, and coordinate the distribution of food, diapers, toilet paper, and other necessary supplies to needy individuals and families.

\$11,000,000 for TRIBAL NATIONS GRANTS - to fund emergency response activities in response to the infectious disease known as COVID-19 for activities that mitigate the immediate health and economic impacts of COVID-19. These activities include but are not limited to reimbursable activities under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, as amended, and securing basic needs, including but not limited to food and shelter, The commissioner of revenue may provide grants under this section of up to \$1,000,000 to the governing body of the: (1) Fond du Lac Band; (2) Grand Portage Band; (3) Mille Lacs Band; (4) White Earth Band; (5) Bois Fort Nett Lake Band; (6) Leech Lake Band; (7) Red Lake Nation; (8) Upper Sioux Community; (9) Lower Sioux Community; (10) Shakopee-Mdewakanton Sioux Community; and (11) Prairie Island Mdewakanton Dakota Community.

Phase 2 Advocacy (on-going):

\$100M for the Family Homeless Prevention Assistance Program--funding for rental assistance to prevent eviction; increased funding for mortgage assistance to prevent foreclosure.

Tenant Protections

Other COVID-19 Response Efforts:

Dissemination of Information & Resources: increased our communications and engagement efforts, developed a COVID-19 Resource page on our website for shelters and other organizations with information and funding resources.

Systems Coordination: actively participating in statewide coordination and engaged in systems-level approaches to address the pandemic.

All Hands Sanitizer Project: acting as a fiscal sponsor to secure \$15,000 in sanitizer for shelters and homeless service providers.

For more COVID-19 Resources & funding opportunities go to the MN Heading Home Alliance website -- [click here](#)