

4/22/20 Update from the Office of Senator Murphy:

I hope you are well and staying safe during the crisis. Senator Murphy wanted to send an update after the most recent assistance package passed the Senate last night. Although this package still needs to pass the House of Representatives, we wanted to get the summary information out to you. As always, please contact me with any questions or concerns.

Summary of H.R. 266, Small Business & Hospital Funds

On Tuesday, the Senate passed the *Small Business and Hospital Funds Act*. While this bill does not address all the areas of current need, this is an interim step to add needed funding to Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) and provides additional funding to hospitals to address the public health crisis. Democrats, including Senator Murphy, pushed for the bill to include additional aid to states and towns as well as funding for SNAP to increase program benefit levels. Ultimately, congressional Republicans and the White House objected to these provisions. Both proposals remain on the table for future aid packages. We are also pressing the administration to provide clear guidance to allow states to use the state assistance funds provided in the CARES Act with maximum flexibility to ensure they can cover lost revenue as a result of this crisis.

While the bill has passed the Senate, it has yet to pass the House and be signed into law by the President. That is anticipated to happen before the end of the week.

The bill provides \$484 billion aid in additional aid to small businesses and hospitals. Specifically the bill provides:

- **\$310 billion in additional lending authority for the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP)**, with \$60 billion of that set aside to support loans issued by smaller lenders. As a reminder, the CARES Act had provided \$349 billion for PPP and that funding has already been exhausted. The funding provided in this week's bill is greater than the initial \$250 billion proposed by Republicans. For more information on how the PPP program works, visit the [FAQ section](#) of our website.
- **\$60 billion for separate disaster loans to small businesses**. This includes \$10 billion to replenish the Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) as authorized in the CARES Act and \$50 billion for SBA guarantees under the agency's broader disaster loan programs. Notably, small agricultural businesses with 500 or fewer employees would be eligible to obtain funds under both of these programs. SBA had previously barred farms from accessing EIDL. [Senator Murphy wrote](#) to SBA asking them to reverse this decision and was pleased this change was made in this bill.
- **\$75 billion for hospitals** through the new Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund. These funds would be distributed in a manner similar to the CARES Act, which provided an initial \$100 billion for this program.
- **\$25 billion for virus testing** through the Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund. This includes:
 - \$11 billion for states, tribes, territories and localities through a formula based on the area's relative number of COVID-19 cases and a formula applied to the CDC's Public Health Emergency Preparedness cooperative agreement in FY2019. In order to receive funds, recipients would have to submit plans to HHS detailing, among other things, the number of tests needed and monthly estimates of lab and testing capacity.

- \$1 billion for the CDC for surveillance, contact tracing, and lab capacity expansion. \$1 billion for the National Institutes of Health to develop testing and accelerate research on rapid testing as well as \$500 million specifically for the National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering and \$306 million for the National Cancer Institute.
- \$1 billion for the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority for research, manufacturing, and purchasing tests.
- \$600 million for community health centers and federally qualified health centers, as well as \$225 million for rural health clinics.
- \$22 million for the Food and Drug Administration to support their work on diagnostic, serological, antigen, and other tests.

For information on federal coronavirus relief, including help for small businesses, direct cash payments and more, visit murphy.senate.gov/coronavirus. This page provides answers to frequently asked questions and gives a summary of available programs and funding.

For the latest information about keeping you or your family safe go to cdc.gov/coronavirus. For resources and information about Connecticut's response visit