

South Dakota Department of Social Services

Federal Funding Summary

Overview

South Dakota has received federal funding for Economic Assistance, Medicaid, Behavioral Health and Children's Services programs in response to COVID-19. Federal funds are used to help prevent, prepare for, or respond to the coronavirus. The federal funds detailed in this memo are in addition to the \$1.25 billion in "Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF)" that the state received from the U.S. Treasury.

Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)

South Dakota received \$1,128,440 CARES Act funding through CSBG to help address the needs of individuals and families with limited means and to help address impacts of COVID. Additional grants were awarded to the four Community Action Agencies.

Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP)

The Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) received additional funding of \$4,668,305. The funding will supplement existing programs which assist eligible low-income households with home heating expenses.

Child Welfare Services

South Dakota received \$82,341 in Child Welfare Services under the CARES Act to promote State flexibility in the development and support of a coordinated child and family services program that utilizes community-based agencies and ensures children are raised in safe, loving families. Child Protection Services is using funding to enhance communication in remote settings through technology and training.

Emergency Grants to Address Mental and Substance Use Disorder

South Dakota received \$2,000,000 to support mental health and substance use disorder treatment and recovery services through the Emergency COVID-19 grant. The funding supports access to mental health and substance use disorder crisis and treatment services as well as enhances service delivery and/or crisis services by building telehealth infrastructure or providing in-person services with personal protective equipment (PPE).

Child Care Block Grant

South Dakota received \$9,020,707 in CARES Act funding to support child care providers and families during the pandemic.

Beginning in May 2020, funding is being distributed to childcare providers based on costs associated with factors including:

- keeping child care programs open, with lower enrollments and decreased demand;
- costs associated with re-opening for programs that chose to reopen;
- keeping child care programs open to provide care only to frontline medical and health care employees during their response to COVID-19; and
- purchasing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

Enhanced Federal Medical Assistance Percentages (FMAP)

The Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) established an enhanced FMAP for each calendar quarter occurring during the public health emergency. The enhanced FMAP is a 6.2% increase to South Dakota's regular FMAP. FFCRA conditioned the enhanced FMAP on states complying with several conditions including not terminating individuals from Medicaid if the individual was enrolled in Medicaid at the start of the public health emergency period or becomes enrolled during the public health emergency period with the exception of individuals voluntarily terminating eligibility or no longer residing in the state. This condition tied to the enhanced FMAP is sometimes referred to as the "continuous coverage requirement." The duration of the public health emergency is unknown at this time. The costs associated with the people who would otherwise have lost Medicaid eligibility but have retained it because of the continuous coverage requirement would offset the benefit from the enhanced FMAP.

Provider Relief Funds and Grants

The federal government has also distributed provider relief funds directly to providers, to help offset losses medical providers have experienced during the public health emergency. The CARES Act established a provider relief fund to distribute \$175 billion to hospitals and health care workers. Information regarding distribution of these funds is available on HHS's website:

<https://www.hhs.gov/coronavirus/cares-act-provider-relief-fund/data/index.html>. As of September 3, 2020, HHS had distributed approximately \$78.5 billion dollars in funds with South Dakota health care providers receiving approximately \$405 million dollars in relief funds.

In addition, the federal government has distributed various grants and distributions went to South Dakota tribal organizations and FQHCs. Additional information regarding these awards is available online at: <https://taggs.hhs.gov/coronavirus>.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Emergency Allotments (Maximum Benefits)

The Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) allows States to temporarily increase benefits for SNAP recipients who are not already receiving the maximum benefit for their household size. The federal Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is determining the ability for States to issue additional emergency allotments on a month by month basis, dependent upon the status of the emergency declaration.

Issuance date	Number of households receiving additional benefit	Average increase	Statewide total increased SNAP benefit
April 24, 2020	21,127	\$ 168	\$ 3.6 million
May 23, 2020	21,195	\$ 165	\$ 3.5 million
June 22, 2020	20,534	\$ 165	\$ 3.4 million
July 24, 2020	20,618	\$ 166	\$ 3.4 million
August 24, 2020	20,189	\$ 168	\$ 3.4 million

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Pandemic-Electronic Benefits Transfer (P-EBT)

P-EBT provides food assistance to families with children who would have received free or reduced-price school meals but did not due to COVID-19 related school closures. The benefit per eligible child is \$285. Since the launch of the program on June 19, 2020 the program has issued \$16,681,191 to 29,938 households.