The Center for Community Solutions

Our Priorities

Advancing Wellbeing of Older Adults

Enhancing Behavioral Health Access

Improving Maternal and Infant Health

Promoting Comprehensive Reproductive Health Education

Strengthening Health and Human Services Safety Net

Supporting Sound Medicaid Policy

The Center for Community Solutions improves health, social, and economic conditions through nonpartisan research, policy analysis, communications, and advocacy.

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THE CENTER FOR COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS

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RESEARCH • ANALYSIS • ACTION

Advocates for Ohio's Future

Advocates for Ohio's Future (AOF) is a nonpartisan coalition of over 500 Ohio organizations that promotes health and human service budget and policy solutions so that all Ohioans live better lives.

Our coalition believes in investing in our state's most valuable resource—our people—to ensure that they are safe, healthy, and can access pathways to prosperity for themselves and their families.

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Agenda

- Introductions

- Federal Legislative Overview

- What is missing from Federal efforts?

- State Opportunities

- Q&A

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What is the Federal Response to COVID-19?

PHASE 1
Allocated funds for HHS, CDC, medical equipment, and grants for state, local, and tribal public health agencies and organizations - and some for small business loans.

PHASE 2
Provides paid sick leave, free coronavirus testing, expanded unemployment benefits, and food insecurity measures.

PHASE 3
Provides emergency assistance and health care response for individuals, families, and businesses. Includes cash assistance for individuals and families and lending for businesses.

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Highlights of Federal Legislation (Phase 1-3)

- Health System Investment
- Medicaid funding
- Testing and Treatment Cost Sharing
- Paid Leave and Unemployment
- Cash Support for Families
- Food, Housing and Child Care Assistance
- State Stabilization Funds - Coronavirus Relief Fund
- Corporate Bail Out - Support to Small Business
- Worker Protections, Safety and Support
- Student Loans and Elections

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A Deeper Dive: Health System Investment

- Community Health Center (CHC) funding - $1.32 billion (C3)
- Community mental health services demonstration extension (C3)
- $100 billion in grants and unreimbursed care to hospitals (C3) and delay in Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) payments
- Telehealth support to rural access hospitals - $185 million (C3)
- State, local and tribal governments have access to $150 billion relief fund (C3)
- Medical supplies - $16 billion (C3)
- Over $4 billion in CDC investment (C3)
- Rural hospitals - $185 million in support (C3)

A Deeper Dive: Medicaid Changes

- Increases Medicaid funds to states and territories through an enhanced match of 6.2 percentage points, but not for ACA expansion populations. (C2)
- Receipt of funds is conditioned on maintaining eligibility levels and must provide Medicaid coverage without cost-sharing for testing and testing related services. (C2) - Maintenance of Effort (MOE)
- States may extend Medicaid eligibility to uninsured populations for the purposes of COVID-19 testing. State Medicaid costs for associated medical and administrative expenditures would be matched fully by the federal government. (C2)

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A Deeper Dive: Testing and Treatment

- Private insurance must cover testing for COVID-19 with no cost-sharing and any future vaccine. (C3)
- Permits states to extend Medicaid eligibility to uninsured populations for the purposes of COVID-19 testing. State Medicaid costs for associated medical and administrative expenditures would be matched fully by the federal government (C2)
- In the CARES Act, there is language that attempts to shield people from surprise bills but is insufficient. (C3)

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A Deeper Dive: Food & Housing Assistance

- No SNAP work requirements until a month after the emergency declaration is lifted. In states that have declared an emergency or disaster, emergency allotments to SNAP households. (C2) And $500 million for WIC. (C3)
- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP): $900 million and $5 billion in HUD grants and rental assistance.(C3)
- Eviction and foreclosure protections for federally backed loans. (C3)
- Child care block grant increases - $3.5 billion and $750 million for Head Start. (C3)

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A Deeper Dive: Paid Leave and Unemployment Insurance

- Up to 12 weeks of paid leave for employees in need of child care due to public health emergency (C2) - does not apply to companies with 500 or more employees and employer not responsible for first 10 days (C2)
- 80 hours of paid sick leave if unable to telework - tax credits available for 100 percent of payroll tax (C2)
- $1 billion in emergency grants to states to provide and process unemployment insurance, including 100 percent federal funding for extended benefits in states with a 10 percent or higher unemployment rate. (C2)

A Deeper Dive: Cash Support

- $1,200 payment per eligible adult and $500 per eligible dependent child under age 17 ($75,000 for individuals, $112,500 for head of households, and $150,000 for joint filers).

- Taxable income not required to claim benefit, but must have a work-eligible social security number (SSN) and not be a dependent of another tax filer. Payment based on 2019 tax return, if filed, or 2018 return.(C3)

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Federal Action Recap

01	H.R. 6074: Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2020	• Delivered $8.3 billion in emergency supplemental appropriations • Allows HHSt to waive certain Medicare telehealth restrictions & some small biz supports.
02	H.R. 6201: Families First Coronavirus Response Act, 2020	• Provides $100 billion in worker assistance, including emergency paid sick leave, food assistance, Medicaid boost and unemployment payments.
03	H.R. 748: CARES Act	• Provides $2 trillion in support including individual checks, corporate bailouts, small business support and state and local aid.

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Is it enough?

Package C4: What Do States Need?

More State Financial Support. And...

- **Workforce protections.**

- **Financial security for consumers.**

- **Increased access to coverage and care.**

- **Focus on special populations and those most at risk.**

- **Social service expansion.**

- **Health justice - data collection.**

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Digging Deeper: Medicaid and Financial Security...a few recommendations

- Increased Medicaid funding tied to unemployment rate
- Restore 100 percent funding for Medicaid Expansion
- Essential workers - access to paid leave and to PPE
- Medicaid flexibility to extend coverage to immigrants
- Protection from medical debt - and collections
- Cost of testing, treatment and vaccines covered with no cost-sharing
- Funding for social service providers
- SNAP boost and housing protections

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What can state Medicaid programs do?

- **Preserve coverage by streamlining eligibility/enrollment**

- **Expand eligibility**

- **Expand access to providers and services via telehealth**
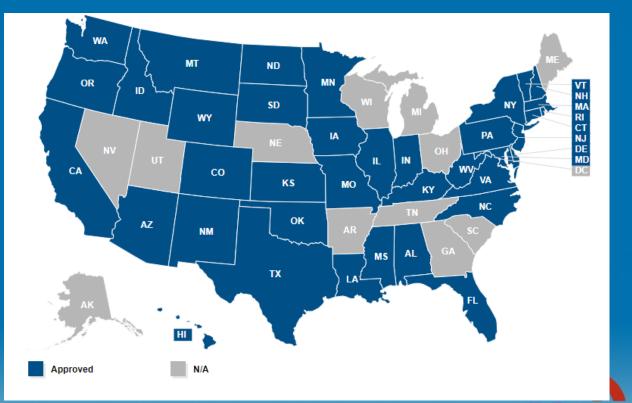
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How can they do it?

- **1135 Emergency Waiver**
- **Appendix K to Medicaid Section 1915(c) waivers**
- **Medicaid Section 1115 waivers**
- **State Plan Amendments**
- **Regulations/Guidance**

Current Status of 1135 Waivers for COVID-19

What can advocates do?

- **Push for states to use all of these available levers to:**
  - **Preserve coverage and protect individuals from out-of-pocket costs**
  - **Ensure access to care for vulnerable populations**
  - **Reach the remaining uninsured**
  - **Ensure health equity/health justice**

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Additional Resources

- **Kaiser Family Foundation Section 1135 Waiver Tracker**

- **State Health and Value Strategies**

- **Center For Health Care Strategies**

- **National Conference of State Legislatures**

Q&A

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