

May 2020

How Much “CARE” for NYC?

An Estimate of Federal Coronavirus Emergency Relief Act Funding to the City Budget

The Independent Budget Office estimates that \$5.3 billion in aid from the federal government’s four coronavirus relief packages will flow to the city budget, largely in this fiscal year and next. These funds are in addition to federal aid granted to public agencies that provide essential city services but are outside the city budget, including \$3.8 billion for the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA), at least \$818.6 million for NYC Health + Hospitals (H+H, the city’s public hospital system), and \$211.9 million for the city’s public housing authority. These projections represent IBO’s best estimates based on the data currently available. New data is being released on a near-daily basis, however, and details of many of the local funding formulas have yet to be published. Costs reimbursed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) are not included in these estimates.

The majority of the \$5.3 billion in aid that IBO projects the city will receive must be used to cover direct costs incurred by the city due to the Covid-19 pandemic or to fund programs that provide aid to city residents impacted by the resulting downturn, such as increased funding for existing food and rental assistance programs. The more than \$700 million in federal education aid included in this total will replace state school aid cut by the Governor in the state’s recently enacted budget. Therefore, while this funding represents a considerable sum to help pay for the city’s Covid-19 response, it does little to address the \$9.5 billion shortfall in city tax revenue that IBO expects to result from the economic downturn caused by the pandemic over the 2020 and 2021 fiscal years.

Federal Relief Bills. The federal government has enacted four emergency relief bills thus far to address the

impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. The first package, the Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act, was signed into law March 6, 2020 and authorized \$8.3 billion in emergency spending, largely for public health programs.

The Families First Coronavirus Response Act followed on March 18, 2020 with provisions for paid sick leave, food programs, a mandate that Covid-19 tests be administered at no cost to individuals, and expanded unemployment benefits and coverage.

On March 27, 2020, President Trump signed the third bill, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), which provides more than \$2 trillion dollars in direct support to households, businesses, states, some local governments, and the health care industry. The majority of the funds flowing to the city budget come from the CARES Act.

A fourth bill, the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Enhancement Act, was signed on April 24, 2020. It largely increased the funding made available to small businesses and health care institutions in the CARES Act.

Coronavirus Relief Fund. Just over a quarter of the \$5.3 billion in aid that IBO estimates the city will receive comes from the \$150 billion Coronavirus Relief Fund included in the CARES Act. IBO estimates that the city will receive nearly \$1.5 billion in direct aid from this fund. While the majority of the Coronavirus Relief Fund flows directly to state governments, local governments with populations of 500,000 or more can elect to receive a portion of their state’s funds directly. New York State received an allocation of \$7.5 billion, including the \$1.5 billion that will flow directly to the city.



The CARES Act requires the city to use these funds to pay for “necessary expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency with respect to the Coronavirus Disease 2019.” In order to be eligible for reimbursement, the spending must not have been included in the city’s budget before the CARES Act was enacted and must occur from March 1, 2020 through Dec. 30, 2020.

Public Health. IBO estimates that public health provisions included in the four federal emergency aid bills will net city programs \$1.9 billion in funding for expenses incurred to fight the pandemic, with millions more flowing to the city’s public hospital system (see sidebar, page 4). Of these provisions, the largest impact on the city budget comes from changes to Medicaid funding. The Families First Coronavirus Act increased the share of Medicaid paid by the federal government by 6.2 percentage points (called the enhanced Federal Medical Assistance Percentage, or eFMAP.) In New York the federal, state, and city governments share Medicaid costs, so if the state allows the savings from the eFMAP to flow through to localities across the state—as it has done in the past—there would be savings for the city. We expect the city will save \$1.0 billion in Medicaid payments due to eFMAP—funds it can redirect for other uses.

The most recent aid package provided up to \$11.0 billion for states and local governments to expand testing for Covid-19. While the formula for local awards has yet to be released, based on language in the legislation, IBO estimates that the New York City’s health department will receive about \$845.0 million of this funding.

The city’s health department will also receive funds through the Center for Disease Control (CDC) Preparedness Program. The CDC has already allocated \$25.1 million authorized by the Coronavirus Preparedness Act to the city and \$18.8 million through the CARES Act, with the possibility of more. These funds can be used for monitoring the spread of the coronavirus, laboratory testing, contact tracing, the purchase of personal protective equipment, and related public health activities.

IBO estimates that another \$17.5 million in CARES Act funding will be available to the city for a variety of programs, including hospital preparedness, the city’s Ryan White HIV/AIDS program, suicide prevention, and poison control.

Community Development and Housing. IBO projects that aid from federal community development and housing programs will total about \$972.2 million. Included in this funding is

\$472.7 million in new Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) awards. Authorized by the CARES Act, the additional CDBG funding is relatively flexible. Eligible uses include construction of public facilities (such as clinics and expanded hospital capacity), economic development programs to create or preserve jobs, training programs to increase the number of health care workers, and meal delivery to quarantined individuals. The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has already allocated \$102.1 million in emergency CDBG funds to the city based on its annual CDBG formula grant. Additional funds will be awarded based on a formula that takes into account the impact of Covid-19 on specific localities. IBO estimates these additional CDBG funds could total \$370.6 million million for New York City.

In addition to the CDBG funds, IBO estimates the city will receive \$473.6 million for homeless and housing programs through an increase to HUD’s Emergency Solutions Grant included in the CARES Act. These funds can be used to build and operate emergency homeless shelters, create new rental assistance programs, and provide services to homeless populations. Like the CDBG funds, a portion has already been allocated to the city based on its annual formula grant and additional funds are expected.

The CARES Act also provides increases to existing federal rental-assistance programs, including the Housing Choice Voucher program (or Section 8). Tenants in this program generally pay 30 percent of their income in rent to private property owners and the federal subsidy pays the balance. As tenants’ incomes decline during the economic downturn, additional subsidy is needed to make up the difference. IBO estimates the city could receive \$25.9 million for this program, funds that would eventually flow to landlords. (The majority of the city Housing Choice Program is administered by the New York City Housing Authority, or NYCHA, which also will receive funding. See sidebar, page 5).

Education and Child Care. IBO identified about \$927.0 million in aid for city education and child care programs authorized in the CARES Act.

The largest source of education funding is a nearly \$30.8 billion national Education Stabilization Fund, which includes three components: the Governor’s Emergency Education Relief Fund, the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund, and the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund.

Both of the relief funds are allocated to states based on formulas outlined in legislation; states, in turn, pass funding along to localities. According to the U.S. Department of

IBO Estimates of Federal Relief Aid Funding to New York City Budget

Dollars in thousands

Program Area	City Agency	Total City Funding
Coronavirus Relief Fund	Various	\$1,454,710
Public Health		
Enhanced Federal Medicaid Assistance Program (eFMAP)	Health	\$1,000,000
Public Health and Services Emergency Fund: Testing	Health	845,000
Centers for Disease Control Preparedness Grants (Coronavirus Preparedness Act)	Health	25,100
Centers for Disease Control Preparedness Grants (CARES Act)	Health	18,800
Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund: Hospital Preparedness	Health	11,700
Suicide Prevention	Health	2,400
Reauthorization of Healthy Start Program	Health	1,200
Public Health and Emergency Social Services Emergency Fund: Hospital Preparedness	Health	1,100
Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program	Health	1,000
Poison Control Centers	Health	131
Subtotal Public Health Programs		\$1,906,431
Community Development and Housing		
Community Development Block Grant	Various	\$472,689
Emergency Solutions Grant	Homeless Services and Housing	473,594
Housing Choice Vouchers	Housing	25,891
Subtotal Community Development and Housing		\$972,173
Education and Child Care		
Education Stabilization Fund: Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund & Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund	Education	\$716,903
Education Stabilization Fund: Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund	CUNY Community Colleges	79,000
Child Care and Development Block Grant	Children's Services & Education	88,300
Child Nutrition Programs	Education	33,034
Head Start	Education	9,719
Subtotal Education and Childcare Programs		\$926,956
Social Services and Criminal Justice Programs		
Community Services Block Grant	Various	\$32,000
Senior Meals	Aging	18,300
Low Income Housing Energy Assistance Program	Social Services	7,377
Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS	Social Services	6,351
Child Welfare Funding	Children's Services	1,020
Local Law Enforcement	Various	12,800
Election Security Grants	Board of Elections	6,000
Subtotal Social Services and Criminal Justice Programs		\$83,848
Total		\$5,344,119

SOURCE: IBO analysis of the Federal Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2020; the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, 2020; Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act, 2020; and the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act, 2020

NOTES: These figures represent IBO's best projections based on available data and IBO's estimates of local funding allocations, as the details of many of the legislations' funding formulas have yet to be released. IBO did not include costs reimbursed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency in this estimate. IBO did not calculate or include estimates of local awards of federal competitive grants as the likeliness of awards and amount of such funding is unknown.

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Education, New York State's allocation totals \$164.3 million for the Governor's fund and just over \$1.037 billion for the Elementary and Secondary School Fund.

Shortly after the CARES Act was signed, New York State

enacted its fiscal year 2021 budget. Nearly all of the state's allocation of both the Governor's Relief Fund and the Elementary and Secondary School Fund were budgeted to offset a "Pandemic Adjustment" reduction in school aid

At Least \$4.9 Billion Expected for Public Agencies Not Part of the City's Budget

In addition to the funds flowing through the city budget, numerous other public entities and agencies operating in New York City are expected to receive funds through the federal government's various relief bills. IBO has estimated the affect of the federal emergency assistance bills on several of the larger non-city agencies.

Metropolitan Transportation Authority. The MTA has been awarded \$3.8 billion in federal aid authorized by the CARES Act. This funding is intended to help bolster MTA revenues, which have plummeted in response to decreases in ridership during the coronavirus public health crisis. The funds can also be used to purchase personal protective equipment, and to pay the salaries of staff who are furloughed due to reductions in service or quarantine measures.

NYC Health + Hospitals. IBO estimates that New York City's Health + Hospitals will receive at least \$818.6 million through a variety of provisions in the federal relief bills. This estimate represents the low-end of potential awards, as funding allocations for many provisions remain unknown.

A little over 40 percent of the funds IBO estimates H+H will receive come from delaying federal funding cuts to the Medicaid and Medicare programs, both previously set for May but now postponed until December 2020. This includes delaying the cuts to the Medicaid Disproportionate Share Program and a temporary suspension of the Medicare reductions mandated under federal budget sequestration legislation, which first went into effect in 2013. IBO expects these delays will increase H+H funding over this fiscal year and next by \$327.5 million and \$22.5 million, respectively. Another \$4.4 million from the CARES Act has already been disbursed to H+H through funding for community health centers. IBO also expects H+H to receive \$1.0 million for telehealth services through the CARES Act.

Two provisions in the CARES Act could result in millions more for H+H, but because there is a great deal of uncertainty over how the funds will be distributed, IBO has chosen to estimate conservatively. The first provision involves a \$175.0 billion Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund to reimburse health care providers affected by Covid-19; the CARES Act authorized

IBO Estimates of Federal Relief Aid Funding to Related Agencies Outside the City Budget

Dollars in thousands

Agency	Funding
Metropolitan Transportation Authority	
Transit Infrastructure Grants	\$3,790,513
Subtotal Metropolitan Transportation Authority	\$3,790,513
NYC Health + Hospitals	
Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund-Reimbursement to Hospitals & Health Care Providers	At least \$449,000
Delay in Cuts to Medicaid DSH Program	327,450
Temporary Suspension of Medicare Sequester	22,500
Medicare DRG Add-On Payment For COVID-19 Patients	At Least 13,900
Community Health Care Centers	4,400
Covid-19 Telehealth Program	1,000
Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program	353
Subtotal NYC Health + Hospitals	At least \$818,603
New York City Public Housing	
Public Housing Operating Fund	\$149,860
Section 8 Tenant Based Vouchers	62,000
Subtotal New York Public Housing	\$211,860
CUNY-Senior, Graduate, Honors, And Professional Colleges	
Education Stabilization Fund: Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund	\$158,000
Subtotal CUNY-Senior, Graduate, Honors, and Professional Colleges	\$158,000
Total Related Agencies	\$4,978,976

SOURCE: IBO analysis of the Federal Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2020; the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, 2020; Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act, 2020; and the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act, 2020

NOTES: These figures represent IBO's best projections based on available data and IBO's estimates of local funding allocations, as the details of many of the legislations' funding formulas have yet to be released. IBO did not include costs reimbursed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency in this estimate. Figures for NYC Health+Hospitals represent IBO estimates based on the low-end of possible federal funding. For additional details, please see text.

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\$100.0 billion for the reimbursement fund and the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Enhancement Act increased it by another \$75.0 billion.

The language in the CARES Act provided few details on how to allocate these funds, but the Department of Health and Human Services has since announced guidance on awarding the first \$72.4 billion. This includes a \$50 billion "general allocation," \$10 billion allocation

for “high-impact areas,” a \$2.0 billion allocation for treatment of the uninsured, \$10.0 billion for rural health centers and \$400.0 million for Indian Health Services.

IBO estimates that H+H will receive at least \$449.0 million from the general and high-impact area allocations. Medicare providers effected by Covid-19 are awarded funds from the general allocation based on their net patient revenue in 2018. We expect this will result in \$60 million for H+H. The high-impact area allocation is distributed based on the number of intensive care beds and Covid-19 patient admissions. IBO estimates H+H will receive \$389.0 million from this allocation. H+H will also likely receive funds for treatment of the uninsured, however, it is unclear how much. (H+H is ineligible for the rural and Indian Health allocations). There is little information on how the remaining \$102.6 billion authorized will be allocated.

The second major provision in the CARES Act affecting H+H is a 20 percent increase in the weighting factor of the assigned Medicare Diagnosis-Related Group (DRG) for patients with Covid-19. The DRG determines how much the federal government pays for Medicare fee-for-service-eligible patients. How much federal funding this brings to H+H depends on how many New Yorkers are infected during the public health emergency, and of those, the share that are hospitalized, Medicare fee-for-service eligible, and treated in the city’s public hospitals.

If 20 percent of city residents are infected, and of those 15 percent are hospitalized, and 15 percent of those hospitalized require intensive care, IBO estimates the effect of the increase to the DRG payment for H+H, based on H+H’s current share of the city’s Medicare-eligible patients, will be \$13.9 million. If the infected share of the population were 60 percent (again with 15 percent

hospitalized and 15 percent of the hospitalized patients requiring intensive care) then the increase in DRG rates would result in \$41.6 million of additional H+H revenue.

Other provisions of aid bills are likely to provide additional funding for H+H, but are difficult to estimate, including free coronavirus testing for the uninsured through Medicaid, and funding for H+H’s community health centers and for health centers that provide graduate medical education. H+H is also eligible to receive FEMA reimbursements for emergency costs. These are not included in this estimate.

New York City Housing Authority. IBO estimates the New York City Housing Authority will receive \$211.9 million through two provisions of the CARES Act. The first provides additional operating support to public housing agencies to compensate for decreases in rental payments resulting from reductions in tenants’ incomes. (NYCHA residents pay a fixed share of their income in rent, so when tenants’ incomes decline, the rents NYCHA collects decline as well.) HUD has announced the authority will receive \$149.9 million through this provision. NYCHA also administers most of the city’s Housing Choice Vouchers (Section 8) and it expects to receive around \$62.0 million under the CARES Act to help cover increased subsidy costs resulting from reductions in tenants’ income.

CUNY. IBO estimates CUNY’s senior colleges, graduate institutions, and professional schools will receive \$158.0 million from the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund established as part of the Education Stabilization Fund in the CARES Act. This is in addition to the \$79.0 million for CUNY community colleges that IBO expects to flow through the city budget.

statewide. New York City is slated to receive \$716.9 million in school aid from the CARES Act, just equal to the \$716.9 million Pandemic Adjustment reduction included in the state’s budget for fiscal year 2021.

Awards from the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund are distributed directly to colleges and universities using a formula based on the shares of full-time students who are Pell Grant recipients. According to the U.S. Department of Education, the city university’s (CUNY) community colleges will receive \$79.0 million, a third of the \$237.0 million allocated to all CUNY schools (CUNY senior colleges,

graduate institutions, and professional schools are not included in the city’s budget. See side bar above).

The CARES Act also provides supplemental funding for the city’s Child Nutrition Programs, which include the National School Lunch Program, the School Breakfast Program, and the Child and Adult Care Food Program. This funding is intended to provide grants to districts for planning and coordination of food service during the pandemic. With schools now scheduled to remain closed through the rest of the school year, IBO projects that the city’s Department of Education could receive about \$33.0 million

in reimbursements under the program. An additional \$9.7 million will go to the city's Head Start program under the CARES Act.

The CARES Act increases the city's Child Care and Development Block Grant by \$88.3 million; \$22.7 million of the aid will flow to the Department of Education and \$65.6 million to the Administration for Children's Services, according to IBO estimates.

IBO Social Services and Criminal Justice Programs. IBO projects that federal coronavirus relief aid for a variety of city social service and criminal justice programs will total \$83.8 million. The largest share of these funds (\$32.0 million) is expected through a CARES Act increase to the Community Services Block Grant, which funds a variety of programs largely through the city's Department of Youth and Community Development.

IBO estimates that city programs providing meals to seniors impacted by Covid-19 will receive a total of \$18.3 million through funding included in both the Families First Coronavirus Response Act and the CARES Act. (The CARES Act also increased funds available for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, also

known as food stamps. These funds are paid directly to recipients, so they do not flow through the city budget. Based on the assumption that city residents will benefit from the same share of the increase as they received under the national program last year, IBO expects that New Yorkers could receive \$620 million.)

Other social services programs expected to receive increased aid under the CARES Act include: the Low Income Housing Energy Assistance Program (\$7.4 million); services for populations living with HIV/AIDS through the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS program (\$6.3 million); and about \$1.0 million in increased child welfare funding.

Lastly, IBO estimates the city could receive an approximately \$12.8 million increase in Justice Assistance Grant funding through the CARES Act to help cover costs incurred by the police department, Department of Correction, and the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice, as well as \$6.0 million in Election Security Grant funding to help cover coronavirus-related costs during the 2020 election cycle.

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