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Mississippi River Cities & Towns Initiative

An Association of United States Mayors
A 2020 Vision for Our Corridor



March 16, 2020

The management of COVID-19 is a fluid process, and the federal government is quickly working to develop their plan at this time. The virus further complicates disaster and emergency response as we struggle to contain the disease while responding to other natural disasters. Below is a resource sheet for various top-line needs as communicated by our Mayors during a poll taken March 13-15.

1. Need additional Personal Protective Equipment, Virus Testing Resources, and treatment-
 - 1.1. [CDC is awarding \\$560 million to State Government](#), [See Specific State Award Amounts](#), check with your state department of health about these resources
 - 1.2. Nearly \$1 billion has been made available at the federal level for procurement of pharmaceuticals and medical supplies, to support healthcare preparedness and Community Health Centers- Check this website for updates on this funding- <https://bphc.hrsa.gov/about/index.html>
 - 1.3. \$1 billion in funding is expected to be awarded to the National Disaster Medical System to reimburse the costs of COVID19 diagnostic testing and services provided to individuals without health insurance- Guidance expected later
 - 1.4. You can request assistance through your state for assistance from the National Disaster Medical System- <https://www.phe.gov/Preparedness/responders/ndms/Pages/default.aspx>
2. Children and Family Resources-
 - 2.1. Seniors - \$250 million is expected for the Senior Nutrition program in the Administration for Community Living (ACL) to provide approximately 25 million additional home-delivered and pre-packaged meals to low-income seniors who depend on the Senior Nutrition programs in their communities- <https://acl.gov/>
 - 2.2. Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women Infants and Children (WIC) – \$500 million is expected to provide access to nutritious foods to low-income pregnant women or mothers with young children who lose their jobs or are laid off due to the COVID-19 emergency - <https://www.fns.usda.gov/wic>

- 1.1. Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) – \$400 million is expected to assist local food banks to meet increased demand for low-income Americans during the emergency.- <https://www.fns.usda.gov/tefap/emergency-food-assistance-program>
 - 1.2. A bill passed by Congress is expected to provide numerous resources and changes to maintain school lunches- <https://www.fns.usda.gov/nsfp>
 - 1.3. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP formerly Food Stamps)- work requirements are expected to be delayed and allows states to increase flexibility needed to meet the increased demand.
 - 1.4. Unemployment assistance- \$1 billion in 2020 for emergency grants to states for activities related to processing and paying unemployment insurance (UI) benefits, under certain conditions
 - 1.5. Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act. This section requires employers with fewer than 500 employees and government employers to provide employees two weeks of paid sick leave, paid at the employee's regular rate, to quarantine or seek a diagnosis or preventive care for coronavirus; or paid at two-thirds the employee's regular rate to care for a family member for such purposes or to care for a child whose school has closed, or child care provider is unavailable, due to the coronavirus
2. Business and Employee Assistance-
 - 2.1. The Small Business Administration is expected to be awarded \$1 billion in loan awards to provide an estimated \$7 billion in loans- information being put together
 - 2.2. Payroll Credit for Required Paid Sick Leave. A bill expected to become law provides a refundable tax credit equal to 100 percent of qualified paid sick leave wages paid by an employer and certain self-employed individuals for each calendar quarter.
 - 2.3. Payroll Credit for Required Paid Family Leave. A bill expected to be passed by congress provides a refundable tax credit equal to 100 percent of qualified family leave wages paid by an employer or certain self-employed individuals for each calendar quarter
3. Resources for Social Distancing/isolation during a disaster-
 - 3.1. General CDC Guidance on COVID-19 - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/community-mitigation-strategy.pdf>
 - 3.2. CDC guidelines for patients with COVID-19 - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/infection-control/control-recommendations.html>

3.3. CDC guidance on evaluating and testing patients with COVID-19-

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/clinical-criteria.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fclinical-criteria.html

4. Allowing home bound workers to continue working in a disaster-

4.1. – Pending

As we continue to monitor the situation and coordinate resources as well as opportunities to build capacity, we will keep the Mayors of MRCTI informed completely. If any Mayors have questions or need clarity/assistance pertaining to any of the above, please do not hesitate to contact the staff at any time.

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