



CONSORTIUM *of* SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS

Analysis of Enacted COVID-19 Supplemental Funding Legislation, FY 2020 | March 31, 2020

Over the past month, Congress has passed three large stimulus bills in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Together, the three bills comprise the largest economic stimulus package in American history and touch nearly all aspects of American life, including scientific research, support for key economic sectors and small businesses, direct financial support to Americans, and boosts to social safety net programs. All three bills enacted in response to the crisis, so far, have been supplemental appropriations bills, meaning they provide funds to federal agencies and programs *in addition to* what has already been appropriated for the current fiscal year (FY 2020), which began on October 1, 2019. It remains to be seen how this infusion of funds will impact, if at all, appropriations for next fiscal year (FY 2021), beginning on October 1, 2020. Follow COSSA's FY 2021 coverage [here](#).

The House of Representatives and Senate are in recess until further notice. Still, Congress is expected to consider additional stimulus legislation in the months ahead. Below are summaries of the three bills that have been enacted so far.

HR 6074, Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act

The first supplemental appropriations measure was signed into law on March 6. The bill provides \$61 million for the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), \$2.2 billion for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), \$3 billion for research and development of vaccines, therapeutics, and diagnostics, including \$826 million for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to support basic research on these topics. The legislation also included small business loans, support for community health centers, funds for the state department, and expansion of telehealth services. Full details of the first stimulus are available [online](#).

HR 6201, Families First Coronavirus Response Act

The second supplemental appropriations bill, signed into law on March 18, focuses primarily on support to families and individuals in most need. It expanded social safety net programs, including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), in addition to other nutrition programs for children and the elderly. The bill also expanded family and medical leave and unemployment insurance to assist Americans struggling with unemployment during the pandemic. Full details of the second stimulus are available [online](#).

HR 748, Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act

The most recent and largest of the three bills, the *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act*, also known as the CARES Act, was signed into law on March 27. In addition to expanding social safety net programs, providing grants and loans to business, and allocating funds for direct cash payments to Americans, the law provides funding increases for federal science agencies, including several important to the social and behavioral sciences (see the below table for details). In addition, the package provides \$14.25 billion to higher education institutions,

with roughly half allocated to students and the rest “to support institutions as they cope with the immediate effects of coronavirus and school closures.”

Research Funding Highlights in the CARES Act:

- National Institutes of Health**—The CARES Act provides a significant infusion of money to NIH, including \$103.4 million for the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI), \$706 million for the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, \$60 million for the National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering (NIBIB), \$10 million for the National Library of Medicine (NLM), \$36 million for the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS), and \$30 million for the Office of the Director (OD). Each institute, center, or office is directed to use the allocated funds to “prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus, domestically and internationally.” You can learn more about NIH’s COVID-19 response activities on its [website](#).
- National Science Foundation**—The CARES Act provides the National Science Foundation (NSF) with \$75 million for the Research and Related Activities Account, which is responsible for funding all of NSF’s research directorates, excluding Education and Human Resources (EHR), to support research grants and other necessary expenses related to coronavirus. It is likely that the majority of funds will be made available to researchers through Rapid Response Research (RAPID) awards. NSF was also provided with \$1 million for its Agency Operations and Award Management account to help administer research grants and other necessary expenses.
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**—Of the \$4.3 billion included in the CARES Act for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), \$500 million is allocated for “public health data surveillance and analytics infrastructure modernization.” While further details are not yet available, this funding appears to be an expansion of a \$50 million initiative established in FY 2020, coordinated within CDC’s Public Health Scientific Services division. COSSA has joined other public health stakeholders in requesting funding for public health data modernization both in [FY 2020](#) and FY 2021 (forthcoming). The [FY 2020 omnibus bill](#) directed the CDC to release a multi-year strategy for these funds, as well as an innovation strategy for the CDC’s principal statistics agency, the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS). However, the release of these plans has likely been delayed by the pandemic. These plans will likely contain more information about the CDC’s priorities in this area, including whether NCHS is likely to receive a significant share for [much-needed modernization activities](#).

Full details of the third stimulus are available [online](#).

Snapshot of FY 2020 Supplemental Funding to Federal Science Agencies
(Across all three stimulus bills)

Federal Agency	FY 2020 Supplement Funding
National Institutes of Health	\$1.78 billion ¹
National Science Foundation	\$76 million
Department of Defense Research and Development (including Defense Health)	\$415 million

¹ \$826 million in HR 6074 and \$945 million in HR 748

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention	\$6.5 billion ²
National Endowment for the Humanities	\$75 million
Institute of Museum and Library Services	\$50 million
National Aeronautics and Space Administration	\$60 million
Smithsonian Institution	\$7.5 million
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	\$20 million
Department of Energy office of Science	\$99.5 million

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² \$2.2 billion in HR 6074 and \$4.3 billion in HR 748