

# **Congressional Native American Caucus**

*Co-Chairs Tom Cole (Okla.-04) & Deb Haaland (NM-01)*

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**Tribal Priorities Included in *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act***  
*Bipartisan Congressional Native American Caucus leadership helped secure the following funding to protect the health & economic security of Indian Country*

## **Healthcare**

- \$1.032 billion for the Indian Health Service (IHS) Services Account
  - Includes up to \$65 million for electronic health record stabilization and support
  - Includes up to \$125 million for IHS Facilities
  - At least \$450 million shall be distributed to Direct Service Tribes and Self-Governance Tribes
  - \$125 million may be transferred to and merged with the “Indian Health Service, Indian Health Facilities” account

## **Public Health**

- \$1.5 billion for CDC grants and cooperative agreements of which Indian Tribes, Tribal Organizations, and Urban Indian Health Organizations are eligible to apply; and
- Minimum \$125 million for CDC set-aside funding directly to Indian Tribes, Tribal Organizations, and Urban Indian Health Organizations
  - Funding is for surveillance, epidemiology, laboratory capacity, infection control, mitigation, communications, and other preparedness and response activities
- Minimum \$15 million in set-aside funding for Tribes and Tribal organizations under Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)
  - Funding is for mental and behavioral health services in response to COVID-19
- Minimum \$15 million from the Public Health Service and Social Services Emergency Fund
- Minimum \$15 million telehealth and rural health activities set-aside funding for Tribes, Tribal organizations, urban Indian health organizations, or health service providers under Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)
  - Funding is for health surveillance and other needs under the HRSA Rural Health program
- Extension of the Special Diabetes Program for Indians through November 30, 2020
- Extension of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program through November 30, 2020

## **Tribal Governance & Housing/Community Development**

- \$453 million for Indian Affairs Operation of Indian Programs until September 30, 2021
- \$300 million under the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA)
  - \$200 million is for Native American Housing Block Grants (IHBG) formula
  - \$100 million is for Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG)
  - \$5 million for Office of Public and Indian Housing
- \$4.5 million for tribal domestic violence shelters through the Family Violence and Prevention Services Act (10 percent tribal set-aside from \$45 million)
- \$900 million for Low Income Home Energy Assistance (LIHEAP) which includes Tribal LIHEAP

## **Nutrition**

- \$100 million for the Food Distribution Program for Indians Reservations (FDPIR)
  - \$50 million is for facility improvements and equipment upgrades
  - \$50 million is for additional food purchases
- \$20 million for Older American Act, Tribal Nutrition Program. Provides funds for the delivery of nutrition services to American Indians, Alaska Natives, and native Hawaiian elders
- \$8.8 billion for Child Nutrition Programs

### **Education**

- \$69 million for Operation of Indian Education Programs until September 30, 2021
  - Minimum \$20 million for Tribal Colleges and Universities
  - \$3 billion for Child Care and Development Block Grant
- \$78,000 for Institute of American Indian and Alaska Native Culture and Arts Development
- Education Stabilization Fund:
  - \$153,750,000 set aside from the Education Stabilization Fund for programs operated or funded by the Bureau of Indian Education
  - \$1.046 billion for Parts A and B of title III, Parts A and B of title V, and subpart (A)(4) of title VII of the Higher Education Act, which serves Minority Serving Institutions, including but is not limited to, Tribal Colleges and Universities, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian Serving Institutions, and Native American Serving Non-tribal Institutions
- Access to Institute of Museum and Library Services grants
  - \$50 million to expand digital network access, purchase internet accessible devices, and provide technical support services:
  - Any matching funds requirements for tribal nations are waived for grants provided with funds made available under Institute of Museum and Library Service grants
- BIE and tribally-controlled schools are eligible for Department of Education streamlined waivers for statutory and regulatory requirements related to assessments, accountability, and reporting requirement, in addition to other grant requirements such as restrictions on carryover funding limitations and certain requirements under the Student Supports and Academic Enrichment Grants program, including the needs assessment, certain spending restrictions, and the limitation on technology spending

### **Economic Relief**

- Coronavirus Relief Fund
  - \$8 billion set-aside for Tribal Governments to use for expenditures incurred due to the COVID-19 public health emergency
- Coronavirus Economic Stabilization Act of 2020
  - Provides \$454 billion for loans, loan guarantees, and investments in support of the Federal Reserve's lending facilities to eligible businesses, states (Indian Tribes are included), and municipalities
- Keeping American Workers Paid and Employed Act
  - Makes Tribes eligible for the Small Business Act Section 7(a) Paycheck Protection Program, which provides 100% federal loan guarantees up to \$10 million to cover costs like employee salaries, paid sick leave/medical leave, mortgages/rents, and employee health insurance premiums. Includes Tribal businesses
- Emergency Unemployment Relief for Governmental Entities and Nonprofit Organizations

- During the period of the national emergency, the federal government would pay a 50 percent reimbursement for the cost of unemployment compensation paid by Indian Tribes that are reimbursement-option employers
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- Emergency Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) Grants—Tribal small businesses eligible.
- Nursing Workforce Development Amendments—Includes IHS Community Health Aides.
- Health Professions Workforce Programs— Qualified Tribes or tribal organizations may be prioritized for awards
- Priority for Geriatrics Education and Training Grants for applicants with programs or activities that are expected to serve older adults in Indian Tribes or Tribal Organizations
- Extension of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program through November 30, 2020