

The Trump Administration Is Supporting the People of Connecticut

“We have the best doctors, the best military leaders, and the best logistics professionals anywhere in the world. And we’re orchestrating a massive Federal response unlike anything our country has ever seen.”

– President Donald J. Trump

Overview: Response and recovery efforts are locally executed, State managed, and Federally supported. Successful emergency management requires nationwide cooperation and unity of effort, combining the strength and ingenuity of our citizens and private sector with a sweeping, all-inclusive, and whole-of-government response. The below is a partial overview of Federal assistance provided to the State of Connecticut and the people of Connecticut to combat the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). The information is bolstered by hundreds of additional actions by the Federal government to help the people of Connecticut. Implementation of the CARES Act is ongoing which will also bring additional support to Connecticut. President Donald J. Trump and Vice President Mike Pence have appreciated the strong State-Federal partnership with Governor Ned Lamont.

Supportive Actions by President Donald J. Trump:

- **President Trump Declares a National Emergency:** On March 13, President Trump **declared** a national emergency concerning COVID-19. The emergency declaration authorized direct Federal assistance, temporary facilities, commodities, equipment, and emergency operation costs for all states, including Connecticut, pursuant to section 501(b) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act.
- **Connecticut’s Major Disaster Declaration:** On March 26, Governor Lamont submitted a major disaster declaration request to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). On March 28, President Trump **approved** the request declaring a major disaster in the State of Connecticut and ordered Federal assistance to supplement State, local, and tribal recovery efforts in the areas affected by COVID-19. For the first time in our Nation’s history, every state and territory has a presidential disaster declaration at the same time.
- **Historic Economic Relief:** On March 27, President Trump signed the CARES Act into law. The law provides unprecedented economic relief to American citizens, small businesses, workers, healthcare providers, and State, local, and tribal governments and builds on the *Families First Coronavirus Response Act*. More **here**. Additional Connecticut allocation information is found below.
- **National Guard Support:** On March 30, President Trump **directed** FEMA to fund 100% of the emergency assistance activities provided by Connecticut National Guard personnel in Title 32 duty status, per Governor Lamont’s request.

Testing, Resource & Logistics Support: FEMA is working with the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS), other Federal agencies, and private sector partners, to produce, allocate, and distribute key resources to Connecticut. Most notably, these include personal protective equipment (PPE), ventilators, and the expedition of critical supplies from overseas to various U.S. locations.

- HHS, the Centers for Disaster Control and Prevention (CDC), and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), are providing unprecedented regulatory flexibilities, resources, and guidance to expand the availability of testing and to assist States, including Connecticut, in scaling testing. Learn more from the CDC **here** and FDA **here**.
- The Federal government is supporting mobile testing efforts to increase testing capacity and availability in Connecticut.
- In support of the White House Coronavirus Task Force, FEMA and HHS are coordinating a whole-of-America approach to source personal protective equipment (PPE), ventilators, and other critical resources for States, Tribes, and Territories. The effort is led by Rear Admiral John Polowczyk of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. For more on the Supply Chain Stabilization Task Force, read more **here**.

- The Trump Administration is coordinating [Project Air Bridge](#), a coordinated public-private partnership designed to expedite the movement of critical supplies from other countries to the United States. The below table shows recently delivered supplies to Connecticut entities, including Project Air Bridge efforts to bolster private sector supply chains.

| PPE | April 1 - 7 | April 8 - 14 | Total |
|--|--------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| N-95 Masks | 150,000 | 86,100 | 236,100 |
| Surgical & Procedural Masks | 364,400 | 322,700 | 687,100 |
| Eye & Face Shields | 8,300 | 3,200 | 11,500 |
| Isolation & Surgical Gowns | 358,700 | 460,500 | 819,200 |
| Surgical & Exam Gloves | 8,780,700 | 6,210,500 | 14,991,200 |

- In addition to the Project Air Bridge efforts, as of April 14, FEMA delivered 350 ventilators, 211,586 N-95 masks, 521,734 surgical masks, 412,017 medical gowns, 3,658 coveralls, 94,470 face shields, and 459,068 gloves from the Strategic National Stockpile to Connecticut.
- As of April 15, FEMA obligated \$20.8 M for Connecticut to respond to COVID-19 and will continue to obligate additional dollars per validated State requests.
- The Defense Logistics Agency awarded a contract to Battelle Critical Care Decontamination Systems for 60 N95 decontamination system units for the sanitation and reuse of N95 respirators. A system is currently deployed in Connecticut.

Federal Agency Support: The Trump Administration continues to provide unprecedented resources, guidance, and regulatory flexibilities for State, local and tribal governments to develop and deploy innovative solutions for addressing COVID-19.

- **U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS)**
 - Through the Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provided \$12.4 M to the State of Connecticut. More [here](#).
 - As of April 21, HHS has awarded \$15.9 M in CARES Act funding to 16 health centers across Connecticut to assist in combatting COVID-19. More [here](#).
 - Medical providers in Connecticut were allocated \$377.9 M for the first round of funding from the Provider Relief Fund, with most of that provided Friday, April 10.
 - As of April 21, the State of Connecticut has received a total of \$435.6 M from HHS, through the Provider Relief Fund, CDC State and local funding, HRSA health centers, and other HHS grants.
 - The Indian Health Service (IHS) has allocated a total of \$789 K to the State of Connecticut, benefiting IHS and Tribal Health programs within the IHS Nashville Area. More [here](#).
 - On March 23, the State of Connecticut submitted an 1135 Medicaid Waiver request to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid (CMS). On March 27, CMS **approved** Connecticut’s waiver request offering new flexibilities to focus resources on combatting the outbreak and providing the best possible care to Medicaid beneficiaries in Connecticut.
 - HHS, CMS, and FDA have issued guidance on several topics to help inform decisions made by State and local health officials and private sector partners, including operational guidance for Connecticut nursing homes, telemedicine, elective surgery, and insurers. Learn more from CMS [here](#), CDC [here](#), and FDA [here](#)
- **U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA)**
 - As a result of the CARES Act, the SBA created four **additional loan/funding programs** to assist businesses impacted by COVID-19. As of April 16, the SBA issued over \$4.1 B in loans to over 18,000

Connecticut small businesses. Nationally, SBA executed more loans in 14 days of the CARES Act implementation than the agency had done in the previous 14 years.

- On March 16, SBA **declared** an economic disaster in Connecticut at the request of Governor Lamont. The disaster declaration creates access to low interest loans for small businesses across Connecticut. As of April 20, the SBA has approved 9,549 Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) advances of up to \$10,000 for Connecticut small businesses impacted by COVID-19; these funds, as authorized by the CARES Act, do not need to be repaid and have totaled more than \$41 M in the State of Connecticut.

- **U.S. Department of the Treasury (USDT)**

- Economic Impact Payments authorized by the CARES Act have gone out to 80 million Americans in Connecticut and across the country as of Monday, April 13. These payments are being automatically issued to eligible 2019 or 2018 federal tax return filers who received a refund using direct deposit. More [here](#). Social Security recipients who do not file tax returns will automatically receive economic impact payments. More [here](#).
- Treasury is operationalizing stimulus relief to States, Tribes, and eligible units of local government as authorized under the CARES Act's Coronavirus Relief Fund. The State of Connecticut, combined with eligible units of local government in the State that apply, will receive over \$1.3 B. As of April 20, governmental entities in the State of Connecticut have already received \$691 M of this allocation. More [here](#).
- On April 9, the Department of the Treasury and Federal Reserve launched a Main Street Business Lending program and a Municipal Liquidity Facility (MLF) to support the flow of credit to American workers, businesses, states, counties, and cities in Connecticut and across the Nation impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The MLF will provide up to \$500 B in direct financing to states, counties, and cities across the Nation to help ensure they have the funds necessary to provide essential services to citizens and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. More [here](#). MLF term sheet and guidance can be found [here](#).

- **U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)**

- HUD made over \$36.6 M in COVID-19 funding available to Connecticut via CARES Act authorizations. More [here](#).
- On April 1, HUD implemented the CARES Act requirement to provide up to one year of payment forbearance for Federal Housing Administration (FHA) that single-family borrowers in Connecticut and across the Nation who are experiencing financial hardship due to COVID-19. More [here](#).
- On April 10, HUD implemented the CARES Act requirement to provide FHA multifamily borrowers in Connecticut and across the Nation with forbearance for up to three months if they agree not to evict tenants during that period. More [here](#).

- **U.S. Department of Labor (DOL)**

- As a result of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, DOL **expanded paid sick, family, and medical leave**; the Department has offered flexibilities and emergency administrative capacity expansion grants for unemployment insurance that will help the people of Connecticut.
- DOL has awarded over \$5.9 M in emergency unemployment insurance grants and \$7 M in dislocated worker grants to the State of Connecticut.

- **U.S. Department of Education (DoED)**

- On March 20, DoED **suspended** Federal student loan payments and waived interest during the Federal emergency, which could help up to 446,400 direct loan borrowers in Connecticut.
- DoED has also provided unprecedented reporting flexibilities to Connecticut to allow the State to best meet the needs of students and teachers during the emergency. More [here](#) and [here](#).
- In April, DoED announced allocations under the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund of the CARES Act totaling more than \$141.2 M to support postsecondary education students and institutions of higher education in Connecticut. More [here](#) and [here](#).
- On April 14, DoED **announced** an allocation in The Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund (GEERF), authorized by the CARES Act, of more than \$27.8 M for Connecticut. This is an

extraordinarily flexible “emergency block grant” designed to enable governors to decide how best to meet the needs of students, schools (including charter schools and non-public schools), postsecondary institutions, and other education-related organizations. More [here](#).

- **U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)**

- On April 17, Secretary Perdue joined President Trump in announcing the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program ([CFAP](#)) to assist farmers, ranchers, and consumers in Connecticut and across the Nation in response to COVID-19. This \$19 B relief program will provide \$16 B in direct support based on actual losses for agricultural producers and \$3 B in purchases of fresh produce, dairy and meat, including producers in Connecticut.
- USDA has provided numerous flexibilities and resources to the State of Connecticut to ensure children and low income Americans have access to food during the national emergency. More [here](#).
- USDA published a [COVID-19 Federal Rural Resource Guide](#) for rural residents, businesses, and communities across Connecticut to find information about federal funding and partnership opportunities during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- **U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT)**

- DOT allocated \$489 M in Federal Transit Administration funds to help the Connecticut public transportation systems respond to the challenges of COVID-19. More [here](#).
- DOT awarded \$30.3 M from the Federal Aviation Administration to help fund continuing operations and lost revenue for airports in Connecticut. More [here](#).

- **U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)**

- With the \$19.6 B allocated under the CARES Act, the VA is hiring new staff and procuring additional resources to deal with the evolving needs of the pandemic. This includes expanding free or subsidized telehealth services and waiving a requirement that VA State homes maintain a 90 percent occupancy rate in order to receive federal benefits for times when the Veteran is not in the home. More [here](#).
- The VA traditionally provides Veterans’ healthcare, benefits and memorial affairs. In times of national crisis, such as the current COVID-19 pandemic, VA provides services to the Nation based on requests from states, while being clear that Veterans are our first priority. This is known as VA’s [Fourth Mission](#). The VA has provided homeless outreach and telehealth services assistance to the State of Connecticut.
- The U.S. Department of the Treasury and VA [announced](#) that VA benefit recipients in Connecticut and across the Nation will automatically receive \$1,200 in Economic Impact Payments provided for under the CARES Act.
- On April 3, the VA announced a number of actions to provide Veterans in Connecticut and across the Nation with financial, benefits and claims help as part of the VA’s COVID-19 response. The financial relief actions include – until further notice – (i) suspending all actions on Veteran debts under the jurisdiction of the Treasury Department and (ii) suspending collection action or extending repayment terms on preexisting VA debts, as the Veteran prefers. More [here](#).

- **U.S. Department of State (DOS)**

- The State Department launched an unprecedented global effort to bring home citizens from every corner of the globe and has repatriated thousands of Americans from multiple countries. As of April 17, DOS has coordinated the repatriation of nearly 70,000 Americans, including individuals from Connecticut. More [here](#).

- **U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ)**

- DOJ allocated over \$8.6 M in funds to Connecticut through the [Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding \(CESF\) Program](#) to assist the State and local government response to COVID-19. This includes over \$5.87 M in funding to the State and over \$2.76 M to local governments. More [here](#).