



**March 27, 2020**

## **What is IN & OUT of the Stimulus Package**

The Senate unanimously passed out the \$2.2 trillion CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security) Act and the House is expected to vote it out today followed by a prompt signature by the president. A unanimous vote is rare in Washington, D.C.

This stimulus package includes some crucial elements for people with I/DD and their families. However, there are also provisions included we are opposed to or were completely left out.

We made great progress, but there is still more for us to do!

**According to The Arc of the United States, here is what is IN the CARES Act:**

- The exemption of non-profits who receive Medicaid has been removed. Including non-profit organizations that receive Medicaid funds is important for our chapters.
- Tax credits to cover the cost of paying for paid sick days and expanded FMLA are made refundable. The IRS will be issuing forms and guidance for businesses to use.
- Money Follows the Person (MFP) and spousal impoverishment protections are extended through Nov. 30, 2020. We hope to make this extension permanent.
- Allows people receiving home and community-based services (HCBS) under 1915 (C) waivers to have their direct support professional (DSP) assist them during a short-term hospital stay.
- Includes new stimulus payments for low-income people. Unfortunately, people on SSI will have to have filed 2018 taxes or file 2019 taxes in order to receive the payment. These payments are not counted as income and are not counted as assets for 12 months.
- Mandated access to a 3-month supply of medications for people on Medicare who need to isolate because of their pre-existing condition. This does not include controlled substances.
- Additional education funds that can be used for various education programs, including IDEA.



## **How You Can Help**

- **Share Action Alerts**
- **Take/Share short videos- Why our services are ESSENTIAL?**
- **Share content with The Arc of Indiana**
- **Share stories/issues with Congressional delegation**
- **KEEP BEING AWESOME!**

**\*You are the key to us being successful. Thank you for your help!**

- A directive for the Secretary of Education to make recommendations for waivers for education laws, including IDEA (we oppose this).
- Funding for HUD programs, including \$4 billion for Emergency Solutions Grants for homelessness assistance, \$5 billion in Community Development Block Grants, \$1.25 billion for the Housing Choice Voucher program, \$1 billion for project based rental assistance, and \$15 million for Section 811 housing for Persons with Disabilities, along with many other important programs.
- It includes time-limited foreclosure protection for homeowners with federally backed mortgages. If owners request forbearance (for a reduced or suspended mortgage payment), they must commit to not evicting tenants. This applies to both multifamily and single-family units.
- There's a broad moratorium on eviction for tenants with subsidized rent.

**What is NOT in the bill:**

- Adequate Medicaid funding to ensure states can provide care to everyone who needs it.
- HCBS grants to support DSP and Home Health Workforce and to support aging adults and people with disabilities in their homes and communities.
- Any language acknowledging the need of DSPs/Providers for personal protective equipment (PPE) or other medical supplies.
- Permanent extension of MFP. This program has already received short term extensions FIVE times at this point, which creates ongoing uncertainty.
- There's no way for people on SSI to easily get their rebates. This is an easy fix that SSA could do in a few days with a new form they send to the Treasury, and The Arc is asking both the Administration and Congress to fix this problem.
- No boost to Social Security or SSI and no new SNAP funding. There was a \$15 billion boost to SNAP that is appropriated in this bill, but it's providing money for a commitment made in the last bill, not "new" money.
- No 3-month supply of medications for people on Medicaid or other health coverage, and the Medicare provisions do not cover controlled substances (such as some epilepsy medications).
- A moratorium on all residential evictions. Some renters and homeowners are not still protected unless there's a moratorium at the state or local level.

Once the CARES Act passes the House, our 11 congressional members will be coming home this weekend for two weeks. This is a great opportunity to share information with them about what is going on in your local community with services, and to educate them why the services you provide are essential.

A fourth stimulus package awaits their work once they are back in Washington, D.C. This last package provides us the opportunity to focus on the I/DD population and to get solutions to issues Hoosiers with disabilities, their families and local providers are currently facing.

**[Continue to utilize The Arc of the United States and their #WeAreEssential toolkit.](#)**

