

SUMMARY

Final 2020 Spending Bill COVID RELIEF + FY 21 APPROPRIATIONS



While this massive spending bill isn't yet law, we have put together this bill summary for our partners in this work to ensure a safe place to call home for every young person in America.

WHAT IS MISSING FROM THE RELIEF BILL

- No additional funding or flexibility for the vital Runaway and Homeless Youth Act program.
- The critically needed [Emergency Family Stabilization Act](#) was not included, which leaves a gaping hole in the federal response to child, youth, and family homelessness in light of the pandemic.
- No dedicated funding for the Education for Homeless Children and Youth Act program.
- No language to help make it easier for youth experiencing homelessness to access the stimulus payments.

THE STIMULUS PAYMENT ADVICE WE HAVE BEEN ASKED TO SHARE: Help youth file a 2020 tax return and open a bank account. This will make it more possible for them to access the stimulus payment in 2021. We will continue to provide information and updates as we receive them.

WHAT IS IN THE RELIEF BILL

RENTAL ASSISTANCE

- \$25 billion for emergency rental assistance for those eligible. Renters will be eligible for relief if their household income is below 80% of the area median income (which varies by county and household size), and someone living there:
 - has qualified for unemployment benefits, has lost part of their income or has experienced financial hardship because of Covid-19, or
 - can show that they are at risk of losing their home.

EVICTIION MORATORIUM

- The federal eviction moratorium is extended through January 31st, 2021

STIMULUS PAYMENTS

- Direct payment stimulus checks:
 - \$600 for individuals making up to \$75,000 a year;
 - \$1,200 for couples making up to \$150,000 (families are also eligible for \$600 per dependent child under 17).

FOR NONPROFITS

Paycheck Protection Program

The Act authorizes the Small Business Administration (SBA) to reopen the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) to provide potentially forgivable loans of \$2M or less to small businesses, including nonprofits.

As before, loan amounts should be calculated as 2.5 times the average monthly payroll for the one-year period prior to the date of the loan. Applicants may still elect an 8- or 24-week covered period and must spend at least 60% of the loan amount on payroll costs.

Other key provisions include:

- For the first time, 501(c)(6) nonprofits, such as professional societies and local chambers of commerce, are now eligible to apply for a PPP loan, provided they have fewer than 300 employees and do not receive more than 15% (or more than \$1M) of their total revenue from lobbying.
- Marketing organizations, newspapers and radio stations, and housing cooperatives are now also eligible to apply.
- Organizations that received a loan under the original CARES Act may apply for a second PPP loan. Those organizations must:
 - Have fewer than 300 employees
 - Have used the full amount of their original PPP loan, and
 - Be able to show that their revenues have declined by 25% or more in **any** of the first 3 calendar quarters of 2020. (After January 1, 2021, applicants may also use the 4th quarter of 2020 to prove their eligibility under this standard.)
- The definition of covered non payroll expenses has been expanded to include software, personal protective equipment, supplies essential to the borrower's operations, cloud computing resources such as payroll service providers, human resources and accounting services. In addition, any uninsured costs to repair property damage caused by public disturbances may be claimed as eligible costs.

Updates on PPP Loan Forgiveness:

- The requirement to reduce PPP loan forgiveness by the amount of any Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) advance received has been repealed.
- The loan amount threshold for simplified forgiveness has been increased from \$50,000 to \$150,000. The SBA has 24 days from the date of passage of the Act in which to create a 1-page simplified application.

FAFSA VICTORIES FOR HOMELESS + FOSTER YOUTH

- Eliminates the requirement that unaccompanied homeless youths' status be redetermined every year, which many unaccompanied homeless youth have found to be intrusive, re-traumatizing, and burdensome.

- Expands the list of officials and programs that may verify that an applicant is an unaccompanied homeless youth (and therefore an independent student)
- Requires financial aid administrators (FAAs) to consider and accept as sufficient documentation from one of the authorized entities, unless there is “documented conflicting information.”
- Requires FAAs to make a determination of unaccompanied homeless youth status for youth who cannot get determinations from other authorities.

[The details.](#)

FOSTER YOUTH SPECIFIC PROVISIONS

The Fostering Stable Housing Opportunities Act was included and will:

- Streamline access to Family Unification Vouchers (FUP) vouchers for Public Housing Agencies (PHAs) in more communities, making it easier to serve foster youth anywhere they live
- Extend a foster youth’s FUP voucher for up to an additional 24 months as they are working toward self-sufficiency, including participating in a Family Self Sufficiency program
- Require coordination between PHAs and Public Child Welfare Agencies to identify eligible recipients and help housing agencies to connect youth to supportive services
- Require PHAs to submit information to the Secretary to monitor program outcomes

The Supporting Foster Youth & Families through the Pandemic Act was included and will:

- Provide an additional \$350 million for the Chafee Foster Care Program
- Provide an additional \$50 million for Chafee Education and Training Vouchers (ETV) waiving the state match for these funds
- Provide additional Chafee program flexibility for older older youth in foster care:
 - Suspend certain training and postsecondary education requirements
 - Clarify that under these provisions the Chafee ETV vouchers may be used to maintain training and postsecondary education costs, as well as to support programs to allow foster youth to drive
 - Lift the 30 percent spending cap on housing costs
- Allow older youth "aging out" of foster care to continue to receive foster care supports and services during the pandemic, or if they have already aged out during this period, return to care.
- Waive the state match for Family First Prevention Services until the end of the public emergency health period
- Provide an additional \$85 million in FY 2021 funding for the MaryLee Allen Promoting Safe and Stable Families program which provides states with funding for community-based family support and other prevention services

WHAT IS IN THE FY21 SPENDING BILL

The **RUNAWAY AND HOMELESS YOUTH ACT** program received an overall increase in funding of \$4.359 million, which breaks down to:

Program	FY 21	Increase
Runaway and Homeless Youth Consolidated Programs	\$116.780 million	+ \$3 million
Street Outreach Program	\$20,000 million	+ \$1.359 million
TOTAL	\$136.780 million	+ 4.359 million

Report Language Included for the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act Program:

The Committee supports the ability of grantees to provide prevention services, such as counseling and case management, regardless of enrollment in residential services. The program is encouraged to notify applicants if grant applications were successful at least 30 days before the grant is to begin, or no less than 30 days before an existing grant is set to end.

The Committee strongly urges the program to ensure that service delivery and staff training comprehensively address the individual strengths and needs of youth, as well as be language appropriate, gender appropriate (interventions that are sensitive to the diverse experiences of male, female, and transgender youth and consistent with the gender identity of participating youth), and culturally sensitive and respectful of the complex social identities of youth (i.e., race, ethnicity, nationality, age, religion/spirituality, gender identity/ expression, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, physical or cognitive ability, language, beliefs, values, behavior patterns, or customs). The Committee strongly believes that no runaway youth or homeless youth should be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under, any program or activity funded in whole or in part under the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, based on any of the conditions outlined in this paragraph.

The **EDUCATION FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH ACT** would receive an increase of \$5 million totalling \$106.5 million.

The **HUD HOMELESS ASSISTANCE GRANT** program would receive \$3 billion, including up to \$82 million for Youth Homeless Demonstration Program.

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2021

We have a lot to look forward to in 2021. We are grateful for your partnership and remain steadfast in our commitment to partnering with youth and providers to transform systems so that every young person has a safe place to call home.