

New Federal CARE Act—Stimulus Provisions Impacting Illinois AFSCME Members

Individuals

- “Recovery Rebate” checks sent to all individual tax filers of \$1200 (single) or \$2400 (joint filers) for those earning up to \$75,000 (single) or \$150,000 (joint filers)—plus \$500 per child—based on last federal income tax filing. (Amount of check phases down for those with incomes above these limits.)
- Unemployment insurance benefit increases:
 - An additional \$600/week in UI benefits for up to 4 months;
 - Additional 13 weeks of benefit payments; and
 - Unemployment benefits for part-time workers with job losses due to pandemic.
- Requires health plans to cover COVID-19-related qualifying services and treatments with no plan participant co-payments.

State and Local Government

- Based on population, Illinois will receive \$6 billion for COVID-related expenses: State government will receive an estimated \$3.5 billion; the rest divided among City of Chicago, Cook, DuPage, Lake, Will and Kane County governments.

Non-Profit Agencies

- Non-profits eligible for loans up to 250% of average monthly payroll if employer maintains current payroll (retroactive to 2/15/20) and does not alter collective bargaining agreements and/or remains neutral in union organizing drives.

Hospitals and Health Care Facilities

- Federal aid (approximately \$4 billion in Illinois) to hospitals to cover unreimbursed expenses or revenue lost due to COVID-19.
- Additional federal spending for personal protective equipment, pharmaceuticals, and other medical supplies for hospitals.
- Medicaid DSH cuts to safety net hospitals which were to be implemented in late May are blocked through Nov. 30, 2020.
- Federal Funds for Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics are extended through Nov. 30, 2020.
- Additional funding for Community Health Clinics (estimated \$2 million for Illinois) that care for undocumented and uninsured individuals.

Disaster Relief

- Additional funding of the Federal Emergency Management Agency Disaster Relief Fund to provide for immediate needs of state and local governments (estimated \$1.8 billion for Illinois) to protect citizens and help them recover from COVID-19. Reimbursable activities include medical response, personal protective equipment, National Guard deployment, coordination of logistics, safety measures, and community services nationwide.

Other Public Services

- Additional federal education funding, including an estimated \$540 million for Illinois K-12 schools and \$570 million for Illinois higher education institutions.
- Additional funding (approximately \$120 million for Illinois) for HUD public housing and rental assistance.
- Additional funding (approximately \$30 million in Illinois) for Head Start.

Elections

- Funding (estimated \$16 million for Illinois) to increase voting by mail and online voter registration.