



We are living in unprecedented times. In the past days, we have witnessed so much that only weeks ago would seem unfathomable, and yet the power and spirit of the American people shines on. We are seeing ingenuity to address the current and unfortunate crisis, and research to address vaccines and cures alike. While these are dark days, there are countless examples of individuals --- healthcare professionals above all -- who are volunteering their skills to help address the local and national need.

I continue to encourage everyone to stay safe and stay home to ensure we get through this COVID-19 crisis together. Following the CDC's guidelines on hygiene, social distancing, and maintaining appropriate supplies of food and personal medical supplies is important.

For more information, the CDC current Guidelines can be found [here](#).

The State of Connecticut's most up-to-date resources tracking COVID-19 is available [here](#).

While health is forefront in all our minds, the economic toll of the Coronavirus cannot be overlooked. In a historic moment, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act --the CARES Act-- was signed into law by President Trump last Friday after tremendous bi-partisan efforts. This \$2 Trillion package is tremendously far-reaching and is an major step towards addressing the immediate needs of all Americans in this unprecedented time.

I encourage you to check websites frequently as the various agencies are working expeditiously to ensure this broad-sweeping legislation is rolling out promptly. Below is an outline of many aspects of the CARES Act, along with websites which can provide more information on specific aspects.

1. Income for American Families
  - One-time tax rebate check

- \$1,200 per individual, \$2,400 per couple and an additional \$500 per eligible child.
- Not reduced for lower income Americans.
- Reduced for higher income earners, starting at \$75,000 for individuals, \$112,500 for heads of household, and \$150,000 for married couples.
- Phases out completely at \$99,000 for individuals and \$198,000 for married couples.
- Expanded unemployment insurance to cover gig workers, self-employed and non-profit employees
- This will be based upon 2018 and 2019 federal tax returns
- Checks will be issued from the IRS, and will not be taxable, nor interfere with Social Security, Medicaid or any other income-based program.
- TAX DAY has been moved from April 15th to July 15th this year.
- A link to the Internal Revenue Service's website can be found [here](#).
- Unemployment benefits have been expanded to include up to \$600 per week additional for up to 4 months for qualifying individuals. For more information, the CT Dept of Labor's website can be found [here](#)

## 2. Small Business Assistance

- Small businesses, non-profits, and veterans organizations will be eligible for a new program entitled the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). This is a new SBA-backed loan program to help small businesses pay for expenses.
- Loans taken by small businesses to keep employees on payroll may be forgiven.
- Federal government may forgive 8 weeks of cash flow, rent and utilities at 100% up to 2.5x average monthly payroll.
- The PPP is being issued via SBA-approved lenders and for small- and mid-sized business owners looking to procure one of these loans, we recommend reaching out to your existing relationship bank as a first step.
- SBA's website can be found [here](#)

## 3. Assistance To Distressed Job Creators

- Loans, loan guarantees, and investment authority totaling \$529 billion, with:
  - \$454 billion to be used by Treasury, working with the Federal Reserve, for all sectors and

- \$75 billion in loans, guarantees and grants for passenger airlines, cargo carriers, and businesses critical to national security.
4. Ensuring Access To Care For All Americans
- Increase in Medicare reimbursement rate to assist providers caring for our most vulnerable population.
  - Private insurers and Medicare will be required to cover all testing and preventative services for COVID-19. this INCLUDES VACCINATION if/when one becomes available.
  - Allows the FDA to quickly approve the use of new medication and treatments.
  - Facilitates the use of new and innovative telemedicine technology to protect and contain the spread of COVID-19.
  - Increases the use of tele-medicine to reduce further risks of exposure.
5. Student Loans
- Student Loan Debt may be deferred without incurring additional interest, through September 2020. For more information please visit the Office of Federal Student Aid [here](#)
6. Direct Funding to Combat the Pandemic
- \$340 billion supplemental appropriation
    - \$150 billion for states, cities, localities to fight pandemic.
    - Support for health care workers and hospitals.
    - Funding for PPE.
  - Support for our local responders.
  - Funding for the research of new treatments and vaccines
  - Support for small businesses.
  - Support our local colleges and universities.
  - Support for veteran health care.
  - Support for DOD response to COVID-19.

The CARES Act is monumentally historic in its breadth and depth of addressing the sudden and unexpected economic impact on the American people of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Please know that my campaign staff and I are available as a resource to you. Please contact us with your questions or concerns, as we all navigate this waters together. Again, wishing health and happiness to you and your family!