

COVID-19 Updates on Non-LSC Federal Funding that can Support Legal Service Providers and Courts

This chart provides information about COVID-19 related appropriations, law, and agency guidance relevant to various non-LSC federal funding sources.

For more information about state-administered federal funds that can support legal aid, including legal aid examples, helpful tips, and language regarding legal aid, go to the [JGP grants matrix](#).

Name and description	COVID-19 Update	Additional information
<p>The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) administers AmeriCorps, a national service program that engages tens of thousands of members in intensive community service each year. Many legal aid programs and courts use AmeriCorps (and AmeriCorps VISTA) members.</p>	<p>CARES Act authorizes CNCS flexibility to ensure AmeriCorps members can earn the Segal AmeriCorps Education Awards that they were due to receive before COVID-19 disrupted their service activities, and allows AmeriCorps grantees receiving fixed amount awards to access their full federal funding.</p> <p>Additional flexibilities, e.g. changed service activities, teleservice, and documentation of members' illness, are available in continually updated FAQs on the CNCS website here.</p>	<p>Read more about AmeriCorps in the JGP grants matrix, linked here.</p>
<p>The HUD-administered Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) works to ensure decent affordable housing, provide services to the most vulnerable in our communities, and create jobs through the expansion and retention of businesses. Legal services are an allowable use of CDBG funds.</p>	<p>CARES Act appropriates \$5 billion to the "Community Development Fund" respond to COVID-19 and its impact on the economy and housing. Of this:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$2 billion to help states, communities, and non-profits to be allocated under CDBG • \$1 billion to keep America's homeless citizens safe under HUD's Emergency Solutions Grants program • \$63.7 million to help Americans with compromised immune systems under HUD's Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS (HOPWA) program <p>There is an additional \$100 million to Indian CDBG.</p> <p>Legal services are generally considered "public services" for CDBG purposes. The CARES Act removes the usual 15 percent public services cap on CDBG funds, making funds more flexible for state and local governments.</p> <p>Go here to find spreadsheets broken down by local and state amounts for full-year allocations for HUD's formula programs including: CDBG; CDBG</p>	<p>To find contact information, report, awards, jurisdiction, and other data for organizations that receive HUD funding, go here.</p> <p>Read more about CDBG in the JGP grants matrix, linked here.</p>

	<p>Recovery Housing Program; Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS; Emergency Solutions Grants; Housing Trust Fund; and CARES Act supplemental funding.</p> <p>For HUD COVID-19 information and resources go here.</p>	
<p>The HHS Office of Community Services (OCS) administers Community Services Block Grant (CSBG). CSBG provides funding to lessen poverty, address the needs of low-income individuals, and provide services and activities addressing employment, education, better use of available income, housing, nutrition, emergency services and/or health. Legal services are an allowable use of CSBG funds.</p>	<p>CARES Act appropriates \$1 billion to help communities address the consequences of increasing unemployment and economic disruption.</p> <p>COVID-19 emergency guidance for CSBG State Officials and other CSBG Stakeholders is here.</p>	<p>OCS provides a contact list of state officials and program contacts who oversee CSBG.</p> <p>Read more about CSBG in the JGP grants matrix, linked here.</p>
<p>The Coronavirus Relief Fund was authorized by Title V in the CARES Act. It allocates \$150 billion in direct assistance to states, territories, and tribal areas. Of this \$150 billion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50 states will receive \$139 billion, based on their population, with no state receiving less than \$1.25 billion • \$8 billion for governments in tribal areas • \$3 billion to territories, including D.C. 	<p>Established through Section 5001 of the CARES Act, the Coronavirus Relief fund provides assistance to state and local governments.</p> <p>The Coronavirus Relief Fund has broad eligibility requirements, which would allow state and local governments to support legal aid. Governments can make payments for programs that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) are necessary expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency with respect to COVID-19; (2) were not accounted for in the budget most recently approved as of March 27, 2020 for the State or government; and (3) were incurred during the period that begins on March 1, 2020 and ends on December 30, 2020. 	<p>Read more about the Coronavirus Relief Fund in this Congressional Research Service report. For state and local government allocations go here.</p>
<p>The DOJ-administered Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne JAG) is the primary provider of federal criminal justice funding to states and units of local government. Byrne-JAG is the most flexible federal law enforcement grant</p>	<p>CARES Act appropriates \$850 million for a Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding Program (CESF). CESF will assist states, local governments, and tribes in preventing, preparing for, and responding to the coronavirus.</p>	<p>Byrne JAG administrators apply for and administer the state allocation of CESF funding, following the Byrne JAG formula allocation mechanism. Allocations by state are here.</p>

<p>program. Byrne JAG funds can be used for crime victims and reentry services.</p>		
<p>The HUD administered Fair Housing Initiatives Program, Education and Outreach (EOI) provides funding to qualified fair housing enforcement non-profits and state and local governmental agencies to educate the public and housing providers about equal opportunity in housing and compliance.</p>	<p>CARES Act appropriates \$40 million for education and outreach activities about fair housing issues related to coronavirus.</p>	<p>Read more about EOI on NLADA’s Legal Aid Resources.</p>
<p>The HHS Family & Youth Services Bureau (FYSB) administers Family Violence Prevention Services Act (FVPSA) formula grants. FVPSA funds public, private, nonprofit and faith-based organizations and programs demonstrating effectiveness in the field of domestic violence services and prevention. Supportive services allowed by FVPSA include legal advocacy or assistance.</p>	<p>CARES Act appropriates \$45 million without a matching requirement for funds. FYSB guidance regarding COVID-19 FVPSA funds and flexibilities is here.</p>	<p>FYSB lists the state administration offices and their respective websites here. Read more about FVPSA in the JGP grants matrix, linked here.</p>
<p>The HHS Administration for Community Living (ACL) administered Older Americans Act supports a wide range of social services and programs for individuals aged 60 years or older, including community planning and social services to prevent the abuse, neglect, and exploitation of seniors.</p>	<p>CARES Act appropriates \$955 million to support Older Americans Act and Title III-B activities, including funding of Aging and Disability Resource Centers and Centers for Independent Living, nutrition services, supports for family caregivers, and elder justice protection activities, including the long-term care ombudsman. ACL COVID-19 guidance regarding CARES Act funds and flexibilities is here (scroll down to Grant and Program Guidance – Older Americans Act Programs).</p>	<p>Consult your State Unit on Aging for information about funds to increase legal services. Read more about the Older Americans Act in the JGP grants matrix, linked here. Learn more about how legal service organizations are supporting their work with Older Americans Act funding in NLADA’s Serving Victims of Crime webinar that was held May 1.</p>
<p>The HHS Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) administered Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program is a “patient-centered system”</p>	<p>CARES Act appropriates an additional \$90 million to remain available until September 2022 under parts A, B, C, D and section 2692(a) of title XXVI of the Public Health Service Act.</p>	<p>HRSA provides main contact numbers for HRSA’s HIV/AIDS Bureau here.</p>

<p>that provides care and treatment services to low income people living with HIV to improve health outcomes and reduce HIV transmission among hard to reach populations.”</p>	<p>HRSA COVID-19 guidance regarding CARES Act Ryan White funds and flexibilities is here.</p>	<p>Read more about Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program in the JGP grants matrix, linked here.</p>
<p>The HHS HRSA administered health centers program is the primary funding source for health centers. Section 330 “enabling services” language (see Additional Information column) can include funding legal services to address the social determinants of health.</p>	<p>CARES Act appropriates \$1.32 billion in supplemental awards for the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of COVID-19. HRSA COVID-19 guidance regarding CARES Act health center funds and flexibilities is here.</p>	<p>Legal aid is included in the range of “enabling services” that HHS-funded health centers can provide to meet communities’ care needs. Community health centers are the recipients of these funds.</p> <p>Read more about Section 330 funding and access resources on medical-legal partnerships at the National Center for Medical-Legal Partnership.</p>
<p>The Veterans Administration (VA) administered Supportive Services for Veterans Families (SSVF) provides supportive services to very low-income veteran families to prevent veteran homelessness and rapidly re-house veterans who become homeless.</p>	<p>The CARES Act VA funds include a 53 percent increase in funding for existing SSVF grantees.</p> <p>An April 17 webinar with SSVF Director, John Kuhn, included tips and highlighted new flexibilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The increased funding must be spent by December 30, 2020. • The usual cap on prevention services (including legal services) is waived. • Eviction defense is allowed. • Funds can be used to purchase phones for SSVF veterans. • There are new flexibilities, especially related to Temporary Financial Assistance. 	<p>SSVF statute authorizes legal services at 38 USC section 2044: “(vii) legal services to assist the veteran family with issues that interfere with the family’s ability to obtain or retain housing or supportive services;”</p> <p>The CFR expands on these legal services: “Legal services, including court filing fees, to assist a participant with issues that interfere with the participant’s ability to obtain or retain permanent housing or supportive services, including issues that affect the participant’s employability and financial security (such as the lack of a driver’s license).” (38 CFR § 62.33)</p> <p>Read more about SSVF in NLADA’s 2019 webinar, linked here.</p> <p>VA SSVF guidance, updating FAQs, and webinars are here.</p>

<p>The DOJ Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) administered STOP (Services, Training, Officers, and Prosecutors) Violence Against Women Formula Grant enhances the capacity of local communities to develop and strengthen effective law enforcement and prosecution strategies to combat violent crimes against women and to develop and strengthen victim services in cases involving violent crimes against women.</p>	<p>OVW COVID-19 guidance is here. OVW has waived the 25 percent match.</p>	<p>OVW has a STOP Administrator contact list, for each state’s primary and secondary contact for STOP grants. This includes their phone and email.</p> <p>Read more about STOP Formula grants in the JGP grants matrix, linked here.</p>
<p>The HHS Children's Bureau (CB) administered Title IV-E (Foster care) program helps provide out-of-home care for children until the children are safely returned home, placed permanently, or placed in other planned arrangements. Recent policy guidance allows state IV-E administrators to claim federal matching funds to help pay for costs of “independent legal representation by an attorney for a child who is a candidate for IV-E foster care or in foster care and his/her parent to prepare for and participate in foster care legal proceedings...”</p>	<p>CB has communicated through COVID-19 guidance letters flexibilities regarding spending, including the incorporation of technology.</p> <p>A March 27, 2020 letter from CB Associate Commissioner Jerry Milner to Child Welfare Legal and Judicial Leaders outlines statutory requirements CB cannot waive. It also says: “[C]ourts can and should use flexible means of convening required hearings.”</p> <p>An April 17, 2020 letter from Milner allows federal funding to assist with purchase of cell phones and other tools such as videoconferencing services or hardware for children and youth in foster care, their parents, or foster parents “if it is determined that it will facilitate needed communications for case management purposes between such an individual and the agency caseworker, or allow a parent to participate in a remotely-located court hearing or visitation with the child.”</p>	<p>Read more about Title IV-E funds in the JGP grants matrix, linked here.</p>