

The Trump Administration Is Supporting the People of Florida

“We have the best doctors, the best military leaders, and the best logistics professionals anywhere in the world. And we’re orchestrating a massive Federal response unlike anything our country has ever seen.”

– President Donald J. Trump

Overview: Response and recovery efforts are locally executed, State managed, and Federally supported. Successful emergency management requires nationwide cooperation and unity of effort, combining the strength and ingenuity of our citizens and private sector with a sweeping, all-inclusive, and whole-of-government response. The below is a partial overview of Federal assistance provided to the State of Florida and the people of Florida to combat the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). The information is bolstered by hundreds of additional actions by the Federal government to help the people of Florida. Implementation of the CARES Act is ongoing and will also bring additional support to Florida. President Donald J. Trump and Vice President Mike Pence have appreciated the strong State-Federal partnership with Governor Ron DeSantis.

Supportive Actions by President Donald J. Trump:

- **President Trump Declares a National Emergency:** On March 13, President Trump **declared** a national emergency concerning COVID-19. The emergency declaration authorized direct Federal assistance, temporary facilities, commodities, equipment, and emergency operation costs for all States, including Florida, pursuant to section 501(b) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act.
- **Florida’s Major Disaster Declaration:** On March 23, Governor DeSantis submitted a major disaster declaration request to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). On March 25, President Trump **approved** the request declaring a major disaster in the State of Florida and ordered Federal assistance to supplement State, local, and tribal recovery efforts in the areas affected by COVID-19. For the first time in our Nation’s history, every State and territory has a presidential disaster declaration at the same time.
- **Historic Economic Relief:** On March 27, President Trump signed the *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act* into law. The law provides unprecedented economic relief to American citizens, small businesses, workers, healthcare providers, and State, local, and tribal governments and builds on the *Families First Coronavirus Response Act*. More **here**. Additional Florida allocation information is found below.
- **National Guard Support:** On March 28, President Trump **directed** FEMA to fund 100% of the emergency assistance activities provided by Florida National Guard personnel in Title 32 duty status, per Governor DeSantis’ request.

Testing, Resource & Logistics Support: FEMA is working with the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS), other Federal agencies, and private sector partners, to produce, allocate, and distribute key resources to Florida. Most notably, these include personal protective equipment (PPE), ventilators, and the expedition of critical supplies from overseas to various U.S. locations.

- HHS, the Centers for Disaster Control and Prevention (CDC), and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), are providing unprecedented regulatory flexibilities, resources, and guidance to expand the availability of testing and to assist Florida and States across the country in scaling testing. Learn more from the CDC **here** and FDA **here**. In addition, CARES Act and other supplemental disbursements, alongside FEMA resources, are important avenues for States to scale testing.
- The Federal government is supporting mobile testing efforts to increase testing capacity and availability in Florida.
- In support of the White House Coronavirus Task Force, FEMA and HHS are coordinating a whole-of-America approach to source personal protective equipment (PPE), ventilators, and other critical resources for States,

Tribes, and Territories. The effort is led by Rear Admiral John Polowczyk of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. For more on the Supply Chain Stabilization Task Force, read more [here](#).

- The Trump Administration is coordinating [Project Air Bridge](#), a coordinated public-private partnership designed to expedite the movement of critical supplies from other countries to the United States. The below table shows recently delivered supplies to Florida entities, including Project Air Bridge efforts to bolster private sector supply chains.

PPE	April 1 - 7	April 8 - 14	Total
N-95 Masks	258,400	264,300	522,700
Surgical & Procedural Masks	2,047,300	1,764,400	3,811,700
Eye & Face Shields	37,400	21,800	59,200
Isolation & Surgical Gowns	1,566,500	925,300	2,491,800
Surgical & Exam Gloves	58,594,400	36,855,500	95,449,900

- In addition to the Project Air Bridge efforts, as of April 22, FEMA delivered 200 ventilators, 482,000 N-95 masks, 1,100,000 surgical masks, 185,000 medical gowns, 4,200 coveralls, 226,000 face shields, and 844,000 gloves from the Strategic National Stockpile to Florida.
- As of April 22, FEMA obligated \$94.4 M for Florida to respond to COVID-19 and will continue to obligate additional dollars per validated State requests.
- On April 9, FEMA announced the suspension of rent for disaster survivors living in FEMA-purchased temporary housing units in Florida. The temporary suspension means residents will not have to pay rent in April, May or June.
- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) worked with Governor DeSantis to increase hospital capacity in the State by retrofitting the Miami Beach Convention Center as an alternative care facility to accommodate 450 beds (as of April 23). More [here](#).

Federal Agency Support: The Trump Administration continues to provide unprecedented resources, guidance, and regulatory flexibilities for State, local and tribal governments to develop and deploy innovative solutions for addressing COVID-19.

- **U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS)**
 - As of April 23, through the *Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act* and the CARES Act, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provided over \$71.5 M to the State of Florida. More [here](#).
 - As of April 23, HHS has awarded over \$63 M in CARES Act funding to 47 health centers across Florida to assist in combatting COVID-19. More [here](#).
 - Medical providers in Florida were allocated more than \$2.2 B for the first round of funding from the Provider Relief Fund, with most of that provided Friday, April 10.
 - As of April 23, the State of Florida has received a total of \$2.5 B from HHS, through the Provider Relief Fund, CDC State and local funding, HRSA health centers, and other HHS grants.
 - The Indian Health Service (IHS) has distributed \$926K in COVID-19 supplemental appropriations to the State of Florida, benefiting IHS and Tribal Health Programs within the IHS Nashville Area. More [here](#).
 - On April 22, the Florida Department of Health was awarded more than \$1.5 M to support small rural hospitals and promote telehealth in rural communities. More [here](#).
 - On March 13, the State of Florida submitted an 1135 Medicaid Waiver request to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid (CMS). On March 16, CMS [approved](#) Florida’s waiver request offering new

flexibilities to focus resources on combatting the outbreak and providing the best possible care to Medicaid beneficiaries in Florida.

- HHS, CMS, and FDA have issued guidance on several topics to help inform decisions made by State and local health officials and private sector partners, including operational guidance for Florida nursing homes, telemedicine, elective surgery, and insurers. Learn more from CMS [here](#), CDC [here](#), and FDA [here](#).

- **U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA)**

- As a result of the CARES Act, the SBA created four [additional loan/funding programs](#) to assist businesses impacted by COVID-19. As of April 16, the SBA issued over \$17.8 B in loans to over 88,000 Florida small businesses. Nationally, SBA executed more loans in 14 days of the CARES Act implementation than the agency had done in the previous 14 years. More [here](#).
- On March 18, SBA [declared](#) an economic disaster in Florida at the request of Governor DeSantis. The disaster declaration creates access to low interest loans for small businesses across Florida. As of April 22, the SBA has approved 68,130 Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) advances of up to \$10,000 for Florida small businesses impacted by COVID-19; these funds, as authorized by the CARES Act, do not need to be repaid and have totaled more than \$272.6 M in the State of Florida.

- **U.S. Department of the Treasury (USDT)**

- As of Monday, April 13, Economic Impact Payments authorized by the CARES Act have gone out to 80 million Americans across the country, including Florida. These payments are being automatically issued to eligible 2019 or 2018 Federal tax return filers who received a refund using direct deposit. More [here](#). Social Security recipients who do not file tax returns will automatically receive economic impact payments. More [here](#).
- Treasury is operationalizing stimulus relief to States, Tribes, and eligible units of local government as authorized under the CARES Act's Coronavirus Relief Fund. The State of Florida, combined with eligible units of local government in the State that apply, will receive over \$8.3 B. Governmental entities in the State of Florida have already received \$6.2 B of this allocation. More [here](#).
- On April 9, the Department of the Treasury and Federal Reserve launched a Main Street Business Lending program and a Municipal Liquidity Facility (MLF) to support the flow of credit to American workers, businesses, States, counties, and cities in Florida and across the Nation impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The MLF will provide up to \$500 B, half a trillion, in direct financing to States, counties, and cities across the Nation to help ensure they have the funds necessary to provide essential services to citizens and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. More [here](#). MLF term sheet and guidance can be found [here](#).

- **U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)**

- HUD made over \$143.6 M in COVID-19 funding available to Florida via CARES Act authorizations. More [here](#).
- On April 1, HUD implemented the CARES Act requirement to provide up to one year of payment forbearance for Federal Housing Administration (FHA) single-family borrowers in Florida and across the Nation who are experiencing financial hardship due to COVID-19. More [here](#).
- On April 10, HUD implemented the CARES Act requirement to provide FHA multifamily borrowers in Florida and across the Nation with forbearance for up to three months if they agree not to evict tenants during that period. More [here](#).

- **U.S. Department of Labor (DOL)**

- As a result of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, DOL [expanded paid sick, family, and medical leave](#); the Department has offered flexibilities and emergency administrative capacity expansion grants for unemployment insurance that will help the people of Florida.
- DOL has awarded over \$29.7 M in emergency administrative unemployment insurance grants and \$12 M in dislocated worker grants to the State of Florida.

- **U.S. Department of Education (DoED)**

- On March 20, DoED [suspended](#) Federal student loan payments and waived interest during the Federal emergency, which could help up to 2.2 M direct loan borrowers in Florida.
 - DoED has also provided unprecedented reporting flexibilities to Florida to allow the State to best meet the needs of students and teachers during the emergency. More [here](#) and [here](#).
 - In April, DoED announced allocations under the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund of the CARES Act totaling more than \$740 M to support postsecondary education students and institutions of higher education in Florida. More [here](#) and [here](#).
 - On April 14, DoED announced an allocation in the Governor’s Emergency Education Relief Fund (GEERF), authorized by the CARES Act, of more than \$173 M for Florida. This is an extraordinarily flexible “emergency block grant” designed to enable governors to decide how best to meet the needs of students, schools (including charter schools and non-public schools), postsecondary institutions, and other education-related organizations. More [here](#).
 - On April 23, DoED made more than \$310 M available to Florida through the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund, authorized under section 18003 of the CARES Act to ensure learning continues for all students. More [here](#).
- **U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)**
- On April 17, Secretary Perdue joined President Trump in announcing the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program ([CFAP](#)) to assist farmers, ranchers, and consumers in Florida and across the Nation in response to COVID-19. This \$19 B relief program will provide \$16 B in direct support based on actual losses for agricultural producers and \$3 B in purchases of fresh produce, dairy and meat, including producers in Florida.
 - On April 11, USDA approved Florida’s request to provide online purchasing of food to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households. Florida’s SNAP participation is nearly 3 M individuals, about 1.5 M households, and totals nearly \$4 B annually in Federal funding. More [here](#).
 - USDA has provided numerous flexibilities and resources to the State of Florida to ensure children and low income Americans have access to food during the national emergency. More [here](#).
 - USDA published a [COVID-19 Federal Rural Resource Guide](#) for rural residents, businesses, and communities in Florida and across the country to find information about federal funding and partnership opportunities during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT)**
- DOT allocated more than \$958.6 M in Federal Transit Administration funds to help the Florida public transportation systems respond to the challenges of COVID-19. More [here](#).
 - DOT awarded more than \$896.1 M from the Federal Aviation Administration to help fund continuing operations and lost revenue for airports in Florida. More [here](#).
- **U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)**
- With the \$19.6 B allocated under the CARES Act, the VA is hiring new staff and procuring additional resources to deal with the evolving needs of the pandemic. This includes expanding free or subsidized telehealth services and waiving a requirement that VA State homes maintain a 90 percent occupancy rate in order to receive Federal benefits for times when the Veteran is not in the home. More [here](#).
 - The VA traditionally provides Veterans’ healthcare, benefits and memorial affairs. In times of national crisis, such as the current COVID-19 pandemic, VA provides services to the Nation based on requests from States, while being clear that Veterans are our first priority. This is known as VA’s [Fourth Mission](#). The VA is providing staffing assistance to the hardest hit nursing homes across the State and is also assisting with infection control and direct care for patients.
 - The U.S. Department of the Treasury and VA [announced](#) that VA benefit recipients in Florida and across the Nation will automatically receive \$1,200 in Economic Impact Payments provided for under the CARES Act.
 - On April 3, the VA announced a number of actions to provide Veterans in Florida and across the Nation with financial, benefits and claims help as part of the VA’s COVID-19 response. The financial relief actions include – until further notice – (i) suspending all actions on Veteran debts under the

jurisdiction of the Treasury Department and (ii) suspending collection action or extending repayment terms on preexisting VA debts, as the Veteran prefers. More [here](#).

- **U.S. Department of State (DOS)**

- The State Department launched an unprecedented global effort to bring home citizens from every corner of the globe and has repatriated thousands of Americans from multiple countries. As of April 17, DOS has coordinated the repatriation of nearly 70,000 Americans, including individuals from Florida. More [here](#).

- **U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ)**

- DOJ allocated \$50.3 M in funds to Florida through the [Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding \(CESF\) Program](#) to assist the State and local government response to COVID-19. This includes \$31.7 M in funding to the State and \$18.5 M to local governments. More [here](#).