

The Trump Administration Is Supporting the People of Nebraska

“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 Nebraska and the people of Nebraska 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 Nebraska. Implementation of the CARES Act is ongoing and will also bring additional support to Nebraska. President Donald J. Trump and Vice President Mike Pence have appreciated the strong State-Federal partnership with Governor Pete Ricketts.

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 Nebraska, pursuant to section 501(b) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act.
- **Nebraska’s Major Disaster Declaration:** On March 30, Governor Ricketts submitted a major disaster declaration request to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). On April 4, President Trump **approved** the request declaring a major disaster in the State of Nebraska 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 April 24, President Trump **signed** the *Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act* into law. The law provides further unprecedented economic relief to American citizens, small businesses, workers, healthcare providers, and State, local, and tribal governments and builds on the *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act*, *Families First Coronavirus Response Act*, and the *Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriation*. More **here**. Additional Nebraska allocation information is found below.
- **National Guard Support:** On April 13, President Trump **directed** FEMA to fund 100% of the emergency assistance activities provided by Nebraska National Guard personnel in Title 32 duty status, per Governor Ricketts’ 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 Nebraska. Most notably, these include personal protective equipment (PPE), testing supplies, 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 Nebraska 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.
- In support of the White House Coronavirus Task Force, FEMA and HHS are coordinating a whole-of-America approach to source PPE, ventilators, testing supplies, 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 Nebraska entities, including Project Air Bridge efforts to bolster private sector supply chains.

| PPE | April 1 - 7 | April 8 - 14 | Total |
|--|-------------|--------------|------------------|
| N-95 Masks | 14,600 | 1,800 | 16,400 |
| Surgical & Procedural Masks | 127,700 | 134,700 | 262,400 |
| Eye & Face Shields | 1,600 | 1,800 | 3,400 |
| Isolation & Surgical Gowns | 99,700 | 96,300 | 196,000 |
| Surgical & Exam Gloves | 4,899,700 | 2,658,000 | 7,557,700 |

- In addition to the Project Air Bridge efforts, as of April 22, FEMA delivered 95,589 N-95 masks, 227,218 surgical masks, 38,684 medical gowns, 1,831 coveralls, 47,146 face shields, and 230,531 gloves from the Strategic National Stockpile to Nebraska.
- As of April 22, FEMA obligated \$17.4 M for COVID-19 response efforts in Nebraska and will continue to obligate additional dollars per validated State requests.

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 \$11.8 M to the State of Nebraska. More [here](#).
- As of April 24, HHS has awarded over \$6.4 M in CARES Act funding to 7 health centers across Nebraska to assist in combatting COVID-19. More [here](#).
- Medical providers in Nebraska were allocated more than \$225 M for the first round of funding from the Provider Relief Fund, with most of that provided Friday, April 10.
- As of April 24, the State of Nebraska has received over \$276 M from HHS through the Provider Relief Fund, CDC State and local funding, HRSA health centers, and other HHS grants.
- As of April 23, the Indian Health Service (IHS) has distributed \$8 M in COVID-19 supplemental appropriations to the State of Nebraska, benefiting IHS, Tribal, and Urban Indian Health Programs within the IHS Great Plains Area. More [here](#).
- On April 24, the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services was awarded more than \$5.3 M to support small rural hospitals and promote telehealth in rural communities. More [here](#).
- On March 30, the State of Nebraska submitted an 1135 Medicaid Waiver request to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid (CMS). On April 2, CMS [approved](#) Nebraska’s waiver request offering new flexibilities to focus resources on combatting the outbreak and providing the best possible care to Medicaid beneficiaries in Nebraska.
- 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 Nebraska 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 \$2.9 B in loans to over 23,000

Nebraska 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 20, SBA [declared](#) an economic disaster in Nebraska at the request of Governor Ricketts. The disaster declaration creates access to low interest loans for small businesses across Nebraska. As of April 24, the SBA has approved over 3,200 Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) advances of up to \$10,000 for Nebraska 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 \$15.6 M in the State of Nebraska.

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

- As of April 17, the Internal Revenue Service [has issued](#) over 562 K Economic Impact Payments (EIP) totaling more than \$1 B to eligible individuals in Nebraska. Nationally, the IRS has issued 88.1 million payments to taxpayers across the Nation. [Authorized](#) under the CARES Act, EIP are being automatically issued to eligible 2019 or 2018 federal tax return filers who received a refund using direct deposit. 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 Nebraska, combined with eligible units of local government in the State that apply, will receive over \$1.2 B. As of April 22, governmental entities in the State of Nebraska have already received \$625 M of this. 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 Nebraska 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 \$18.3 M in COVID-19 funding available to Nebraska grantees 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 Nebraska 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 Nebraska 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 Nebraska.
- DOL has awarded over \$6 M in emergency administrative unemployment insurance grants to the State of Nebraska.

- **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 225,900 direct loan borrowers in Nebraska.
- DoED has also provided unprecedented reporting flexibilities to Nebraska 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 \$67.2 M to support postsecondary education students and institutions of higher education in Nebraska. 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 \$16.3 M for Nebraska. 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 \$65 M available to Nebraska 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 Nebraska 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 Nebraska.
- USDA has provided numerous flexibilities and resources to the State of Nebraska 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 Nebraska 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 \$62.8 M in Federal Transit Administration funds to help the Nebraska public transportation systems respond to the challenges of COVID-19. More [here](#).
- DOT awarded more than \$64.6 M from the Federal Aviation Administration to help fund continuing operations and lost revenue for airports in Nebraska. 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 continues to evaluate opportunities to help States and local communities across the country.
- The U.S. Department of the Treasury and VA **announced** that VA benefit recipients in Nebraska 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 Nebraska 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 Nebraska. More [here](#).

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

- DOJ allocated more than \$6.4 M in funds to Nebraska through the **Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding (CESF) Program** to assist the State and local government response to

COVID-19. This includes over \$4.3 M in funding to the State and over \$2.1 M to local governments. More [here](#).