Key provisions in the COVID-19 economic relief bill

Relief for families and individuals

Unemployment benefits: Extends the federal supplemental unemployment benefit of $300 per week through September 6 and exempts the first $10,200 in 2020 benefits from federal income tax.

Housing assistance: Provides $20 billion in emergency rental assistance, $9.9 billion to help homeowners struggling with mortgage payments and $5 billion to help shelter the homeless.

Stimulus checks: A third round of stimulus checks of $1,400 for most adults (up to $75,000 in income, or $150,000 for married couples) phasing out to zero at $80,000 in income/$160,000 for married couples, plus $1,400 per dependent.

Child Tax Credit: For 2021, makes the child tax credit fully refundable, increase the size of the per-child tax credit from $2,000 to $3,000 (or $3,600 per child under age 6), expands eligibility to include 17-year-old children and pays out the credit monthly.

Nutrition: Extends increased food stamp benefits through September 30. Also provides investments in vital nutrition assistance programs such as school meals, WIC and the Commodity Supplemental Food Program to ensure vulnerable populations do not go hungry.

Earned Income Tax Credit: For 2021, expands eligibility to include taxpayers without qualifying children starting at age 19 (currently age 25) and removes the upper age limit, and makes the phase-out of the credit more gradual. Increases cap on investment income to qualify for the credit from $3,650 to $10,000.

Paid leave: Extends through September 30 paid sick and family leave provisions that allow individuals two weeks of paid sick leave for COVID-related illnesses, plus two weeks of sick leave and up to 10 weeks of family leave at two-thirds pay to care for a family member who is sick or whose school or child care provider is shut down due to COVID. Small and mid-sized employers and state and local government agencies are compensated for providing such leave.
Small business relief

Small business aid: Includes $10 billion for a Treasury program to back at least $10 in state and local small business financing per $1 of federal assistance, plus $15 billion for small business disaster grants for hard-hit small businesses in lower-income communities.

Nonprofit eligibility: Expands eligibility for CARES Act small business loan programs to include most nonprofits.

Restaurant relief: Includes $25 billion for grants to independent restaurants, among the sectors hardest-hit by the pandemic. Grants are based on revenues lost from 2019 to 2020.

Health and vaccines

Vaccines: Includes $88 billion for vaccine distribution, testing, genome sequencing, staffing and medical supplies like personal protective equipment.

Health insurance: Increases premium tax credits for ACA health insurance to make health coverage more affordable.

COBRA subsidies: Increases premium subsidies through the COBRA health program.

Community health centers: Includes $7.6 billion for community health centers.

Rural Provider Relief Fund: Creates an $8.5 billion fund for rural health providers.

Pediatric Mental Health Care Access: Provides $80 million for the HRSA Pediatric Mental Health Care Access program.

Child care and education

Early childhood education and child care: Includes nearly $40 billion for child care providers through the Child Care and Development Block Grant program. The bill also sets aside $1 billion for the Head Start program.

Safe school reopening: Includes $126 billion for public K-12 schools, about $16 billion of which would go to California. Schools can use funding for safe reopening (purchasing masks, repairing ventilation systems, etc.) and strategies for overcoming pandemic learning loss (tutoring centers, additional staff, etc.). Sets aside $2.75 billion for non-public schools aimed at schools that serve a high number of low-income students.

Higher education: Includes $40 billion for institutions of higher education. Half of the emergency funds must be used for emergency financial aid grants for students to meet basic needs like housing, good, child care, and health care.