

SAVING LIVES AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE

As of late June, COVID-19 resulted in over 125,000 deaths in the United States, and more than 5,900 in California. Since the initial outbreak, the Administration has taken action to reduce the spread of the virus, becoming the first in the nation to implement a statewide stay-at-home requirement to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

RESPONDING TO COVID-19

In early March, the Governor proclaimed a state of emergency for the novel coronavirus outbreak. Within two weeks, the Administration issued the statewide stay-at-home order. Even prior to these actions, the State Operations Center had been activated, informed by the state's public health officers, to prepare for an expected surge of patients infected with the virus. Based on data from medical models, projections indicated that hospitals would be inundated with patients, outstripping medical resources both in terms of available beds as well as the staffing and supplies needed to care for them. Necessary actions to address the immediate needs for various vulnerable populations and healthcare workers were identified and taken, and local governments were provided state assistance to stop the spread of COVID-19 and mitigate the impacts. In addition, food banks were supported and staffed as the demand for these services began to increase.

Moving forward, the state continues to take action to safely reopen the state's economy based on six specific indicators informed by science and public health

guidance. This approach necessitates the continuation of the state's proactive measures to mitigate potential outbreaks and surges in positive cases and hospitalizations. The state is now better prepared for a potential resurgence of positive cases and increased pressure on the state's health care system. The state has procured personal protective equipment, issued public health guidance, is expanding contract tracing programs, and made other preparations to strengthen hospital capacity and protect vulnerable populations.

The state has also developed a data portal for the public—<https://covid19.ca.gov/roadmap-counties/>—which reflects information by county to better understand local COVID-19 statistics. With a focus on health equity, the state continues to monitor data and make adjustments to both guidance and support to respond to the changing conditions of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Pursuant to a Presidential Disaster declaration, funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) became available to help pay for the state's response efforts. The Budget reflects \$5.7 billion in estimated planned expenditures for the state's direct emergency response efforts for the COVID-19 pandemic. We expect that the federal government will reimburse the majority of these expenditures. Also, to prepare for needs that may occur in the coming months, the Budget sets aside \$716 million General Fund within the Special Fund for Economic Uncertainties.

COVID-19 FEDERAL ASSISTANCE

The federal government has provided temporary federal funding to support the state's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This funding was made available through four federal bills to help pay for emergency response, testing and contact tracing, health care, and financial relief to individuals, families, and businesses as well as state and local governments, including schools and higher education institutions. The following summarizes the four bills passed by Congress since March 2020:

- **Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act (HR 6074)**—Provided emergency funding for public health and health care.
- **Families First Coronavirus Response Act (HR 6201)**—Provided some early assistance to families and temporarily increased the federal match for some state programs including Medi-Cal and In-Home Supportive Services. Federal funding was also extended for testing and testing-related services for uninsured individuals.

- **Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act (HR 748)**—Broadened the assistance available to include funding for states, local governments, education, child care, individuals and families. Funding was also expanded, extended, and supplemented for unemployment insurance benefits. Finally, this measure provided assistance to businesses, including the health care sector, small businesses, farmers, airports, and transit agencies.
- **Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act (HR 266)**—Expanded funding for small businesses, hospitals, community and rural health centers, and substantially expanded funding for testing and contact tracing to support reopening businesses and the economy.

As of late June, California expects to receive over \$72 billion in assistance to state programs. Unemployment insurance represents about \$52 billion of this total. In addition, over \$142 billion in direct assistance is expected to be provided to individuals and families, small businesses, hospitals and providers, including rural and community clinics, higher education institutions and college students, local housing authorities, airports, farmers, and local government. Funds identified to date are detailed in the chart below:

Summary of Federal Stimulus Funds

(Dollars in Thousands)

Federal Vehicle	To/Thru State	Direct Stimulus	Total
Preparedness and Response (HR 6074)	\$63,754	\$1,535,765	\$1,599,519
Families First (HR 6201)	11,460,393	2,726,574	14,186,967
CARES Act (HR 748)	60,197,032	81,702,154	141,899,186
Payroll Protection/Health Care (HR 266)	499,203	56,117,934	56,617,137
Total	\$72,220,382	\$142,082,427	\$214,302,809

CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUND

The CARES Act allocated Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF) to state and local governments for expenditures incurred between March 1, 2020 and December 30, 2020 in response to COVID-19, not previously accounted for in the most recent state and local budgets.

Based on the state’s population, California received a total of \$15.3 billion with \$9.5 billion paid to the state. Cities and counties with populations over 500,000 (15 counties, city and county of San Francisco, and 5 cities) received \$5.8 billion directly from the U.S. Treasury. The funding allocated to five large cities was deducted from the county share.

The \$9.5 billion in state CRF allocations are summarized in the following chart:

Coronavirus Relief Fund Allocations

(Dollars in Thousands)

State Directed Coronavirus Relief Fund Allocations	Amount
State Offsets: Vulnerable Populations and Public Safety	\$2,692,681
Housing for Homeless Individuals and Families	\$550,000
K-14 Learning Loss Mitigation	4,493,819
County Homelessness, Public Health, Public Safety, and Other Services	1,289,065
City Homelessness, Public Health, Public Safety, and Other Services	500,000
Total	\$9,525,565

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

The Department of Public Health has continued to be at the forefront of the state’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic—extensively planning for, preparing for, and responding to the pandemic since mid-January.

The Budget maintains and increases the Department’s ongoing disease surveillance and identification workforce. Specifically, the Budget includes \$5.9 million General Fund for 2020-21 and \$4.8 million General Fund ongoing, to support state laboratory staff and to purchase equipment and laboratory supplies. In addition, the Budget includes ongoing funding for infectious disease prevention and control that had previously been scheduled for suspension on January 1, 2022.

In early April, the Governor announced the COVID-19 Testing Task Force, a public-private collaborative charged with boosting California’s testing capacity. The task force efforts have led to significant increases in testing, improvements to the supply chain for testing supplies, and the establishment of specimen collection sites across the state, including mobile labs. In addition, the State has built up significant testing capacity in partnership with private and public laboratories, including high throughput capacity to improve the turnaround time for test results.

California is now completing more than 80,000 COVID-19 tests per day, but more work is necessary to reduce the cost of testing, create more equitable access to testing, and improve disease surveillance. Control Section 11.95 will allow for the allocation of more than \$600 million in federal funds to support testing and contact tracing.

In the ongoing effort to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, the Administration launched California Connected, the state's effort to greatly expand county contact tracing programs, which redirects state employees to begin contact tracing efforts. This effort includes contracts with the University of California, San Francisco and University of California, Los Angeles to launch an online training academy to develop a culturally competent and skilled contact tracing workforce.

ENHANCING EMERGENCY RESPONSES AND PREPAREDNESS

In response to the global COVID-19 pandemic, the state has had to implement an unprecedented emergency response effort necessary to protect the health of Californians. However, the state remains at risk from other types of emergencies. The Budget continues the Administration's prioritization of enhancing emergency response and preparedness.

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

The Budget reflects \$117.6 million for the Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) to enhance the state's emergency preparedness and response capabilities.

- **Community Power Resiliency**—\$50 million one-time General Fund to support additional preparedness measures that bolster community resiliency. Building on this year's investments, these measures will support critical services still vulnerable to power outage events, including schools, county election offices, and food storage reserves.
- **California Disaster Assistance Act (CDAA)**—\$38.2 million one-time General Fund to increase the amount of funding available through the CDAA, which is used to repair, restore, or replace public real property damaged or destroyed by a disaster or to reimburse local governments for eligible costs associated with emergency activities undertaken in response to a state of emergency proclaimed by the Governor. This augmentation increases total CDAA funding available in the Budget to \$100.8 million.
- **California Earthquake Early Warning Program**—\$17.3 million, supported by a one-time loan of the same amount from the School Land Bank Fund, to operate this new, innovative program that uses science, monitoring, and technology to alert people, businesses, and transit agencies via devices before the anticipated strongest seismic activity arrives.

- **California Cybersecurity Integration Center**—\$11.1 million General Fund in 2020-21 for various departments (including \$7.6 million General Fund in 2020-21 for Cal OES), to enhance the state's critical cybersecurity infrastructure. This investment will provide a full-time Joint Incident Response Team to bolster the state's capabilities in preventing, mitigating, and responding to cyberattacks.
- **Seismic Safety Commission Transfer**—\$2.5 million (\$503,000 General Fund) to transfer the Seismic Safety Commission to Cal OES. These resources will be critical to supporting the effective integration of the Seismic Safety Commission into Cal OES, resulting in increased coordination with other components of the state's multi-hazard strategy, earthquake preparedness, and broader distribution of seismic safety policies and recommendations.
- **Wildfire Forecast and Threat Intelligence Integration Center**—\$2 million General Fund ongoing to enhance the state's emergency response capabilities through improved forecasts for tracking and predicting critical fire weather systems, which improves situational awareness of fire threat conditions in real-time, consistent with Chapter 405, Statutes of 2019 (SB 209).

DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

Over the past several years, the state has experienced unprecedented increases in wildfire activity driven by climate change. Furthermore, 2020 is likely to be an active fire year, as evidenced by year-to-date fire activity, given lower than average precipitation, snowpack, and fuel moisture levels.

The Budget reflects \$90 million General Fund (\$93.2 million General Fund ongoing) to further enhance CAL FIRE's fire protection capabilities.

- **CAL FIRE Relief Staffing and Additional Surge Capacity**—\$85.6 million General Fund ongoing for additional firefighting resources to provide CAL FIRE with operational flexibility throughout the peak fire season and beyond as fire conditions dictate. These resources will be leveraged to provide relief for frontline firefighting staff, which will directly benefit employee health and wellness. Additionally, these resources will serve as an immediate resource pool to be deployed strategically, based on fire risk, to build CAL FIRE's surge capacity by staffing additional engines during the late fall, winter, and early spring, and adding a fourth firefighter on a portion of engines.

- **Innovation Procurement Sprint**—\$4.4 million General Fund (\$7.6 million ongoing) to enable CAL FIRE to implement the new, pioneering wildfire prediction and modeling technology that was procured through the Innovation Procurement Sprint process initiated through Executive Order N-04-19. The recently-executed contract will enable CAL FIRE to access a wildfire predictive software program that can perform hundreds of millions of simulations daily, over large geographic areas, and generate predictions and wildfire forecasts based on simulated or reported ignition points throughout the state. The data from this software program will be used to inform fire pre-positioning and suppression tactical operations, with the intent to more readily control and contain wildfires, and to protect people and assets at risk.