

## ***Disability Community Asks for COVID-19 Legislation***

### **Economic Stimulus and Increased Asset Limits for Social Security and Medicaid**

- Economic stimulus should be easily and equitably available to low-income individuals and asset limits for people with disabilities and older adults in Supplemental Security Income, Medicaid, SNAP, and other means tested programs should be eliminated or raised so their benefits will not be a risk from the stimulus. This will also address the issue of people with disabilities being unable to purchase usual supplies and services being at risk of exceeding the asset limits because of the economic slowdown.

### **Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) in Medicaid**

- Increase FMAP match beyond the 6.2 bump to ensure that Medicaid and state governments have the resources they need to ensure care for people with disabilities.
- Pass the [Coronavirus Relief for Seniors and People with Disabilities](#), including its HCBS grants to support Direct Support Professional (DSP) and Home Health Workforce and to support aging adults and people with disabilities in their homes and communities.
- Pass the Ensuring Direct Access to Direct Support Professionals Act (S. 3220/H.R. 5443).
- Make the Money Follows the Person (MFP) program permanent.

### **Housing**

- Immediately provide an increase in McKinney-Vento Emergency Solutions Grants.
- Pass legislation to stop evictions to prevent homelessness during the pandemic, including the Eviction Crisis Act.
- Increase funding for the National Housing Trust Fund, the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher program, the Section 811 Supportive Housing for Persons with Disabilities program, the HOME Investment Partnerships program, and the Community Development Block Grant program and increase funding for Department of Agriculture housing programs.

### **Medication/Treatment**

- Ensure that all testing and treatment for COVID-19 are provided at no cost for all individuals whether insured or not. The Families First Coronavirus Response Act focuses on testing, not treatment.
- Ensure that individuals can access medication and supplies refills for 90 days, including allowances for partial fills and controlled substances, without cost sharing and with financial assistance to allow for self-isolation for at-risk people with disabilities.
- Ensure that service providers have access to the necessary training, equipment and medical supplies.
- Ventilator and PPE Production: Congress must appropriate funds specifically for ramping up production of both Personal Protective Equipment and ventilator production. The Secretary of Health and Human Services should be given authority to expedite bringing

new production facilities online and do everything possible to mobilize a “whole-of-country” response to meet these production challenges.

### **Paid Leave/Sick**

- Ensure paid sick days and paid leave provisions include caregivers who can't work because they are caring for an adult child with a disability or aging family member whose program has closed or care worker is sick. This was not included in the Families First Coronavirus Response Act.

### **Rights**

- Provide states with resources they need to ensure that even during this crisis, people with disabilities have the supports they need to remain in the community and are not forced into institutional or other congregate settings in violation of their civil rights under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Supreme Court's decision in *Olmstead v. L.C.*, and at increased risk to their health.
- Ensure the rights of individuals with disabilities and older adults, to be free from discrimination on the basis of disability or age in programs and activities, are protected during all phases of disaster preparation, response, recovery, and mitigation.
- Statement from Congress re: rationing of care to ensure that when rationing treatment begins, decisions about how medical treatment should be allocated are made without discriminating based on disability. The National Council on Disability has already raised concerns about this issue in [a letter](#) to HHS' Office of Civil Rights.
- Do not allow any weakening of the protections of the ADA for businesses or in the building of new facilities if necessary.
- Provide additional funding to states to ensure accessible voting as states are moving to absentee and mail-in voting.

### **School/Education**

- Ensure that any legislation to support access to virtual education and other supports are inclusive of the unique needs of people with disabilities, including requirements under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

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***\*\*Please note this is a non-exhaustive list, but meant to raise up priority issues for the disability community.***