



House HEROES Act and Disability Priorities

***Please note that this is a non-exhaustive list that we will continue updating as we review the legislation.

What's in the bill?

- Additional funding for states' Medicaid programs (14% point increase in the federal share) and, critically, an additional 10% point increase in the federal funding dedicated specifically to home and community based services (HCBS)
 - Importantly, this also includes maintenance of effort (MOE) provision, as was in the previously passed Families First Act, to prevent states from taking Medicaid coverage away from anyone or implementing changes that would make it harder to get Medicaid coverage during the pandemic. However, the bill does unfortunately include a carve-out for the state of New York, meaning that the MOE provision would not apply to New York.
 - We are working to clarify the definition of HCBS to ensure it includes community-based mental health services
- A two-month special enrollment period to allow people to get health insurance on the ACA marketplace
- Funding for housing programs including Section 811 Supportive Housing for People with Disabilities, tenant-based vouchers, and Project-Based Rental Assistance
- Emergency rental assistance and expanded eviction and foreclosure protection
- Additional nutrition assistance
- \$100 billion in additional education funding
 - NOTE: None of funding is specifically designated for special education services but it is conditioned on ensuring rights under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
- Funding for substance use prevention and treatment, suicide prevention, community mental health services, and homelessness services, as well as emergency response grants to address COVID-19 related behavioral health needs.
- Additional "recovery rebate" payments (like those passed in the Families First Act), which are direct cash payments meant to provide financial assistance to people during the crisis. Unlike in prior legislation, the HEROES Act would ensure adults with disabilities who are claimed as dependents are eligible for the \$500 dependent credit and that people with taxpayer ID numbers are also eligible for recovery rebates
- Funding to state and local governments to help with crisis response
- Requirements for and funding to assist states with expanded absentee and mail-in voting and same day voter registration

- Expansion of the emergency paid sick and family and medical leave provided under the Families First Act and extension of the supplemental unemployment compensation provided under the Families First Act
- Hazard pay for direct care workers
- \$100 million in funding for the Administration for Community Living, including \$10 million dedicated to Developmental Disabilities Act programs
- Nursing home safety provisions, including assistance for infection control and strike teams to help facilities manage outbreaks
- Data collection on demographics for testing, infections, and death from both federal agencies and states that includes disability status

NOTE: Disability status is included in most, but not all data collection required by the HEROES Act and we are working make sure it is included in all data collection provisions in the final bill

What's not in the bill?

- Permanent reauthorization of the [Money Follows the Person](#) (MFP) program
 - Under the CARES Act, the program is extended until November 30, 2020
- Increased funding for Social Security and SSI
- Language clarifying that people with disabilities in congregate settings are eligible for emergency rental assistance and other housing resources provided by the bill
- 90-day refills of prescriptions and medical supplies
 - NOTE: The CARES Act did include this for Medicare, but not for Medicaid, CHIP, or private insurance or people with disabilities who rely on controlled substances and the HEROES Act does not expand on that coverage
- Disaster relief that is responsive to the needs of the disability community, which will be disproportionately impacting by additional disaster events that occur during the COVID-19 pandemic, as in the [Real Emergency Access for Aging and Disability Inclusion \(REAADI\) for Disasters Act](#) (S. 1755) and the [Disaster Relief Medicaid Act \(DRMA\)](#) (HR. 3215/S. 1754)