



Revised House HEROES Act and Disability Priorities

Last updated: October 2, 2020

On October 1, 2020, the House passed a [revised version](#) of the HEROES Act, which it originally passed back in May. It has a lower cost estimate than the original HEROES Act, but the list of included priorities largely remains the same. Please note that this is a non-exhaustive list that we will continue updating as we review the legislation. For a quick comparison of the how the revised HEROES Act (also known as HEROES 2.0) compares with the Senate’s coronavirus relief proposals, click [here](#).

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)
 - 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
- \$182 billion in additional elementary and secondary 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
 - The bill would also 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
- Restoration of the supplemental unemployment compensation
- Hazard pay for direct care workers
- \$1.175 billion in funding for the Administration for Community Living, including \$50 million dedicated to Developmental Disabilities Act programs and \$25 million dedicated to Assistive Technology 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 some, but not all, data collection required by the bill 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
 - The program is extended until December 11, 2020 in the [continuing resolution](#) that was signed into law on October 1, 2020 to continue funding the government
- 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 updated 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 \(READI\) for Disasters Act](#) (S. 1755) and the [Disaster Relief Medicaid Act \(DRMA\)](#) (HR. 3215/S. 1754)