



CARES Act

Coronavirus Relief Funding Principles

BACKGROUND:

Appropriated \$150 billion to the [Relief Fund](#) to make payments for specified uses to States and certain local governments.

The Funds may only be used to cover costs that:

1. Are necessary expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency with respect to COVID-19, such as addressing medical or public health needs, as well as expenditures incurred to respond to second-order effects such as economic support for workers and businesses due to business closures
2. Were not accounted for in the budget most recently approved as of March 27, 2020. Most recently approved budget refers to the enacted budget - in OR that means the 2019/21 budget. A cost is not considered to have been accounted for in a budget merely because it could be met using a budgetary stabilization fund, rainy day fund, etc. Revenue replacement is not a permissible use of the Fund.
3. Were incurred from March 2, 2020 - Dec 30, 2020

Oregon's Total Allocation is: \$1,635,570,763

- State Share: \$1,388,745,825
- Multnomah County: \$141,845,45 Washington County: \$104,979,478

ELIGIBLE EXPENDITURES

- Medical expenses
- Public Health expenses
- Payroll expenses for public safety, public health, health care, human services, and similar employees who services are substantially dedicated to mitigating or responding to COVID -19
- The expense of actions to facilitate compliance with COVID-19 related to public health measures
- Expenses associated with the provision of economic support in connection with the COVID-19 public health emergency

- Any other COVID -19 related expenses reasonably necessary to the function of government

Not allowed: States share of Medicaid, payroll expenses for employees whose work duties are not substantially dedicated to COVID, unemployment benefits, bonuses other than hazard pay, severance pay, legal settlements.

FUND PRIORITIES IN OREGON

Oregon workers are on the frontlines caring for our communities and helping to mitigate the effects of and fight against COVID-19. For too long our economy has left frontline workers behind. The Coronavirus pandemic has highlighted the structural cracks in our system that working people too often fall through. Centering working people in the response to COVID-19 is not enough. We must fight to ensure we build a plan for recovery that fundamentally restructures our economy to be more equitable and fair.

As we respond to this pandemic, everyone needs to have equal access to prevention, testing, treatment, and economic support regardless of how old they are, the color of their skin, where they were born, or how much money they make. The Coronavirus Relief Fund provides an opportunity to ensure Oregon can better respond to the COVID crisis and make strategic investments to assist in an equitable recovery. Now is the time for big and bold investments in a COVID-19 response and recovery that will rebuild our economy to work for working families.

SHARED PRINCIPLES

Safety of the public and the workers needs to be the first priority. This is reflected by the following priorities:

1. Essential workers must have access to **personal protective equipment** and **testing** - especially health care workers, janitors, delivery personnel, educators, grocery workers, transit workers and anyone working in a public-facing position.
2. Workers in harm's way should be compensated accordingly through an **essential pay program**.
3. Workers cannot be put into a situation where they test positive or are asked to quarantine, can't go to work, but don't have access to paid leave. Increased testing and contact tracing has to come with **increased access to protected paid leave**.
4. Safe and affordable childcare is out of reach for too many families. There must be a plan for **childcare** that utilizes and builds on our current child care workforce and infrastructure and recognizes the gaps that existed before the pandemic. With schools closed and childcare facilities limited, childcare is critical to truly opening the economy.
5. All **public grants, loans, or dollars** to businesses and employers should be **targeted to incentivize worker protections, quality benefits, hiring back displaced workers, and housing supports as soon as possible**. These investments should focus on industries that employ low income workers of color and investments should be targeted to this community.

6. **Investments in training with labor standards** should be made to ensure workers have the tools to adapt to safely working in a post-COVID environment and that Oregon has the workforce we need to respond and recover from this crisis and prevent future ones.
7. Industries that receive, or have already received, public funds must be **transparent and use those public funds to protect and support workers**. All funds allocated to employers should be overseen by an **oversight committee**.
8. Workers who have lost their job as a result of COVID-19 should be **presumed eligible for unemployment insurance benefits** for the remainder of this crisis. Workers who could be reasonably exposed to COVID-19 on the job **should be presumed eligible for workers' compensation**.
9. **Union and "high road" employers should be prioritized for funding and re-opening the economy**. Employers that have a strong history of strong safety, health, civil rights, and organizing standards should be prioritized.
10. Where workers have a voice on the job, access to processes to solve disputes, legal methods to prevent retaliation for complaints should be prioritized.