

Item 5: Department of Administrative Services

Emergency Relief Checks

Analyst: Ken Rocco

Request: Increase the Federal Funds expenditure limitation established for the Department of Administrative Services for funding made available to states through the Coronavirus Relief Fund by \$35,000,000 for payments of emergency relief funds in the amount of \$500 on a one-time basis for any Oregon worker who has been impacted by job-related income loss because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Description:

The Department of Administrative Services (DAS) will work with financial institutions to develop a simple process for Oregon workers to apply and receive a one-time payment of \$500. The one-time payment would not be linked to any future benefit and would not need to be repaid unless the application is found to be fraudulent.

DAS will report to the Legislative Fiscal Office on behalf of the Emergency Board once this process has been structured on eligibility, application requirements, public access and notification of the program, coverage of financial institution administrative costs, and mechanisms to prevent fraud while protecting public health and ensuring the emergency relief is provided to eligible applicants as quickly and efficiently as possible.

Recommendation: The Co-Chairs of the Emergency Board recommend increasing the Federal Funds expenditure limitation established for the Department of Administrative Services for funding made available to states through the Coronavirus Relief Fund by \$35,000,000 for payments of emergency relief funds in the amount of \$500 on a one-time basis for any Oregon worker who has been impacted by job-related income loss because of the COVID-19 pandemic.