

THE HEROES ACT

A Bold Response to the Coronavirus Pandemic and the Economic Collapse



Below are the initial highlights of the \$3 trillion House Democrats' Heroes Act legislation in response to the coronavirus pandemic. The Heroes Act: increases direct aid for state and local governments; infrastructure funding; multiple changes to the CARES Act including the Paycheck Protection Program; extends unemployment insurance benefits; workforce training and worker protection; grants for hospital and health care providers; education funding; multi-employer pension plans; accelerated payments to contractors; elimination for 2020 and 2021 of limitation on deduction of state and local taxes; OSHA standards; Family Medical Leave Act and paid sick leave; and provides more direct payments to Americans. The House is expected to pass the bill on Friday, May 15.

AGC NYS is currently reviewing the bill and will provide additional details about the specific proposals of the House Democrats legislation and the reactions from President Trump, House Republicans, United States Senate, and Governor Cuomo.

In addition, please register for the upcoming AGC NYS Congressional Town Hall Zoom meetings to get the facts and voice your opinion about the Heroes Act.

[The House summary is available here.](#)

State Fiscal Relief – \$500 billion in funding to assist state governments with the fiscal impacts from the public health emergency caused by the coronavirus.

Local Fiscal Relief – \$375 billion in funding to assist local governments with the fiscal impacts from the public health emergency caused by the coronavirus.

Assistance to Homeowners – \$75 billion to states, territories, and tribes to address the ongoing needs of homeowners struggling to afford their housing due directly or indirectly to the impacts of the pandemic by providing direct assistance with mortgage payments, property taxes, property insurance, utilities, and other housing related costs.

Department of the Interior – \$1 billion for building hospitals and critical infrastructure in the Insular Areas, as well as for general technical assistance in responding to Coronavirus; and \$5 million to perform oversight, accountability, and evaluation of programs, projects, or activities in the Department of the Interior pandemic response.

Department of Labor – \$3.1 billion to support workforce training and worker protection activities related to coronavirus.

Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund – \$175 billion to reimburse for health care related expenses or lost revenue attributable to the coronavirus.

Department of Education – \$100.15 billion to support the educational needs of States, school districts, and institutions of higher education in response to coronavirus.

Department of Transportation - Highways – \$15 billion for grants to support the ongoing work of State, Tribal, and Territorial Departments of Transportation and certain local governments to mitigate the effects of coronavirus including the salaries of staff and other administrative expenses.

Transit Emergency Relief – \$15.75 billion for operating assistance grants to support the transit agencies that require significant additional assistance to maintain basic transit services. Of these amounts \$11.75 billion will be distributed by formula and \$4 billion will be available to any grantee or sub-recipient by application to the Secretary.

Pilot program to improve laboratory infrastructure. Authorizes grants to states and localities to improve, renovate, or modernize clinical laboratory infrastructure in order to help increase COVID-19 testing capacities.

Recovery rebates to individuals. Provides a \$1,200 refundable tax credit for each family member that shall be paid out in advance payments, similar to the Economic Impact Payments in the CARES Act. The credit is \$1,200 for a single taxpayer (\$2,400 for joint filers), in addition to \$1,200 per dependent up to a maximum of 3 dependents. The credit phases out starting at \$75,000 of modified adjusted gross income (\$112,500 for head of household filers and \$150,000 for joint filers) at a rate of \$5 per \$100 of income.

Elimination for 2020 and 2021 of limitation on deduction of state and local taxes. Eliminates the limitation on the deduction for state and local taxes for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2020 and on or before December 31, 2021.