



Hot off the Press:

Congress and the President Act to Increase Small Business Loan Program: Roughly \$484 billion in economic aid is on its way to small businesses, medical providers, and state testing efforts as part of the latest relief measure, the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act (PL 116-139) signed into law on April 24, 2020. The law provides \$310 billion for the Paycheck Protection Program, \$75 billion for hospitals, and \$25 billion for states to increase testing.

No Remote Hearings or Voting for Now: House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer and House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy convened a bipartisan workgroup to consider various options for carrying out congressional functions. Earlier this week, it looked like the House would vote on new rules including “Proxy voting,” but after bipartisan pushback, the workgroup was announced. Republicans in both chambers of Congress, including most notably Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, are pushing to get back to the normal in-person schedule.

A Deeper Look (Articles of Interest)

SSI and CARES: The Department of Treasury announced on April 15, 2020, that SSI recipients will automatically receive economic impact payments (made possible by the CARES Act) *without* being required to file additional forms. “SSI recipients with no qualifying children do not need to take any action in order to receive their \$1,200 economic impact payment. The payments will be automatic,” said Secretary Steven T. Mnuchin. However, SSI recipients with qualifying children under age 17 should use the ‘Non-Filers: Enter Payment Info Here’ web portal according to Mnuchin. For more information, see the IRS webpage.

- Center for Budget Policy and Priorities Blog on the Treasury Deadline for \$500 Stimulus Payment:
<https://www.cbpp.org/blog/irs-deadlines-threaten-stimulus-payments-for-1-million-dependents>

Discrimination: This Bulletin on civil rights, HIPAA, and COVID-19 is provided by the HHS Office of Civil Rights (OCR) to reinforce the laws and regulations prohibiting discrimination and upholding civil rights. It includes resources relating to coronavirus treatment. OCR joined with FEMA's Office of Equal Rights (OER) in a teleconference to discuss civil-rights related concerns related to COVID-19. The transcript from the first

teleconference on April 16 is now available. Please contact the OER for dates of upcoming teleconferences. If you have specific questions regarding the transcript, please contact FEMA CRO via email at FEMA-CivilRightsOffice@fema.dhs.gov

Article on availability of [legal services](#) in cities and states hit hard by COVID-19.

From ACL: Lifespan Respite Care Program Funding Opportunities: ACL has opened three new funding opportunities under its Lifespan Respite Care Program. Lifespan Respite Care programs are coordinated systems of accessible, community-based respite care services for family caregivers of children and adults of all ages with special needs. <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USACL/bulletins/283f9de>

National Academy for State Health Policy:

- **State Actions on Coronavirus:**
<https://mailchi.mp/bdc0fa5296a8/q64qdn3u2b-3844985?e=a41e6e5402>
- **States Change Health Care Provider Rules:**
<https://nashp.org/states-address-provider-shortages-to-meet-the-health-care-demands-of-the-pandemic/>

From Families USA: Families USA compiled FAQ responses for state health coverage during COVID-19 – [view the answers here](#). We also wrote about why it is critical for states to expand Medicaid, even if only temporarily – [read the full analysis here](#).

- Georgetown CCF wrote about the impact COVID-19 has had on work requirements in Medicaid and CMS's ongoing strategies – [read the full piece here](#).
- CBPP has a new report on how states can streamline Medicaid enrollment to meet the higher demand – [read their analysis here](#).

Alabama Alters COVID-19 Vent Policy After Discrimination Complaints:

https://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/928524?nlid=134997_3901&src=wnl_newsalert_200412_MSCPEDIT&uac=324770DY&impID=2344371&faf=1

State HCBS responses (emergency waivers) from NHeLP:

- [Webinar: Changing Medicaid Programs to Meet COVID-19 Needs](#)
- [COVID-19 Changes to HCBS Using Appendix K: Approval Trends](#)
- [Overview on Using Medicaid to Respond to COVID-19](#)
- NASDDDS [Appendix K collection](#)
- State of the States [analysis](#) of emergency waivers
- Justice in Aging [analysis](#)

From the Arc:

Advocacy materials on COVID19 package 4:

The Arc Action Alerts:

Tweet: <https://cqrceengage.com/thearc/app/tweet?0&engagementId=506984>

Call: <https://disabilityadvocacynetwork.org/app/make-a-call?0&engagementId=506895&ga=2.28973496.505103824.1586465467-289077956.1572352043>

Email: <https://disabilityadvocacynetwork.org/app/make-a-call?0&engagementId=506895>

CPR [advocacy](#) materials

Rationing and Medical Ethics

- The [Center for Public Representation](#) published an extensive resource for articles, papers, and websites related to disability rights, rationing, and ethics of medical care.
- [The Conversation](#) Doctors Face Grim Choice to Put Patients with Disabilities at the Back of the Line by **Deborah Hellman**, Professor of Law, University of Virginia, 4/20/2020.
- [A Framework for Rationing Ventilators and Critical Care Beds During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#) developed by the University of Pittsburgh is used by hospitals and states. *JAMA*. Published online March 27, 2020. doi:10.1001/jama.2020.5046

Resources

- [Kaiser 1135 Tracker and Appendix K Tracker](#)
- [Justice in Aging Appendix K Tracker](#) (see section f for rate increases: Alaska (50%), Colorado (8-13%), Kentucky (50%), and Washington (not exceed 25%). I also attached NHeLP's recent summary of themes in Appendix K changes.
- **Massachusetts:** Attached are questions Dennis put together for health plans on what they're doing to respond to COVID.
MassHealth: <https://www.mass.gov/treatment-and-recovery-services> and <https://www.mass.gov/doc/ltss-provider-updates-for-covid-19>;
- **Illinois** [1115 Application](#)

From Colorado: A website on disability-specific issues related to COVID 19 in Colorado - [Covid-19 and People with Disabilities](#)

Please stay well and safe,

Brian

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