

Federal Funding Given to Georgia in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

As of August 1, 2020, the federal fiscal response to the COVID-19 pandemic includes two major legislative packages: the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) and the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES).

FFCRA funded free COVID-19 testing, enhanced unemployment insurance and suspended some burdensome requirements for recipients of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC), but the centerpiece of the legislation was the \$36 billion in additional Medicaid funding to enhance each state's matching Federal Medical Assistance Percentages (FMAP) rate by 6.2 percentage points. Through this enhancement, the state received about \$700 million from March through July, with approximately \$154 million used to cover Medicaid costs in the state's FY 2021 budget.

The \$2.2 trillion CARES Act provided the largest share of federal assistance to the state. The legislation provided funding to help state and local governments cover the direct costs of the COVID-19 response through the Coronavirus Relief Fund, along with funding for education, child care, transportation and more. For the most part, these funds provided a temporary stopgap to help cover a few months of costs directly related to the pandemic.



Major Funding Sources Allocated to Georgia Under the CARES Act

Program/Agency	Total Appropriation to Georgia	Purpose
Coronavirus Relief Fund	\$4,117,018,751	Funds allocated to state, city and county governments.
Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief	\$457,169,852	Funding allocated to the Georgia Department of Education to provide assistance to local educational agencies to address the increased costs of providing instruction to students.
Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund	\$406,119,208	Allocated based on student enrollment to colleges and universities to cover expenses related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Fifty percent of each institution's funds must be used to directly provide emergency financial aid grants to students.
Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund - HBCUs/MSIs/SIP	\$57,514,687	Grants authorized specifically for Historically Black Colleges and Universities, other Minority-Serving Institutions and schools serving majority low-income students. Funds may be used for student aid or to defray institutional expenses caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.
Child Care and Development Block Grant	\$144,539,371	Funds to the Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) to assist child care providers.
Federal Transit Administration Grants	\$522,237,467	Funds provided by the CARES Act for Transit.
Grants-in-Aid for Airports	\$410,817,650	Relief to Georgia airports.

Source: Georgia House Budget and Research Office, "Georgia's Federal Relief Funds for the Coronavirus Pandemic," June 5, 2020.

