

Second Emergency Stimulus Bill Provides \$100 Billion in Additional Funding to Further Support COVID-19 Treatment and Testing

The Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act (the Act), a second round of emergency economic stimulus funding that was signed into law on April 24, 2020, allocates \$484 billion to replenish and supplement financial support for critical programs under the CARES Act.

Of this amount, \$100 billion in funding has been earmarked for healthcare providers to further assist with the treatment of and testing for COVID-19, outlined as follows:

\$75 billion in additional funds have been allocated to the Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund to assist eligible healthcare providers with healthcare related expenses or lost revenues that are attributable to COVID-19.

\$25 billion in additional funds have been allocated to the Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund to research, develop, validate, manufacture, purchase, administer, and expand the capacity for testing to effectively monitor and suppress COVID-19.

The Secretary has also been tasked with reporting to Congress on the efforts of HHS. This includes a report within 21 days of enactment regarding the number and rate of cases, hospitalizations and deaths as a result of COVID-19, and a report within 30 days of enactment regarding efforts to develop a national strategic testing plan for COVID-19.

Healthcare providers and others on the front lines of the COVID-19 fight who wish to avail themselves of these newly appropriated funds should act promptly, given how quickly the first round of CARES Act funding was exhausted and with the expectation that this additional funding will follow suit in short order.

Please contact the authors of this Alert with questions or for assistance in evaluating your specific needs.

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