

MAY 2020

# Youth Leaders Guide on COVID- 19 Response & Recovery Bills



THE  
**RECONNECTING  
YOUTH CAMPAIGN**

UNLEASHING LIMITLESS POTENTIAL



# the background

Congress has passed several bills designed to aid our nation's recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and is currently working on the next phase of the response & recovery legislation.

Our message is that **youth need to be prioritized** in the next economic stimulus package.

Low-income youth, youth workers and Opportunity Youth are on the front lines of this pandemic as essential workers yet are suffering financially from the current economic downturn and pending future recession.

## our work is grounded in the following principles:

- Centering race and gender equity;
- Expanding opportunities for the most vulnerable;
- Investing in capacity building and local decision-making;
- Co-designing solutions with young people; and
- Preparing and listening to the next generation of leaders.

## WHAT'S IN THIS GUIDE

Background and about this guide	Page 2
What has Congress Done So Far?	Page 3
What is Missing from CARES Act?	Page 5
What's Next and Getting Involved	Page 6
Additional Resources.	Page 6
Opportunity Youth Community Recommended Funding Levels.	Page 7

## the bottom line

**is that we believe that all young people need access to:**

- **Living wages and allowances** through employment, training and/or service to participate in the economy and empower themselves;
- **Interventions that address systemic issues** stemming from mental and behavioral health, economic inequality, homelessness, violence, and substance abuse;
- **Positive mentors and experiences** that help youth explore their talents and develop a plan for success; and
- Pathways, designed in partnership with adults, that **expand access to a wide range of opportunities** such as higher education, vocational education, service and careers.

# **LEARN MORE:**

## **What Has Congress Done So Far?**

**Bottom Line:** The law does not provide the funding needed to meet the existing needs of 4.5 million Opportunity Youth and support youth workers who are vulnerable to mass layoffs in the face of the oncoming recession.

However, there are several components that are helpful for youth:

### **individual financial supports**

#### **Direct Payments**

Most taxpayers who filed in 2018 and 2019 and who are not able to be claimed as a dependent are eligible to receive up to \$1,200 from the federal government and an additional \$500 for every dependent. The IRS has launched a [tool for non-filers](#) to receive payments. Check on the status of your economic impact payment [here](#).

#### **Unemployment Insurance (UI)**

You must file for unemployment through your state's Department of Labor. The CARES Act extends UI by providing \$600 per week up to four months. Through the PUA (Pandemic Unemployment Assistance) provision this extends benefits to include workers who are self-employed, independent contractors, gig economy workers and those who do not have sufficient work history.

#### **Paycheck Protection Program (PPP)**

Youth who are independent contractors, self-employed, and/or entrepreneurs may be eligible for the PPP. Apply to the program through your bank and you can receive forgivable loans to cover payroll and other certain expenses. [Learn more here](#).

#### **Economic Injury Disaster Loan**

Youth who are independent contractors and/or entrepreneurs may be eligible for forgivable loan advance of up to \$10,000 through the [Economic Injury Disaster Loan](#). The funds will be made available within three days of being approved. Applicants must be able to prove that their entity is currently experiencing a temporary loss of revenue due to COVID-19. [Learn more here](#).

*Summary of the CARES Act (Signed into law March 27, 2020) and the COVID-4 Package (passed on April 21)*

# **LEARN MORE:** **What Has Congress Done So Far?**

## **state/local/community supports**

<b>Education</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• \$13.5 billion for K-12 schools to help respond to COVID-19;</li><li>• \$14.5 billion for colleges and universities;</li><li>• <b><u>Find out how much your college/university will receive here</u></b></li><li>• Student borrowers can suspend their loan payments for six months ending September 30, 2020 (interests are deferred during this period)</li></ul>
<b>Mental Health</b>	\$425 million to support mental and behavioral health services nationwide
<b>Housing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• \$3 billion for rental assistance relief for low-income individuals living in HUD-assisted housing</li><li>• \$4 billion to HUD for Emergency Solutions Grants</li></ul>
<b>Food &amp; Nutrition</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Suspension of time limit for Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD) receiving SNAP</li></ul>
<b>Coronavirus Relief Fund</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• \$150 billion in flexible funding for states;</li><li>• <b><u>See how much your state will get</u></b></li></ul>

*Summary of the CARES Act (Signed into law March 27, 2020) and the COVID-4 Package (passed on April 21) Get more detail in the National Youth Employment Coalition's **summary**.*

## **LEARN MORE: What is Missing from CARES Act?**

### **Undocumented Individuals**

- Individuals who are undocumented are prohibited from receiving direct payments under the CARES Act;
- On 4/21/20 the Trump Administration prohibited undocumented college students from receiving emergency federal cash assistance for expenses like food, childcare and housing.

### **Youth under age 19 and college students under 24**

- Individuals who can be claimed as an dependent on someone else's federal income tax are not eligible for the \$1,200 stimulus payment;
- An individual can be claimed as a dependent on someone else's federal income tax return if they are under age 19 or if they are a student and under 24.

NOTE: It does not matter whether they are claimed as a dependent, just that they can be claimed as a dependent.

### **Households with youth in college or with youth who are 18-19 years old**

- Because parents only receive \$500 for each child under 17, households with youth 18 and 19 year old won't receive the \$500 payment
- Most college students are older than 17 years old, thus neither the student nor the parents will get the \$500 payment

**[Learn more here](#)**

### **Set-Asides for Youth**

Most of the grants and funding for state and local governments such as the Emergency Solutions Grants don't have specific set asides for serving youth. However, there is no language that prohibits the money from serving youth, thus serving youth will have to compete with other priorities and interests

### **Youth-Specific Economic Relief**

Dedicated funding to aid the loss of summer youth employment jobs, hazard pay for frontline workers, and worker protections for gig workers are needed

# **TAKE ACTION: What's Next and How Can I Get Involved?**

## **immediate actions**

- Tell us how COVID-19 is affecting you by filling out NYEC's brief [COVID-19 Response Form](#)
- Sign on to our Individuals & Organizations Letter: We Must Leave Young People Behind in Our Crisis Response Sign-On Letter. [Sign on here.](#)
- Participate in the Youth Townhall on May 19, 2020 from 5:30-7:30PM. [Register here.](#)

## **ongoing actions**

- [Email/Call your Member of Congress](#) to tell them to prioritize youth
  - Send them our [OY Recommendations](#), tell them about how you are responding to COVID-19, thank our Congressional champions who prioritize youth
- Write blogs and articles about the need to prioritize youth in next relief package. If you are interested in writing an article and would like support, please email: [caitlink@sparkaction.org](mailto:caitlink@sparkaction.org)
  - For example, [this op-ed](#) by Adam Strong

# **Resources**

- Visit [CLASP's COVID Resources](#)
- Visit the [National Youth Employment Coalition's COVID-19 Resources Page](#)
- Visit [OYUnited's COVID Resources Page](#)

# **TAKE ACTION: OY Community Recommended Funding Levels**

Now is the time for **bold proposals to reconnect Opportunity Youth to pathways** that build toward a career with a family sustaining wage as they help restart the economy and rebuild our communities.

**Join us in calling on Congress to invest in Young People.**

<b>PROGRAM</b>	<b>Recommended Additional Funding Levels</b>
<b>SCALE UP EXISTING PROGRAMS</b>	
Increased Funding for Opening Doors for Youth Act	\$5.5 billion
<b>TAILORED COVID INTERVENTIONS</b>	
National Transitional Jobs Program	\$44 billion
Postsecondary Bridging for All	\$10 billion
National Service as an Automatic Stabilizer Youth Corps Act of 2019 (HR 1634) Climate Resiliency Service Corps Act of 2019 (HR 5176) Appropriate funding to National Service authorizations	\$500 million, to CNCS as supplemental FY20 appropriations
Access to Trauma Informed, Healing Centered Supports	\$1 billion, jointly administered by DOL and HHS
<b>Total Increased Funding for New Programs</b>	\$500 million, to CNCS as supplemental FY20 appropriations
<b>Number of new work and education slots generated</b>	\$44.35 million
<b>Total Requests</b>	\$61.5 Billion

\*View our full-detailed [recommendations here.](#)

# In Partnership With

