

**KATE BROWN  
GOVERNOR**



April 15, 2020

**Council Feedback on Federal CARES Act:**

The Governor's Coronavirus Economic Advisory Council was asked for feedback and to identify gaps in the third federal stimulus package, the CARES Act. A number of issues were brought forward:

- Rural hospitals—while there has been stimulus funds distributed for the rural hospitals, their financial needs continue to be significant and any additional stimulus package should address lost revenue and income.
- Food and housing insecurity—any additional federal stimulus package should provide additional assistance to ensure that Oregonians can obtain the food that they need, as well as assist with any back payment of housing due to lack of income.
- Farm workers, undocumented workers, and immigrant workers—the CARES Act did not have provisions or funding to address the needs of these populations and they continue to fall through the cracks.
- Healthcare—additional federal funds should address the fact that healthcare is tied to employment and with many out of work it is creating fractured medical coverage certainty and gaps in plans.
- Local governments—while there is an expectation that some of the CARES act funding will be going to local governments, the amount is still unknown and is expected to only cover direct expenses related to COVID 19 response. Additional federal funds should address the impact of lost revenue for local governments.
- SBA Funds—while the Payroll Protection Program has been helpful to businesses throughout the state there are many small and micro businesses who have not been able to access funds or access a bank to apply through. Additional federal funds should address how to reach these businesses and an alternate funding mechanism. Additional funds with more flexibility for all Oregon businesses, including non-profits and 501c (6) entities would be helpful.
- Supply chain issues—a review and consideration of supply chain issues and financial needs for the sectors involved should be considered in additional federal stimulus funds.
- Recession and stimulus assistance—while the CARES act funding was meant as an infusion to the state economy, the need for additional recession and stimulus assistance for all sectors will be significant over the next number of weeks. While additional funds will be necessary to deal with those issues, states are in, and will continue to be in, a staffing crisis that both recession and stimulus funding should address.
- Commercial Mortgage Backed Securities—there is currently an inflexibility in many commercial mortgages since the financing structure for commercial is different than residential. Any further

federal legislation should address the needs of commercial mortgage holders through flexibility on lending and term conditions.

- Tribal funding—the financial needs of the tribes are currently not being addressed through any federal relief funding, any additional funding should address response, recovery, and lost revenue that the tribes have incurred.
- UI coverage expansion—while unemployment insurance has been expanded significantly through the stimulus package, the needs continue to outweigh the resources. Additional funds should be put into UI and specifically address workers that are not currently eligible for resources.
- EIDL changes—The Emergency Injury Declaration Loan through the SBA has changed the grant amounts over the past week. Additional funds should be put into the EIDLs as grants with more flexible limits and terms.

The council also identified the need for additional conversations around:

- a roll out plan for how to get back to work
- the ramping up of PPE and testing
- criteria for relaxing social distancing
- work around tracing the virus
- impacts to the revenue forecast
- what does recovery look like