

# NCAPA COVID-19 Resource: *HEROES Act*



On May 15, 2020, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the HEROES Act, a bill that provides \$3 trillion of emergency funding to support families, essential workers, and small businesses. This bill has NOT been passed by the U.S. Senate or signed into law. However, given the scope of this legislation, here are just some of the most important parts to note for the AAPI community.

## HEALTH

- Clarifies that Emergency Medicaid includes COVID treatment and vaccination, allowing many categories of immigrants without health coverage to have access to no-cost treatments and vaccinations.
- Restores Medicaid benefits to COFA communities.
- Requires CDC to report COVID-19 testing and diagnosis data by race, ethnicity, age, gender, geographic region in order to identify health disparities.

## EDUCATION

- Provides over \$100 billion to K-12 and postsecondary education, specifically providing critical financial aid to schools and directly into the hands of students
- Expands student loan assistance to federal loan borrowers previously ineligible under the CARES Act, and extends assistance until Sept. 30, 2021.
- Severely restricts student debt cancellation and fails to account for the millions of borrowers who are newly economically distressed due to the pandemic

## IMMIGRATION

- Offers all people, regardless of status, cash assistance, including ITIN filers and their families, who were left out of the CARES Act.
- Provides automatic extension of status for DACA, TPS recipients and others and extension of visa expiration and immigration deadlines
- Provides for remote naturalization ceremonies
- Orders ICE to review all cases of immigrants in detention for release, but establishes a mandatory detention standard for prioritizing release that falls short of what is needed to protect lives.

## HOUSING AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE

- Provides needed protections for a broad range of essential workers including funding for PPE and hazard pay, directives to OSHA, an expansion of emergency paid sick and family medical leave, and extension of unemployment insurance help all workers.
- Provides a temporary moratorium on small business and nonprofit debt collection during this COVID-19 crisis, and for 120 days thereafter.

# NCAPA COVID-19 Resource: *HEROES Act (cont.)*



- Provides \$2 billion to the Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) Fund, of which \$800 million would be set aside for minority-owned lenders, including minority depository institutions (MDIs), to support small businesses, minority-owned businesses and underserved communities.
- Suspends negative credit reporting for 120 days and permanently bans the credit reporting of COVID 19 medical debt. Establishes a moratorium on consumer debt collection for 120 days.
- Provides \$100 billion for an Emergency Rental Assistance program that would allocate funding to states, territories, counties, and cities to help renters pay their rent and utility bills and \$75 billion to states, territories, and tribes to address the ongoing needs of homeowners struggling to afford their housing due directly or indirectly to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic by providing direct assistance with mortgage payments, property taxes, property insurance, utilities, and other housing related costs
- Expands the eviction moratorium and foreclosure moratorium in the CARES Act to include all renters and homeowners.

## CIVIL RIGHTS

- Includes provisions that will help ensure the best census possible under very challenging circumstances, including a postponement of census operations and corresponding delay of apportionment and redistricting data. Provides additional funding to address the changing environment of COVID-19, regular reporting to Congress about the 2020 Census and other key provisions.
- Allocates \$3.6 billion in funds for states and requires states to offer a range of options to make voting safe and accessible, including offering online and same-day voter registration, offering at least 15 consecutive days of early in-person voting, making no-excuse absentee vote-by-mail available and accessible to all voters with postage paid by the government, and establishing safe and sanitized in-person polling places that adhere to CDC guidance.
- Funding for hate crimes investigation and prevention through the Jabara-Heyer NO HATE Act

## WHAT'S MISSING?

- Lacks specific funding and requirements to ensure translated documents and access to interpretation are available to limited English proficient Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (AA and NHPI) communities



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