

Coronavirus Relief Fund
Guidance for State, Territorial, Local, and Tribal Governments
Updated June 30, 2020¹

The purpose of this document is to provide guidance to recipients of the funding available under section 601(a) of the Social Security Act, as added by section 5001 of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (“CARES Act”). The CARES Act established the Coronavirus Relief Fund (the “Fund”) and appropriated \$150 billion to the Fund. Under the CARES Act, the Fund is to be used to make payments for specified uses to States and certain local governments; the District of Columbia and U.S. Territories (consisting of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands); and Tribal governments.

The CARES Act provides that payments from the Fund may only be used to cover costs that—

1. are necessary expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency with respect to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19);
2. were not accounted for in the budget most recently approved as of March 27, 2020 (the date of enactment of the CARES Act) for the State or government; and
3. were incurred during the period that begins on March 1, 2020, and ends on December 30, 2020.²

The guidance that follows sets forth the Department of the Treasury’s interpretation of these limitations on the permissible use of Fund payments.

Necessary expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency

The requirement that expenditures be incurred “due to” the public health emergency means that expenditures must be used for actions taken to respond to the public health emergency. These may include expenditures incurred to allow the State, territorial, local, or Tribal government to respond directly to the emergency, such as by addressing medical or public health needs, as well as expenditures incurred to respond to second-order effects of the emergency, such as by providing economic support to those suffering from employment or business interruptions due to COVID-19-related business closures.

Funds may not be used to fill shortfalls in government revenue to cover expenditures that would not otherwise qualify under the statute. Although a broad range of uses is allowed, revenue replacement is not a permissible use of Fund payments.

The statute also specifies that expenditures using Fund payments must be “necessary.” The Department of the Treasury understands this term broadly to mean that the expenditure is reasonably necessary for its intended use in the reasonable judgment of the government officials responsible for spending Fund payments.

Costs not accounted for in the budget most recently approved as of March 27, 2020

The CARES Act also requires that payments be used only to cover costs that were not accounted for in the budget most recently approved as of March 27, 2020. A cost meets this requirement if either (a) the

¹ This version updates the guidance provided under “Costs incurred during the period that begins on March 1, 2020, and ends on December 30, 2020”.

² See Section 601(d) of the Social Security Act, as added by section 5001 of the CARES Act.

cost cannot lawfully be funded using a line item, allotment, or allocation within that budget *or* (b) the cost is for a substantially different use from any expected use of funds in such a line item, allotment, or allocation.

The “most recently approved” budget refers to the enacted budget for the relevant fiscal period for the particular government, without taking into account subsequent supplemental appropriations enacted or other budgetary adjustments made by that government in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency. A cost is not considered to have been accounted for in a budget merely because it could be met using a budgetary stabilization fund, rainy day fund, or similar reserve account.

Costs incurred during the period that begins on March 1, 2020, and ends on December 30, 2020

Finally, the CARES Act provides that payments from the Fund may only be used to cover costs that were incurred during the period that begins on March 1, 2020, and ends on December 30, 2020 (the “covered period”). Putting this requirement together with the other provisions discussed above, section 601(d) may be summarized as providing that a State, local, or tribal government may use payments from the Fund only to cover previously unbudgeted costs of necessary expenditures incurred due to the COVID-19 public health emergency during the covered period.

Initial guidance released on April 22, 2020, provided that the cost of an expenditure is incurred when the recipient has expended funds to cover the cost. Upon further consideration and informed by an understanding of State, local, and tribal government practices, Treasury is clarifying that for a cost to be considered to have been incurred, performance or delivery must occur during the covered period but payment of funds need not be made during that time (though it is generally expected that this will take place within 90 days of a cost being incurred). For instance, in the case of a lease of equipment or other property, irrespective of when payment occurs, the cost of a lease payment shall be considered to have been incurred for the period of the lease that is within the covered period, but not otherwise. Furthermore, in all cases it must be necessary that performance or delivery take place during the covered period. Thus the cost of a good or service received during the covered period will not be considered eligible under section 601(d) if there is no need for receipt until after the covered period has expired.

Goods delivered in the covered period need not be used during the covered period in all cases. For example, the cost of a good that must be delivered in December in order to be available for use in January could be covered using payments from the Fund. Additionally, the cost of goods purchased in bulk and delivered during the covered period may be covered using payments from the Fund if a portion of the goods is ordered for use in the covered period, the bulk purchase is consistent with the recipient’s usual procurement policies and practices, and it is impractical to track and record when the items were used. A recipient may use payments from the Fund to purchase a durable good that is to be used during the current period and in subsequent periods if the acquisition in the covered period was necessary due to the public health emergency.

Given that it is not always possible to estimate with precision when a good or service will be needed, the touchstone in assessing the determination of need for a good or service during the covered period will be reasonableness at the time delivery or performance was sought, *e.g.*, the time of entry into a procurement contract specifying a time for delivery. Similarly, in recognition of the likelihood of supply chain disruptions and increased demand for certain goods and services during the COVID-19 public health emergency, if a recipient enters into a contract requiring the delivery of goods or performance of services by December 30, 2020, the failure of a vendor to complete delivery or services by December 30, 2020, will not affect the ability of the recipient to use payments from the Fund to cover the cost of such goods or services if the delay is due to circumstances beyond the recipient’s control.

This guidance applies in a like manner to costs of subrecipients. Thus, a grant or loan, for example, provided by a recipient using payments from the Fund must be used by the subrecipient only to purchase (or reimburse a purchase of) goods or services for which receipt both is needed within the covered period and occurs within the covered period. The direct recipient of payments from the Fund is ultimately responsible for compliance with this limitation on use of payments from the Fund.

Nonexclusive examples of eligible expenditures

Eligible expenditures include, but are not limited to, payment for:

1. Medical expenses such as:
 - COVID-19-related expenses of public hospitals, clinics, and similar facilities.
 - Expenses of establishing temporary public medical facilities and other measures to increase COVID-19 treatment capacity, including related construction costs.
 - Costs of providing COVID-19 testing, including serological testing.
 - Emergency medical response expenses, including emergency medical transportation, related to COVID-19.
 - Expenses for establishing and operating public telemedicine capabilities for COVID-19-related treatment.
2. Public health expenses such as:
 - Expenses for communication and enforcement by State, territorial, local, and Tribal governments of public health orders related to COVID-19.
 - Expenses for acquisition and distribution of medical and protective supplies, including sanitizing products and personal protective equipment, for medical personnel, police officers, social workers, child protection services, and child welfare officers, direct service providers for older adults and individuals with disabilities in community settings, and other public health or safety workers in connection with the COVID-19 public health emergency.
 - Expenses for disinfection of public areas and other facilities, *e.g.*, nursing homes, in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency.
 - Expenses for technical assistance to local authorities or other entities on mitigation of COVID-19-related threats to public health and safety.
 - Expenses for public safety measures undertaken in response to COVID-19.
 - Expenses for quarantining individuals.
3. Payroll expenses for public safety, public health, health care, human services, and similar employees whose services are substantially dedicated to mitigating or responding to the COVID-19 public health emergency.
4. Expenses of actions to facilitate compliance with COVID-19-related public health measures, such as:
 - Expenses for food delivery to residents, including, for example, senior citizens and other vulnerable populations, to enable compliance with COVID-19 public health precautions.
 - Expenses to facilitate distance learning, including technological improvements, in connection with school closings to enable compliance with COVID-19 precautions.
 - Expenses to improve telework capabilities for public employees to enable compliance with COVID-19 public health precautions.

- Expenses of providing paid sick and paid family and medical leave to public employees to enable compliance with COVID-19 public health precautions.
 - COVID-19-related expenses of maintaining state prisons and county jails, including as relates to sanitation and improvement of social distancing measures, to enable compliance with COVID-19 public health precautions.
 - Expenses for care for homeless populations provided to mitigate COVID-19 effects and enable compliance with COVID-19 public health precautions.
5. Expenses associated with the provision of economic support in connection with the COVID-19 public health emergency, such as:
 - Expenditures related to the provision of grants to small businesses to reimburse the costs of business interruption caused by required closures.
 - Expenditures related to a State, territorial, local, or Tribal government payroll support program.
 - Unemployment insurance costs related to the COVID-19 public health emergency if such costs will not be reimbursed by the federal government pursuant to the CARES Act or otherwise.
 6. Any other COVID-19-related expenses reasonably necessary to the function of government that satisfy the Fund’s eligibility criteria.

Nonexclusive examples of ineligible expenditures³

The following is a list of examples of costs that would *not* be eligible expenditures of payments from the Fund.

1. Expenses for the State share of Medicaid.⁴
2. Damages covered by insurance.
3. Payroll or benefits expenses for employees whose work duties are not substantially dedicated to mitigating or responding to the COVID-19 public health emergency.
4. Expenses that have been or will be reimbursed under any federal program, such as the reimbursement by the federal government pursuant to the CARES Act of contributions by States to State unemployment funds.
5. Reimbursement to donors for donated items or services.
6. Workforce bonuses other than hazard pay or overtime.
7. Severance pay.
8. Legal settlements.

³ In addition, pursuant to section 5001(b) of the CARES Act, payments from the Fund may not be expended for an elective abortion or on research in which a human embryo is destroyed, discarded, or knowingly subjected to risk of injury or death. The prohibition on payment for abortions does not apply to an abortion if the pregnancy is the result of an act of rape or incest; or in the case where a woman suffers from a physical disorder, physical injury, or physical illness, including a life-endangering physical condition caused by or arising from the pregnancy itself, that would, as certified by a physician, place the woman in danger of death unless an abortion is performed. Furthermore, no government which receives payments from the Fund may discriminate against a health care entity on the basis that the entity does not provide, pay for, provide coverage of, or refer for abortions.

⁴ See 42 C.F.R. § 433.51 and 45 C.F.R. § 75.306.



OFFICE OF
INSPECTOR GENERAL

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20220

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MEMORANDUM FOR CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUND RECIPIENTS

FROM: Richard K. Delmar /s/
Deputy Inspector General

SUBJECT: Coronavirus Relief Fund Reporting and Record Retention
Requirements

Title VI of the Social Security Act, as amended by Title V of Division A of the *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act* (Public Law 115-136), provides that the Department of the Treasury (Treasury) Office of Inspector General (OIG) is responsible for monitoring and oversight of the receipt, disbursement, and use of Coronavirus Relief Fund payments. Treasury OIG also has authority to recover funds in the event that it is determined a recipient of a Coronavirus Relief Fund payment failed to comply with requirements of subsection 601(d) of the Social Security Act, as amended, (42 U.S.C. 801(d)). Accordingly, we are providing recipient reporting and record retention requirements that are essential for the exercise of these responsibilities, including our conduct of audits and investigations.

Reporting Requirements and Timelines

Each prime recipient of Coronavirus Relief Fund payments¹ shall report Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) related “costs incurred” during the “covered period”² (the period beginning on March 1, 2020 and ending on December 30, 2020), in the manner of and according to the timelines outlined in this memorandum. As described below, each prime recipient shall report interim and quarterly data and other recipient data according to these requirements. Treasury OIG is working on development of a portal with GrantSolutions³ that is expected to be operational on

¹ Prime recipients include all 50 States, Units of Local Governments, the District of Columbia, U.S. Territories, and Tribal Governments that received a direct payment from Treasury in accordance with Title V.

² Refer to Treasury’s guidance dated June 30, 2020 for more information on costs incurred and the covered period.

³ A grant management service provider under the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

September 1, 2020, for recipients to report data on a quarterly basis. Until the GrantSolutions portal is operational, each prime recipient shall follow the interim reporting requirements. Treasury OIG will notify each prime recipient when GrantSolutions is operational or of any changes to the expected September 1, 2020 start date.

Interim Reporting for the period March 1 through June 30, 2020

By no later than July 17, 2020, each prime recipient is responsible for reporting costs incurred during the period March 1 through June 30, 2020. For this interim report, prime recipients need only report totals by the following broad categories:

- a. Amount transferred to other governments;
- b. Amount spent on payroll for public health and safety employees;
- c. Amount spent on budgeted personnel and services diverted to a substantially different use;
- d. Amount spent to improve telework capabilities of public employees;
- e. Amount spent on medical expenses;
- f. Amount spent on public health expenses;
- g. Amount spent to facilitate distance learning;
- h. Amount spent providing economic support;
- i. Amount spent on expenses associated with the issuance of tax anticipation notes; and
- j. Amount spent on items not listed above.

Recipients should consult Treasury's guidance and Frequently Asked Questions in reporting costs incurred during the period March 1 through June 30, 2020. The total of all categories must equal the total of all costs incurred during that period. A spreadsheet is attached for your use in providing the data. As discussed below, the prime recipient will be required to report information for the period March 1 through June 30, 2020 into GrantSolutions once it is operational.

Quarterly Reporting

Each prime recipient of Coronavirus Relief Fund payments shall report COVID-19 related costs into the GrantSolutions portal. Data required to be reported includes, but is not limited to, the following:

1. the total amount of payments from the Coronavirus Relief Fund received from Treasury;
2. the amount of funds received that were expended or obligated for each project or activity;
3. a detailed list of all projects or activities for which funds were expended or obligated, including:
 - a. the name of the project or activity;
 - b. a description of the project or activity; and

4. detailed information on any loans issued; contracts and grants awarded; transfers made to other government entities; and direct payments made by the recipient that are greater than \$50,000.

The prime recipient is responsible for reporting into the GrantSolutions portal information on uses of Coronavirus Relief Fund payments.

Recipient Portal Access: For future quarterly reporting, each prime recipient will have GrantSolutions portal access for three (3) individuals: two (2) designees (preparers) to input quarterly data and one (1) official authorized to certify that the data is true, accurate, and complete.⁴ **By no later than July 17, 2020**, please provide the name, title, email address, phone number, and postal address of these individuals so that portal access can be granted. After this information is received, guidance on the GrantSolutions portal access and data submission instructions will be issued separately.

Reporting timeline

By no later than September 21, 2020, recipients shall submit via the portal the first detailed quarterly report, which shall cover the period March 1 through June 30, 2020. Thereafter, quarterly reporting will be due no later than 10 days after each calendar quarter. For example, the period July 1 through September 30, 2020, must be reported no later than October 13, 2020 (Tuesday after the 10th day of October and the Columbus Day Holiday). Reporting shall end with either the calendar quarter after the COVID-19 related costs and expenditures have been liquidated and paid or the calendar quarter ending September 30, 2021, whichever comes first.

Record Retention Requirements

Recipients of Coronavirus Relief Fund payments shall maintain and make available to the Treasury OIG upon request all documents and financial records sufficient to establish compliance with subsection 601(d) of the Social Security Act, as amended, (42 U.S.C. 801(d)), which provides:

(d) USE OF FUNDS.—A State, Tribal government, and unit of local government shall use the funds provided under a payment made under this section to cover only those costs of the State, Tribal government, or unit of local government that—

1. are necessary expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency with respect to COVID-19;
2. were not accounted for in the budget most recently approved as of the date of enactment of this section for the State or government; and

⁴ The certifying official is an authorized representative of the recipient organization with the legal authority to give assurances, make commitments, enter into contracts, and execute such documents on behalf of the recipient.

3. were incurred⁵ during the period that begins on March 1, 2020, and ends on December 30, 2020.

Records to support compliance with subsection 601(d) may include, but are not limited to, copies of the following:

1. general ledger and subsidiary ledgers used to account for (a) the receipt of Coronavirus Relief Fund payments and (b) the disbursements from such payments to meet eligible expenses related to the public health emergency due to COVID-19;
2. budget records for 2019 and 2020;
3. payroll, time records, human resource records to support costs incurred for payroll expenses related to addressing the public health emergency due to COVID-19;
4. receipts of purchases made related to addressing the public health emergency due to COVID-19;
5. contracts and subcontracts entered into using Coronavirus Relief Fund payments and all documents related to such contracts;
6. grant agreements and grant subaward agreements entered into using Coronavirus Relief Fund payments and all documents related to such awards;
7. all documentation of reports, audits, and other monitoring of contractors, including subcontractors, and grant recipient and subrecipients;
8. all documentation supporting the performance outcomes of contracts, subcontracts, grant awards, and grant recipient subawards;
9. all internal and external email/electronic communications related to use of Coronavirus Relief Fund payments; and
10. all investigative files and inquiry reports involving Coronavirus Relief Fund payments.

Records shall be maintained for a period of five (5) years after final payment is made using Coronavirus Relief Fund monies. These record retention requirements are applicable to all prime recipients and their grantees and subgrant recipients, contractors, and other levels of government that received transfers of Coronavirus Relief Fund payments from prime recipients.

Thank you and we appreciate your assistance.

⁵ Refer to Treasury's guidance dated June 30, 2020 for more information on the definition of costs incurred.