Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Resource Listing

COVID-19 Related Assistance

The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in skyrocketing unemployment rates as businesses respond to the social distancing and shelter in place orders. Many people need help at this difficult time, our staff and clients included. Resources will be updated regularly.

Individual and Family Grants from ModestNeeds.org
Public housing residents and households who, because they are working and live just above the poverty level, are eligible to apply for an annual grant of up to $1,250 to cover unexpected/emergency expenses and monthly bills unpaid due to extenuating circumstances within the past year. Special consideration is given to persons living alone (single persons with no dependent children), public school teachers, and first responders.

Ho’ala Assistance Program
Provides one-time emergency financial assistance (up to $1000 per household) to Hawai’i residents facing hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Will fund mortgage payments, rents payments, utility services, and certified childcare services. *Currently unable to take any new applicants because of demand for services.

Health Information and Resources for Individuals
The Families First Coronavirus Response Act and the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act provide important protections for individuals to receive testing for the coronavirus (COVID-19) and other services.

Tax Relief
The Internal Review Service (IRS) and the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act provide the following tax relief for people to help them cover their financial needs during the public health emergency. Tax filing and payment delayed to July 15, penalty-free with withdrawals from Retirement accounts, loans from retirement plans, temporary waiver of required distribution rules for retirement plans and accounts, expansion of charitable tax deduction, and student loan payments by employers.

Emergency Paid Leave
The Families First Coronavirus Response Act (“Families First”) requires small businesses with up to 500 employees to provide two new types of paid leave to their employees who are directly affected by the COVID-19 outbreak. The first type, emergency paid sick leave, allows people to take time off if they are sick, if they are caring for a sick person, if they cannot work because of a government order to isolate, or if they need to take care of a child whose school or childcare is closed. The second type, emergency family and medical leave, provided another option for people who need to care for a child whose school or childcare provider has closed due to the outbreak. The paid leave requirements go into effect on April 1, 2020, and last until December 31, 2020.
**Unemployment Assistance**
The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act provides supplemental unemployment insurance (UI) funding to expand individuals’ eligibility, increase benefit amounts, and lengthen the duration of benefit availability.

**Veterans**
The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act provides the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) with $19.57 billion in funding to ensure it has the equipment, tests, and support services necessary to provide veterans with the additional care they need at facilities in Hawaii and across the nation. This includes funding to cover treatment at VA hospitals and in community urgent care clinics and emergency rooms.

**Homeowners and Renters**
Congress has established several types of relief for the economic and housing pressures brought on by the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). In combination, these programs may help with your financial needs. Income relief in the way of direct payments, unemployment, small business support, and tax relief.

**College Students**
The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) provides assistance to K-12 schools, teachers, higher education institutions, college student loan borrowers. It creates an Education Stabilization Fund, which provided over $14.25 billion for colleges and universities and nearly $3 billion more to help schools hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds can be used to defray expenses for institutions of higher education, such as lost revenue, technology costs associated with a transition to distance education, and grants to students for food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and child care. For students who received federal financial aid, the CARES Act also pauses their student loan repayments, ensures that the pandemic does not impact their future ability to receive federal financial aid and allows them to collect their work study payment during workplace closures.

**Health and Nutrition Programs**
The Families First Coronavirus Response Act and the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act provide supplemental funding for several health and nutrition programs to prevent, prepare, and respond to the coronavirus.