



**City of Long Beach**  
**Federal Legislation Committee—Item #2**  
**August 31, 2020**

# 4<sup>th</sup> Phase of COVID-19 Relief Proposals

	HEROES Act	HEALS Act
<i>Total Relief</i>	\$3 trillion	\$1 trillion
<i>State &amp; Local Funding</i>	Nearly \$1 trillion total—\$375 billion for local	No new funding
<i>Stimulus</i>	Modeled after CARES Act: \$1,200 per family member, up to \$6,000 per household	Modeled after CARES Act: \$1,200 per family member, lower income ceiling at \$75,000
<i>Unemployment Insurance</i>	Modeled after CARES Act: \$600/week supplement through January 2021 for most workers, March 2021 for pandemic unemployment insurance	Reduced payment of \$200/week supplement through September. October through December, 70% of lost wages (up to \$500/week)
<i>Paycheck Protection Program</i>	Expands eligibility, eliminates 75% payroll requirement through December 2020	Adds \$100 billion, expands eligibility and forgivable expenses through December 2020
<i>Tax Credits</i>	Expanded EITC eligibility and earning levels; 50% payroll tax credit for qualified fixed costs; eliminates \$10,000 cap on SALT deductions; extends payroll tax credits for paid sick and family leave through 2021	Establishes refundable payroll tax credit equal to 50% of employer's qualified employee protection
<i>Liability protections</i>	N/A	5-year liability protections to prevent schools, businesses, and hospitals from being sued over COVID-19 related cases
<i>Housing Protections</i>	Expands CARES Act eviction moratorium an additional 12 months, allocates \$200 billion for housing programs and \$100 for rental assistance	N/A

# 4<sup>th</sup> Phase Negotiations

- **At Loggerheads**
  - Overall cost
  - State and local funding
  - Business liability
- **Legislative Approach**
  - Democrats want an omnibus bill to increase negotiation leverage
  - Senate Republicans following piecemeal approach—individual issue bills, separate committee hearings
  - Recently, Senate Republicans have announced but not introduced a “skinny” version of the HEALS Act to offer unemployment benefits, PPP, testing, and USPS relief

# Executive Actions

- **Unemployment Insurance**

- \$300/week supplement from FEMA natural disaster funds, \$100/week State match
- State match no longer required—California will receive additional \$4.5 billion
  - Available for minimum of three weeks to: claimants currently eligible for at least \$100/week in benefits, self-certify unemployment due to COVID-19

- **Payroll Taxes**

- Defers payroll taxes for any worker making less than \$104k/year through end of 2020; back taxes will be due in January 2021

- **Evictions**

- Executive Order states that health officials should consider an eviction moratorium

- **Student Loans**

- Extends existing forbearance on federal student loans; borrowers would still owe the back payments

# Next Steps

- **FY 2021 Appropriations**
  - Government funding expires September 30<sup>th</sup>
  - Discussions about potentially including Continuing Resolution with 4<sup>th</sup> Phase relief
- **Executive Actions**
  - Potential for additional executive actions without legislative relief
- **Advocacy Efforts**
  - National advocacy: US Conference of Mayors, National League of Cities, and more
  - City actions:
    - Biweekly delegation calls, monthly staff check-ins and legislative newsletter
    - Legislative support and advocacy
    - Big City Mayors