

## Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act)

Sec. 2205(b) – Modification of limitations on charitable contributions during 2020 – increase in limits on contributions of food inventory: farmers, grocery stores, restaurants and any type of taxpayer who donates food to charity could deduct up to 25% of their value from their income, an increase from the current limit of 15%.

### Sec. 3222 Nutrition services.

- Allows states agencies or area agencies on aging, w/o prior approval, to transfer State aging agency funds
- Allows for home-delivered nutrition services waiver if individual is practicing social distancing
- Waives requirement for meals to comply with Dietary Guidelines

### Division B - Emergency Appropriations

USDA - Office of the Secretary: \$9.5 billion to provide support for agricultural producers impacted by coronavirus, including producers of specialty crops, producers that supply local food systems, including farmers markets, restaurants, and schools, and livestock producers, including dairy producers. (The fruit and vegetable industry will use funds to compensate distributors and growers for the loss of produce that could not be shifted from restaurants and foodservice or retail outlets amid the pandemic. The inclusion of local food systems in the \$9.5 billion aid provision would compensate farmers who have lost access to direct markets – like farmers markets, schools, and restaurants – who stand to lose more than \$1 billion in sales this year.)

USDA – Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service: \$55 million to cover salary expenses to offset the decrease in user fee revenue caused by business disruptions.

USDA – Agricultural Marketing Service: \$45 million to cover salary expenses to offset the decrease in user fee revenue caused by business disruptions.

USDA – Food Safety and Inspection Service: \$33 million to support staffing and overtime expenses for Food Safety Inspection Service inspectors at federally inspected slaughter facilities.

USDA – Farm Service Agency: \$5 million to support temporary staff and overtime costs resulting from increased volume of applications in response to coronavirus.

USDA – Rural Business Cooperative Service: \$20.5 million. The bill provides the necessary subsidy to make \$1 billion in lending authority available for the Business and Industry loan guarantee program, which provides much-needed financing to business owners that might not be able to qualify for a loan on their own.

ReConnect Pilot Program: \$100 million for grants for the costs of construction, improvement, or acquisition of facilities and equipment needed to provide broadband service in eligible rural areas

Distance Learning, Telemedicine (DLT) and Broadband Program: – \$25 million in additional funding for the DLT grant program, which supports rural communities' access to telecommunications-enabled

information, audio, and video equipment, as well as related advanced technologies for students, teachers, and medical professionals.

Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC): The bill includes language that replenishes the CCC borrowing authority by \$14 billion.

#### Domestic Food Programs – Food and Nutrition Service

USDA – Child Nutrition Programs: \$8.8 billion is provided “to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus, domestically or internationally”

USDA – Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program: \$15.8 billion is provided “to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus, domestically or internationally.” Of these amounts:

- \$15.5 billion shall be placed in a contingency reserve to be allocated as the Sec’y deems necessary to support participation should cost or participation exceed budget estimates to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus.

- \$100 million for food distribution program on Indian reservations program

  - \$50 million for facility improvements and equipment upgrades

  - \$50 million for the costs related to additional food purchases

- \$200 million to provide grants to Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and American Samoa for nutrition assistance to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus, domestically or internationally

USDA – Commodity Assistance Program: \$450 million is provided for The Emergency Food Assistance Program, of which, the Secretary may use up to \$150 million for costs associated with the distribution of commodities