



I. CEF's plans related to coronavirus

- **Congressional actions and responses** – With advisories and information changing hourly, we have been revising CEF's planned activities for the near future with everyone's safety in mind.
 - Congress is currently focusing on economic stimulus in response to the coronavirus, with the House planning today to consider the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, [H.R. 6201](#), possibly with some [amendments](#) from the Democratic leadership and the White House. The bill provides more than \$1 billion for some nutrition assistance programs, including student meals and food banks. It creates a program to provide limited paid sick leave for quarantined workers and provides for free coronavirus testing. It includes additional funding for states to expand unemployment insurance programs, and for SNAP, among other provisions.
 - Work on the regular fiscal year 2021 appropriations process is not a current priority, and it's possible that the congressional calendar will be revised, with Congress in session for only some or none of the planned two-week session starting March 23 through April 3.
 - Beginning tonight, the Capitol and the Senate office buildings are closed to the public until April 1 unless someone is escorted by a Senate staffer, and then only in groups no larger than 15 people.
- **CEF activities going forward** –
 - **Friday meetings** – We are planning to hold our CEF meeting tomorrow morning at the National Education Association (1201 16th St, NW, News Conference Room; guest speaker is Bill Cordes, U.S. Department of Education, head of the Division of Elementary, Secondary, and Vocational Analysis and acting division director for Special Education, Rehabilitation, Research, and Postsecondary Analysis Division). However, as always, you have the option to call in on the conference line (800-719-7514, ID 366579) to listen rather than attend in person. We have no meeting next week due to the congressional recess, and will assess how we hold our meetings after that based on current conditions. If necessary, we will arrange a video conferencing platform that CEF members will be able to access instead of holding in-person meetings.
 - **House call-in day planned for March 24 will be rescheduled** – We will wait until Congress turns back to the FY 2021 appropriations process to hold our planned call-in day.

- **Budget book Hill briefing planned for April 1** – Instead of holding an in-person briefing on Capitol Hill we may hold an online briefing. We're working on possibilities now and will let you know.