



COMMITTEE FOR
EDUCATION FUNDING

Thursday, April 23, 2020

I. The Policy Intelligence and Education News

- **Congressional action this week** – The Senate has passed the fourth coronavirus relief bill and the House is planning to pass it this afternoon. The Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act ([H.R. 266](#) as amended and passed by the Senate) expands on the third coronavirus relief bill, providing a total of \$483 billion in relief. That includes \$321 billion for the Paycheck Protection Program, with at least \$60 billion for smaller lending institutions. It also includes \$162 billion in supplemental appropriations for: reimbursing health care providers for coronavirus costs (\$75 billion); purchasing and producing coronavirus tests (\$25 billion); and salaries and expenses and loans at the Small Business Administration (\$62 billion). The Congressional Budget Office cost estimate has details [here](#).
- **What's next in Congress** – Congress and the Administration are already talking about what should be in the next relief package, one that would be much bigger. The President has said he wants to provide aid to state and local governments (this is one place that could include support for education), infrastructure (another place that could include school construction and broadband access), and tax cuts. Congressional Democrats are pushing for some but not all of those priorities plus funding for the postal service, housing, election security and voting by mail, expanded unemployment insurance, a second rebate check, and support for first responders and essential workers. Among other ideas, this week Rep. Grace Meng (D-NY) introduced the Emergency Educational Connections Act that would provide \$2 billion for the Federal Communications Commission help close the digital divide by funding schools and libraries to purchase Wi-Fi hotspots, modems, and devices for students and patrons. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) said he wants to see the impact of the enacted relief measures before passing anything more while noting the impact on the national debt of the trillions of dollars already provided. There has also been talk of not enacting another measure until Congress is officially back in session, which will not happen until May 4 at the earliest.
- **Coronavirus impact on colleges** – With families financially slammed as so many people are out of work, institutions of higher education (IHEs) are worried that enrollment will be significantly down this fall. Today the Washington Post ran a [Hechinger Report story](#) about what some colleges are doing to reach out to high school seniors that includes quotes from CEF member the National Association of College Admission Counseling. Lower enrollment is only part of the financial impact on IHEs that are grappling with refunding room and board payments from this spring, the loss of revenue from sports and other events, and the increased costs of remote teaching and disinfecting (costs also borne by K-12 education). Two weeks ago the government disbursed half of the roughly \$14 billion in higher education aid from the CARES Act, with half of that aid going directly to students financially impacted by the pandemic and half the aid to the institutions.

II. Advocacy

- **This is #HearOurEdStories Week on social media** – Thanks to all the CEF members who have shared [CEF's social media toolkit](#) on Twitter. Please share the toolkit with your networks and encourage participation. (Sheryl's CEF Update on April 13 includes sample tweets and charts you could use, along with all the background information.) This is an important time for people to let their Members of Congress know why education funding is important in their lives and to urge Congress to increase education investments in the next coronavirus response measure and the fiscal year 2021 Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill.

III. Events

- **Tomorrow! Friday, April 24, 9:30-11:00am – CEF Research Briefing: Mental Health Needs and Resources for the Education Community in the Pandemic via [Zoom](#)**, Meeting ID: 471 542 189, Password: 068261; or dial in at 301-715-8592. We will share panelists' slides in the agenda later today.

Panelists:

[Jayne Caflin Fonash](#), EdD, President, National Association of College Admission Counseling
[Nancy Carlson](#), PhD, LCPC, School Counseling Specialist, American Counseling Associations
[Peter Faustino](#), PsyD, New York Delegate, National Association of School Psychologists
[Anna Maier](#), MPP, Research Analyst and Policy Advisor, Learning Policy Institute
[Wendy D. Rock](#), PhD, Assistant Professor of Counseling, Dept of Health and Human Services, Southeastern Louisiana University

- **CEF Friday Zoom meeting schedule –**
 - **Friday, April 24** – 9:30-11:00 a.m. Zoom Research Briefing: Mental Health Needs and Resources for the Education Community in the Pandemic. See details above.
 - **Friday, May 1** - No meeting (this is a change from the original calendar).
 - **Friday, May 8** – 9:30-11:00 a.m. Zoom meeting. Guest speaker TBD.
 - **Friday, May 15** – 9:30-11:00 a.m. Zoom meeting. Guest speaker TBD.
 - **Friday, May 22** – 9:30-11:00 a.m. Zoom Research Briefing on educational technology. Details to come.