



COMMITTEE FOR EDUCATION FUNDING

Thursday, May 28, 2020

I. Policy Intelligence and Education News

- **New Democratic bill to provide an additional \$50 billion for child care fund within CCDBG** – Yesterday Democratic education leaders in the House and Senate introduced the “Child Care is Essential Act” to create a \$50 billion fund within the Child Care and Development Block Grant. House Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee chair Rosa DeLauro (D-CT), House Education and Labor Committee chair Bobby Scott (D-VA), and Senate HELP Committee ranking member Patty Murray (D-WA) introduced the bill [to help stabilize the capacity of child care providers as they move to safely reopen](#). The [bill](#) would provide an additional \$50 billion in supplemental fiscal year 2020 funding for this new child care stabilization fund, with money available through September 2021.
- **New report outlines likely state and local education budget cuts without federal aid** – The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities released a [report](#) yesterday outlining the scope of likely state and local budget shortfalls as a result of the pandemic, and the risk that poses to education budgets. The report points out that some states hadn’t yet returned their education budgets to the levels of before the 2008 recession, and makes the case for more federal aid to prevent deep education cuts.

“School districts have never recovered from the layoffs they imposed [after the 2008 recession]. When COVID-19 hit, K-12 schools employed 77,000 fewer teachers and other workers even though they were teaching 2 million more children, and [overall funding in many states was still below pre-Great Recession levels.](#)”

- **Senate HELP Committee hearings on returning safely to classrooms** – The Senate HELP Committee has announced two hearings in the coming weeks on how to safely return to in-person education. On June 4 at 10am, [the hearing on “COVID-19: Going Back to College Safely”](#) will feature testimony from several college presidents and the American Public Health Association. On June 10 at 10am there will be a hearing on “COVID-19: Going Back to School Safely,” with no witnesses yet announced.

II. Advocacy

- **Reminder – June 9 is CEF’s virtual Day of Advocacy** – Thanks to the many CEF members who have signed up to participate in our virtual day of advocacy on Tuesday, June 9. (The specifics of the day are detailed in the second May 26 CEF Update.) We will be setting up and holding virtual CEF Hill meetings that afternoon; next week we’ll be back in touch with participants to confirm attendance and let you know who is in your group and which congressional offices you’ll be virtually meeting. We’re also [asking for everyone’s help providing social media support to amplify our](#)

message – the need to increase federal education investments in the next coronavirus relief measure and in the FY 2021 appropriations cycle. We will provide a template for grassroots outreach and social media posts. In addition, we'll provide some training for the Hill meetings and review how these meetings will operate at our CEF meeting on Friday, June 5.

III. Events

- **#Expanding the Classroom social media campaign the week of June 1** – CEF member the National Association of State Directors of Special Education (NASDSE) will hold a week-long social media campaign starting Monday on the importance of special education distance learning, especially now due to the Coronavirus pandemic. See the social media toolkit and background on the campaign [here](#).
- **CEF's upcoming schedule –**
 - **Tomorrow - Friday, May 29** – No CEF meeting.
 - **Friday, June 5** – 9:30-11:00 a.m. [Zoom Friday meeting](#). Guest speakers: Emily Smith and Peter Mills, Senator Chris Murphy (D-CT). Training for June 9 Hill Day.
 - **Tuesday, June 9** – 1:00-5:00 p.m., CEF virtual Hill Advocacy Day/Day of Action. Full details in May 26 CEF Update.
 - **Friday, June 12** – No Friday meeting – this is a change from the original schedule.
 - **Friday, June 19** – 9:30-11:00 a.m. Zoom Friday meeting. Guest speaker TBD.
 - **Friday, June 26** – 9:30-11:00 a.m. Zoom Quarterly Committee meeting.
 - **Friday, July 3** – No Friday meeting during congressional Independence Day recess.
 - **Friday, July 10** – 9:30-11:00 a.m. Zoom Research Briefing on Diversity in the Teacher Workforce. Details to come.