



U.S. SENATOR
GARY PETERS

HOW THE COVID RELIEF & YEAR-END FUNDING BILL HELPS FAMILIES & WORKERS

Direct Payments: The bill contains an additional round of Economic Impact Payments of \$600 for individuals making up to \$75,000 per year and \$1,200 for couples making up to \$150,000 per year, as well as a \$600 payment for each child dependent. This means a family of four will receive \$2,400 in direct payments.

Unemployment Assistance: The COVID relief bill takes a number of steps to extend support for unemployed workers into 2021:

- \$300 additional weekly benefit: Provides an additional \$300 per week for all workers receiving unemployment benefits, from the end of December through March 14, 2021.
- Continuation of expanded eligibility: Extends the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) program to expand UI eligibility to the self-employed, gig workers, part-time workers and other individuals in non-traditional employment, through March 14, 2021. Senator Peters successfully led the effort that resulted in this eligibility expansion under the CARES Act.
- Additional weeks of benefits: Increases the maximum number of weeks an individual may claim benefits by 11 weeks, up to 50 weeks total.

Rental Assistance / Eviction Moratorium: The bill establishes the first-ever emergency federal rental assistance program to be distributed by state and local governments. \$25 billion worth of funds will be targeted to families impacted by COVID that are struggling to make the rent and may have past due rent compounding on itself. These families will be able to utilize this assistance for past due rent, future rent payments, as well as to pay utility and energy bills and prevent shutoffs. \$800 million is reserved for Native American housing entities. It also includes an extension of the existing CDC eviction moratorium through January 31, 2021.

Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit: The bill includes a special temporary rule allowing lower-income individuals to use their earned income from tax year 2019 to determine the Earned Income Tax Credit and the refundable portion of the Child Tax Credit (i.e., the Additional Child Tax Credit) in the 2020 tax year. This will help workers who experienced lower wages this year, due to the pandemic, to get a larger refund that is consistent with their earnings from prior filing seasons.

For more information, visit www.peters.senate.gov



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Nutrition Programs: The legislation provides a 15% increase to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, as well as additional funding for senior nutrition programs, and ensures students have access to SNAP. Michigan saw the 3rd highest increase in SNAP recipients during COVID.

Relief for Individuals with Flexible Spending Arrangements (FSAs): The bill provides relief for individuals with health and dependent care FSAs, by allowing individuals to carryover any unused health and dependent care FSA benefits from 2020 into the 2021 plan year, along with other FSA plan flexibilities.

Child Care: The COVID relief bill provides an additional \$10 billion to support child care providers struggling due to the COVID 19 pandemic through the Child Care Development Block Grant. States can continue to pay child care providers during periods of closure or reduced enrollment as well as provide assistance to child care providers who have not previously received assistance through CCDBG. The bill also allows states to expand child care assistance to essential workers and to provide child care payment relief to working families. In addition, the CCDBG program will receive \$5.9 billion in annual funding, an \$85 million increase, compared to FY20.

Head Start: The COVID relief bill provides \$250 million in additional funding for Head Start to ensure that Head Start programs can continue to operate and safely provide early childhood education and other vital services to low-income children and families throughout the pandemic. In addition, the Head Start program will receive \$10.75 billion in annual funding, a \$135 increase compared to FY20.

Pell grants: For the 2021-2022 academic year, the maximum Pell Grant will be increased by \$150 to \$6,495.