



OREGON'S SENATOR JEFF MERKLEY

Coronavirus Resources: Vaccine Development and Distribution

American Rescue Plan

Oregon's U.S. Senator Jeff Merkley pushed for passage of President Biden's *American Rescue Plan* to get stimulus checks in Americans' bank accounts, help Main Street businesses stay afloat, and save the unemployment insurance program that 20 million Americans are relying on to make ends meet.

With this bill, urgently needed resources will be delivered to state, local, and tribal governments so they support the health of communities, and also pay firefighters, first responders, and other critical employees. Resources will go to schools and educators so they can safely get students back in the classroom. Resources will go to struggling families who are balancing work, school, and childcare from home. Resources will get personal protective equipment in the hands of frontline health heroes. And resources will mobilize a massive, national vaccine distribution plan to get shots into arms, and get past this pandemic.

Vaccine Development and Distribution Resources in the Bill

- \$5.2 billion in funding to the Secretary of Health and Human Services to support research, development, manufacturing, and purchase of vaccines and associated supplies for COVID-19 or any disease with potential for creating a pandemic.
- \$500 million in funding for the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for the evaluation of the performance, safety, and effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines, therapeutics, and diagnostics and the oversight of supply chains to mitigate shortages.
- \$7.5 billion in funding for the Centers for Disease Control and prevention to support vaccine related activities to prepare, promote, distribute, administer, monitor, and track COVID-19 vaccines.
 - This section further provides technical assistance, guidance, support, and awards to State, local, Tribal, and territorial public health departments for enhancement of COVID-19 vaccine distribution and administration capabilities, including the distribution and administration of licensed or authorized vaccines and ancillary medical products and supplies; the establishment and expansion of community vaccination centers, including in particularly underserved areas; the deployment of mobile vaccination units, particularly in underserved areas; IT, data, and reporting enhancements; facility enhancements; and public communication.
- \$1 billion in funding for the CDC to provide information and education to the public on authorized or licensed vaccines.

COVID Testing, Tracing and Provider Resources in the Bill

- \$46 billion in funding to the Department of Health and Human Services to detect, diagnose, trace, monitor, and mitigate COVID-19 infections, including:
 - Implementing a national strategy for testing, contact tracing, surveillance, and mitigation and providing technical assistance, guidance, support and grants to states, localities, and territories for these activities.
 - Establishing and expanding federal, State, local, or territorial testing and contact tracing capabilities, including investments in laboratory capacity, community-based testing sites, and mobile testing units, particularly in medically underserved areas
 - Awarding grants, cooperative agreements, or contracts with State, local, and territorial public health departments to establish, expand, and sustain a public health workforce

- \$1.8 billion to detect, diagnose, trace, monitor, and mitigate COVID-19 infections specifically in congregate settings such as long-term care facilities, including by increasing testing, purchasing personal protective equipment (PPE), and distributing COVID-19 vaccines.
- \$500 million to allocate to establish strike teams to be deployed to nursing facilities with diagnosed or suspected cases of COVID-19 among residents.
- \$1.75 billion in funding for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to be used in activities related to COVID-19 genomic sequencing, analytics, and disease surveillance.
- \$500 million to the CDC to support health data modernization and maintain efforts to modernize the United States disease warning system to forecast and track hotspots for COVID-19
- \$7.66 billion in funding to sustain a public health workforce, including by recruiting, hiring and training case investigators, contact tracers, community health workers, public health nurses, and epidemiologists.
- \$100 million to the Medical Reserve Corps, to improve the health, safety, and resiliency of communities.
- \$800 million for the National Health Service Corps, including \$100 million for the State Loan Repayment Programs.
- \$200 million to support the Nurse Corps Loan Repayment Program.
- \$330 million for Teaching Health Centers (THC) Graduate Medical Education (GME) sites nationwide, including for establishing new accredited or extended primary care residency programs.
- \$8.5 billion for rural health providers, which is on top of the \$178 billion made available through previous relief bills for providers expenses attributable to COVID-19.
- \$7.6 billion for to support COVID-19 response at Community Health Centers to plan, administer, and track COVID-19 vaccines and related activities, including purchasing and maintaining mobile vehicles to conduct COVID-19 or vaccine administration in medically underserved areas.
- \$1.5 billion for activities related to the Community Mental Health Services Block Grant Program and \$1.5 billion for the Substance Abuse Prevention Treatment Block Grant program for comprehensive behavioral health services in Oregon communities.
- \$80 million for community-based funding for local behavioral health care services.
- \$420 million for grants for Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics.
- \$100 million in for the Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training Program.
- \$140 million for mental and behavioral health training, education, and grants for health care professionals, students, paraprofessionals, and public safety officers.
- \$470 million to support home-and community-based support services programs, including support for COVID-19 vaccination outreach and coordination and addressing social isolation under the Older Americans Act.

For updates: Visit merkley.senate.gov/coronavirus for updates on these and other resources.