



Summary of Major Provisions in the Health, Economic Assistance, Liability Protection \and Schools (HEALS) Act

(As of July 28; subject to updates)

On July 27, Senate Republican lawmakers introduced a series of supplemental spending packages addressing COVID-19 known collectively as the Health, Economic Assistance, Liability Protection and Schools (HEALS) Act. The proposal resulted after negotiations between Senate Republicans and leadership the Trump Administration, with the Senate releasing some details about the agreement prior to its official introduction. In total, HEALS Act provides \$1 trillion in economic relief, compared to \$3.5 trillion in the HEROES Act ([H.R. 6800](#)), which passed the House of Representatives in May and is considered the bicameral counterpart to the HEALS Act. House and Senate Republicans and Democrats will be tasked with coming to an agreement to bridge significant differences outlined in the proposals. These two proposals follow passage of the CARES Act ([P.L. 116-136](#)) in late March.

The HEALS Act is considered “Phase 4” legislation following the HEROES Act and the CARES Act. More detailed information about specific provisions can be found in CGS’s [CARES Act summary](#) and [HEROES Act summary](#).

For more information about COVID-19-related federal activity, including summaries, FAQ documents, and explanatory videos, visit CGS’s [COVID-19 Legislative & Regulatory Updates](#) resource hub.

Federal Department/Agency or Provision	Proposed Funding	Activities Supported
SUPPORT FOR INSTITUTIONS AND STUDENTS		
<i>Education Stabilization Fund</i>	\$105 billion total to support	Sec. 824- \$29 billion (28%) of funds is reserved for the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF). Provides grants directly to institutions of higher education (IHEs),

	<p>education through Sept. 30, 2021</p>	<p>largely based on FTE enrollment of Pell Grant recipients. Formula calculated by apportioning it so that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 90% of an IHE’s relative share based on FTE Pell Grant recipients not enrolled exclusively online and 10% based on relative share of FTE non-Pell Grant recipients not enrolled exclusively online. <p><u>Uses of funds:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The funding can be used to support both institutional expenses and student financial aid needs. There is no explicit breakdown of how much should be allocated towards institutional expenses vs. student need, as was the case in the CARES Act (P.L. 116-136). <p><u>Notes about HEERF:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IHEs that paid endowment tax in 2019 to receive decreased allocations and are limited to allocated funds for student financial aid needs. • Within HEERF, \$2.9 billion (10%) is set aside for Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Minority Serving Institutions. • Unlike K-12 counterparts, IHEs’ ability to receive HEERF support is not contingent upon whether they reopen for in-person instruction. <p>\$5 billion for the Governors Emergency Education Relief Fund</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governors have discretion on how to distribute this money (K-12 and/or higher ed).
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		<p>\$1 billion for the Bureau of Indian Education</p> <p>\$70 billion for Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Of the funding provided to school districts and private schools, 1/3 available to all immediately, while 2/3 available specifically to help schools with cost of re-opening for in-person instruction.
STUDENT LOANS		
Sec. 201 Simplifying Student Loan Repayment, pg. 38 ¹		
Repayment, pg. 39		<p>Streamlines student loan repayment options into two plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a standard 10-year repayment plan • new Income Driven Repayment (IDR) plan that limits repayment to 10% of discretionary income above 150% of the federal poverty level. If earnings less than 150% and no income, payment = \$0. Undergraduate debt forgiven after 20 years of payments; graduate debt after 25 years. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Parent PLUS loans would be ineligible for IDR plan
Public Service Loan Forgiveness Rules for IDR Plans, pg. 43		A borrower may not remain eligible for PSLF if the borrower wishes to change repayment plans, any monthly payments made prior to such change would not qualify towards the 120 monthly payments

¹ Safely Back to School and Back to Work Act, <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/4322/text#id7452459987D4404BAB12B315E004BEC2>

STUDENT FINANCIAL AID		
Sec. 209 Amendments to Education Provisions of CARES, pg. 114 ²		Extends Section 3505 of CARES Act allowing institutions to make Federal Work Study payments for students for the equivalent of one academic year in each term the student is awarded work-study and unable to begin such work obligation do to an institution operating solely through distance education or due to an institution providing fewer work-study positions because of the emergency
RESEARCH		
National Institutes of Health	\$15.5 billion through Sept. 30, 2024	<p>Among the provisions, of note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes \$200 million for the National Institute of Mental Health • \$64.33 million for the National Institute of Minority and Health Disparities • \$240 million in cost-extensions to support for existing research awards and to “ to provide resources targeted young researchers who need additional research time as post-doctoral candidates because of lost research/training due to COVID-19 .”
National Aeronautics and Space Administration	\$4.5 billion	Support NASA to cover current funding claims and submitted contractor claims yet to be finalized.

² Safely Back to School and Back to Work Act, <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/4322/text#id6FACDFC7949444BAA166CFE8ED74C0A6>

Department of Energy	\$307.3 million	Of which, \$306 for the Office of Science to support COVID-19-related research and development activities, including equipment and personnel.
IMMIGRATION & INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS		
Department of State- Consular and Border Security Programs	\$425 million	To mitigate impact of declining visa and passport revenue.
MENTAL & BEHAVIORAL HEALTH		
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration pg. 72	\$4.5 billion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$1.5 billion for grants for the substance abuse prevention and treatment block grant program • \$2 billion for grants for the community mental health services block grant program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 50% directed to behavioral health providers • \$50 million for suicide prevention programs \$100 million for Project AWARE