

Department of the Interior CARES Act Plan

On March 27, 2020, two weeks after the President declared a national emergency concerning the Novel Coronavirus disease (COVID-19), President Trump signed into law the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act; P.L. 116-136). Division B, Section 15011(b)(1)(B) of the Act requires submission of this plan to the Pandemic Response Accountability Committee.

Division B of the Act appropriated a total of \$756 million in funding directly to the Department of the Interior to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus domestically or internationally. All funds provided are available until September 30, 2021.

Of this amount, \$597.6 million was appropriated directly to several Interior bureau accounts to address coronavirus as follows:

- Bureau of Reclamation. \$20,100,000 was provided in two Treasury accounts.
 - \$12,500,000 in the Water and Related Resources account with direction to transfer \$500,000 to the Central Utah Project Completion Account; and
 - \$8,100,000 in the Policy and Administration account.

- Bureau of Indian Affairs. \$453,000,000 for purposes including:
 - Public safety and justice programs;
 - Carry out deep cleaning of facilities;
 - Personal protective equipment;
 - Information technology for teleworking capability;
 - Welfare assistance and social services programs; and
 - Assistance to tribal governments including those in the “Small and Needy” program.

The bill required that no less than \$400 million be used to meet the direct needs of tribes. Additional language was included clarifying CARES Act funds are not part of tribal funds allocations provided through annual appropriations.

- Bureau of Indian Education. \$69,000,000 for purposes including:
 - Tribal colleges and universities; and
 - Salaries, transportation, and information technology.

The bill required that no less than \$20 million be provided to tribal colleges and universities.

- Insular Affairs. \$55,000,000 for purposes including general technical assistance.

Of the total provided, \$158.4 million was made available to the Office of the Secretary with authority to transfer funds to other Departmental Accounts as follows:

- Office of the Secretary. \$158,400,000 for purposes including:

- Equipment and supplies to disinfect and clean buildings and public areas;
- Law enforcement and emergency management operations;
- Bio-surveillance of wildlife and environmental persistence studies;
- Employee overtime and special pay expenses; and
- Other response, mitigation, or recovery activities, including \$1,000,000 for oversight activities by the Office of the Inspector General.

Bureaus are able to submit requests with spend plans for allocations from this fund. Thus far, as directed by statute \$1.0 million has been transferred to the Office of Inspector General, and \$14.8 million has been allocated to the Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service and the Office of the Secretary for temporary firefighting facilities for Wildland Fire Management social distancing, overtime and hazard pay, personal protective equipment and cleaning supplies, facility cleaning services and security, and information technology tools. Funds are outlined in the table on the next page.

In order to remain flexible and able to respond to varied needs across the Department related directly to COVID-19, the Department anticipates that bureaus will continue to submit requests based on updated Centers for Disease Control and Prevention / public health guidance through September 2021.

Department of the Interior
CARES Act Supplemental Funding Status
As of July 15, 2020

Bureau/Account	Appropriation	Allocation	Obligation
Bureau of Indian Affairs	\$453,000,000	\$453,000,000	\$396,127,869
Operation of Indian Programs	\$453,000,000	\$453,000,000	\$396,127,869
Bureau of Indian Education	\$69,000,000	\$222,750,000	\$130,449,047
Operation of Indian Education Programs	\$69,000,000	\$69,000,000	\$51,178,643
Transfer (external): ED - Education Stabilization Fund	\$0	\$153,750,000	\$79,270,404
Bureau of Reclamation	\$20,600,000	\$20,100,000	\$2,553,336
Policy and Administration	\$8,100,000	\$8,100,000	\$1,664,705
Water and Related Resources	\$12,500,000	\$12,000,000	\$888,632
Central Utah Project Completion Act	\$0	\$500,000	\$0
Central Utah Project Completion Account	\$0	\$500,000	\$0
Office of Inspector General	\$0	\$1,000,000	\$266,440
Salaries and Expenses	\$0	\$1,000,000	\$266,440
Office of Insular Affairs	\$55,000,000	\$55,000,000	\$42,627,375
Assistance to Territories	\$55,000,000	\$55,000,000	\$42,627,375
Office of the Secretary	\$158,400,000	\$157,400,000	\$3,875,928
Bureau of Land Management	\$0	\$3,753,000	\$689,428
Fish and Wildlife Service	\$0	\$3,585,000	\$657,099
National Park Service	\$0	\$5,197,000	\$371,904
Office of the Secretary	\$158,400,000	\$144,865,000	\$2,157,497
Grand Total	\$756,000,000	\$909,750,000	\$575,899,995

The Department of Education (ED) transferred \$153.75 million to the Bureau of Indian Education from the Education Stabilization Fund as provided in Section 18001 of P.L. 116-136.

The Bureau of Reclamation transferred \$500,000 to the Central Utah Project Completion Account as provided in Title IV of P.L. 116-136.

The Office of the Secretary transferred \$1.0 million to the Office of Inspector General as provided in Title VII of P.L. 116-136.

Funds appropriated to the Office of the Secretary Departmental Operations account are allocated to Bureaus as parent/child transfers within the account.