CRF GUIDANCE POSTED ON FEDERAL REGISTER

The Treasury Department updated their website to highlight that expenditure of the Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF) has been extended to December 31, 2021. The October 19, 2020 Frequently Asked Questions has been included in the Coronavirus Relief Fund program guidance in the January 15, 2021 Federal Register located here. The published guidance includes Supplemental Guidance on the use of Funds to Cover Payroll and Benefits of Public Employees, Supplemental Guidance on the use of Funds to Cover Administrative Costs, and Instructions for State, Territorial, Local, and Tribal Governments to Return Unused Coronavirus Relief Fund Payments to the Department of Treasury.

EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (ERAP) UPDATES

This week, the Treasury Department issued new information about the ERAP (click title for link):

1. Payments to Tribal Communities (January 19): Highlights the payments to tribal communities. Payments will be made to the applicant, whether the Tribe or the Tribally Designed Housing Entity (TDHE). If both the Tribe or TDHE applied, Treasury will be in contact with the Tribe and TDHE to determine who should receive the payment.

2. Data and Methodology for Allocations to Indian Tribes and TDHEs (January 19): This document provided details about three tribes not wishing to participate in ERAP. Treasury states that each tribe will approximately receive 121 percent of their FY 2020 Indian Housing Block Grant formula allocation.

3. ERAP FAQs (January 19): The FAQs address questions surrounding whether "utilities and home energy costs" are covered under ERAP (if covered by landlord, yes) and whether arrears are covered (Yes, but not before March 13, 2020). A lot of questions in the FAQ were questions presented by tribes in the Treasury Tribal Consultation on January 14, 2021.

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In President Biden's first three days of office, there were numerous Executive Orders signed by the President. Here are the Executive Orders that relate to COVID-19:

1. Executive Order Protecting Federal Workforce and Requiring Mask-Wearing;
2. Executive Order on Organizing and Mobilizing the United States Government to Provide a Unified and Effective Response to Combat COVID-19 and to Provide United States Leadership on Global Health and Security;
3. Executive Order on Promoting COVID-19 Safety in Domestic and International Travel;
4. Executive Order on Improving and Expanding Access to Care and Treatments for COVID-19;
5. Executive Order on Ensuring a Data-Driven Response to COVID-19 and Future High-Consequences Public Health Threats;
6. Memorandum to Extend Federal Support to Governors' Use of the National Guard to Respond to COVID-19 and to Increase Reimbursement and Other Assistance Provided to States;
7. Executive Order on Ensuring an Equitable Pandemic Response and Recovery;
8. Executive Order on Supporting the Reopening and Continuing Operation of Schools and Early Childhood Education Providers;
9. Executive Order on Protecting Worker Health and Safety;
10. Executive Order on Establishing the COVID-19 Pandemic Testing Board and Ensuring a Sustainable Public Health Workforce for COVID-19 and Other Biological Threats; and

Califonia is prioritizing individuals 65 years and older to recieve the COVID-19 vaccine. More information about California’s vaccination plan can be found here.

Visit the California Safe Schools for All website here.

The 200-page plan can be found here. Seven Priorities of the Response:
Goal One: Restore Trust with the American People;
Goal Two: Mount a safe, effective, equitable vaccination campaign;
Goal Three: Mitigate spread through expanding masking, testing, data, treatment, workforce, and clear public health standards;
Goal Four: Immediately expand emergency relief and exercise the Defense Production Act;
Goal Five: Safely reopen schools, business, and travel while protecting workers;
Goal Six: Protect those most at risk and advance equity, including across racial, ethnic and rural/urban lines;
Goal Seven: Restore U.S. leadership globally, advance health security, and build better preparedness for future threats.

California has developed website for California's Safe Schools for All Plan. The plan focuses on support and accountability in the phased return of in-person instruction. The website will consolidate key resources for information related to COVID-19 and schools. The website also includes an option for parents to report a concern about COVID in a California school. To make a report, click here.

Visit the California Safe Schools for All website here.