

# How the CARES Act helps CRNAs



## Over \$350 billion in low interest loans for small businesses

- Successfully raised salary cap from \$75,000 in Bennet/Barrasso bill to \$100,000 to help struggling CRNAs and small businesses.
- Made sure that 1099s are included in all available relief funding, ensuring self-employed and contract CRNAs have available help.
- Provided incentives for companies to keep employees on payroll, and penalties for companies that fire workers during the pandemic.
- Ensured that healthcare practices are eligible for emergency grants, with up to \$10,000 available for advances to cover the most immediate cash needs.

## Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Funding

- Successfully passed the first reauthorization of the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development programs in a decade.
- Provides five years of funds to help train CRNAs through Advanced Education Nursing and Nurse Anesthetist Traineeship programs.

## Relief for Students and Student Loan Borrowers

- Provided protections for students whose education was disrupted by the COVID-19 national emergency.
- Provided temporary relief for borrowers, with all payments put on hold until Sept 30th.
- Ensures that no interest will accrue on loans during this period and months without payments during the freeze won't affect forgiveness plans.

## Hospitals and Facilities

- Provided over \$1 billion to health providers to help deal with COVID-19 pandemic related care.
- Provided \$1.5 billion to states and localities to help with COVID efforts, including the purchase of PPE.
- Provided \$100 billion in grants to hospitals and others to cover additional healthcare expenses and unreimbursed care during the emergency.
- Provided an additional \$16 billion to the Strategic National Stockpile to increase access to PPE, ventilators, and other critical equipment to protect providers.
- Expanded access to and reimbursement for telehealth services.
- Requires OSHA to implement new standards for protection for healthcare workers to protect from COVID-19.

# CARES Act Resources



## SMALL BUSINESS LOANS

**What is it?** Low interest (no more than 4%) loans to businesses with 500 or fewer employees, based on payroll costs and capped at \$10,000,000 per business.

**Who is Eligible?** Most small businesses will be eligible. Entities covered include:

- Sole proprietors
- Independent Contractors
- Self-Employed Individuals, including 1099s.

**What can I use it for?** Loans can be used for:

- Payroll Support (including employee salaries, up to \$100,000 per employee)
- Paid sick and medical leave
- Insurance Premiums
- Mortgage/Rent/Utility Payments

**What else should I know?** SBA has been directed to remove as much red tape as possible. Borrower and lender fees are waived; collateral or personal guarantees are waived; allows deferral of payments for 6 - 12 months. Allows loan forgiveness for certain uses, such as payroll expenses.

What do I need to do: You can look up more information on available loans at the Small Business Administration website, [www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov)

## SMALL BUSINESS TAX CREDITS

**What is it?** Tax credits to help small businesses and the self-employed offset the costs of paid sick leave, and family leave for their employees.

**How does the sick leave credit work?** Employers with 500 or less employees must provide 10 days of paid sick leave, but the credit will cover 100% of total wages paid on these additional sick days up to \$511/day for someone taking care of themselves and \$200/day for someone taking care of another individual who is quarantined, showing symptoms or whose child's school is closed.

## How does the family leave credit work?

Employers are required to provide at least two-third of the employee's usual pay up to \$200/day, or a total of \$10,000. Employers receive a refundable credit that is equal to qualified family leave amount to be used against its share of payroll taxes for each employee. The same is available for self-employed businesses.

## DIRECT PAYMENTS TO HOUSEHOLDS

**What is it?** Direct payments from the government to households:

- Individuals making up to \$75,000/  
Couples making up to \$150,000:  
\$1,200 per person
- Individuals making \$75,000 -  
\$99,000/Couples making \$150,000 -  
\$198,000: Pro-rated
- Up to \$500 per child under the  
age of 17

**When?** The IRS is working to get funds out as fast as possible. Those who have given direct deposit information to the IRS could see deposits within three weeks. Others will receive a check or debit card.

**What do I need to do?** Nothing. Payments will be based off your income on your most recent tax filing.

## PROTECTIONS FOR STUDENTS AND STUDENT LOAN DEBT

**What is it?** Protections for students who couldn't complete their education because of an emergency disruption related to COVID-19 and those with existing student loans.

**What if I couldn't complete this semester?** The time that you missed because of the disruption of COVID-19, including having to withdraw from a program, will not count against you in terms of your student loans.

**What if I already have student loans?** If you currently have federal student loans, you will not be required to make payments until September 30, 2020.

Interest on your loans will not accrue during this time. This time will also not count against you if you are in a program that requires a set number of months of repayment for loan forgiveness. These months will continue to count as paid months.

If you have other questions about your student loans, please visit [studentaid.gov/coronavirus](http://studentaid.gov/coronavirus) to see what your options are.

## OTHER FEDERAL RESOURCES

### REIMBURSEMENT FOR COVID CARE

**Can I be paid for providing critical care services during COVID-19?** While there is nothing in Medicare policy that expressly prohibits CRNAs from getting paid for critical care under Medicare Part B, read more about reimbursement for critical care services at AANA's FAQ on the subject. Reimbursement is dependent on your Medicare Administrative Contactor (MAC) and their Local Coverage Determinations (LCDs), on state scope of practice laws, and existing Medicare policy as explained in the FAQ.

### EMPLOYMENT WITH THE VA NURSE TRAVEL PROGRAM

**Can I seek temporary employment with the VA?** Yes. Through the VA Travel Nurse Corps program, the AANA and its contacts at the VA have created an opportunity for CRNAs at 157 facilities across the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) in support of COVID-19 operations. Hiring will begin immediately; VA has immediate needs in New York City and New Orleans. If you are interested in temporary employment within the VA, please visit [USAJobs](http://USAJobs).

As always, you can find the latest of [AANA's COVID Resources here](#).