



# TOP 3 WAYS TO MAKE THE MOST OF COVID RELIEF FUNDING

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Funding High-priority Technology Needs in Education, Healthcare, and Government



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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The global pandemic has affected every aspect of life and disrupted operations across every industry. Since March of 2020, public sector organizations, like the rest of the world, have faced enormous challenges adapting to the impact of COVID-19. The health crisis has also accelerated the need for educational institutions, healthcare organizations, state and local governments, and non-profits alike to turn to technology to support continuity, drive stabilization, and ensure services are accessible to all.

With the passing of the \$2.2 trillion Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) on March 27th, 2020, emergency appropriations paved the way for organizations to invest in the needed technology to support on-going operations and to implement measures to help plan, prepare, and respond to the global pandemic. Investments in video conferencing, communication and digital devices have proven to be integral in supporting these types of programmatic goals and can provide long-term economic and social benefits.

The CARES Act created both new funding buckets and provided additional funds to existing grant programs – all with varying deadlines by which this money must be spent. And while \$900 billion in additional aid has recently been announced, there have been a few updates to existing CARES Act funding as well, so organizations need to move quickly to use this funding for technology investments that support the continuity of vital community services, in addition to helping them prepare, prevent the spread, and respond to the challenges faced due to the Coronavirus.

In this paper we outline the funding made available through the CARES Act for education, healthcare and state and local government organizations. In addition, we provide insight into how this funding can be used to invest in Logitech's interactive video conferencing and productivity devices to extend access to services, support preparedness, and enable organizations to respond to an ever-changing landscape with increased efficiency and effectiveness.

From peripherals for mobile devices and desktops to purpose-built video collaboration solutions, Logitech's high-quality solutions are key to bridging the digital divide and advancing the specific objectives of funding agencies.

Some of Logitech's most popular tools used to support distance/hybrid learning, telehealth, and continuity of operations include:

- [Webcams & Conference Cameras](#)
- [Video Conferencing Room Solutions](#)
- [Remote Device Management](#)
- [Keyboards & Mice](#)
- [Speakers & Microphones](#)
- [Streaming & Mobility Solutions for iPads](#)
- [Headsets](#)
- [Presentation Remotes](#) and more

# MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR CARES ACT FUNDING

## EDUCATION

Funding from the Education Stabilization Fund and two of its child grant opportunities (ESSER, GEER) will remain available for obligation until September 30, 2022. HEER has a slightly shorter timeline which will vary from institution to institution. Colleges and Universities have one year from the time that they submitted their original paperwork for the US Department of Education, which means for some their obligation deadline could be as early as April 2021. Regardless, K-12 districts and Higher Education Institutions still have ample time to use their allocated CARES Act funding.

Within the CARES Act, was a \$30.5 billion allotment of funding to the US Department of Education known as the Education Stabilization Fund. This funding was further funneled into two programs of relevance for K-12 education providers, the Elementary & Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER) and the Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund (GEER). Funding from the Education Stabilization Fund and two of its child grant opportunities (ESSER, GEER) will remain available for obligation until September 30, 2022.

In each case, these federal funds were passed to state-level agencies who then must regrant these monies to eligible entities at the local level. ESSER specifically calls out technology equipment (including video conferencing solutions) for instructional delivery as a funding priority.

GEER funds are much more flexible and state governors have a lot of discretion as to how funding is prioritized. Still, many have stated that video collaboration solutions would be allowable so long as these purchases are by schools and districts **to maintain operations and facilitate distance/hybrid learning while buildings are closed or at reduced occupancy.**



Institutes of higher education also have funding opportunities through the Education Stabilization Fund. Unlike ESSER for K-12 education providers, the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEER) went directly from the US Department of Education to colleges and universities. Half of an institution's HEER allocation must go to emergency student financial aid grants, which can include technology to help students with distance learning. The other half of the allocation can be used for institution costs that can be connected back to the changes in delivery of instruction due to Coronavirus. GEER funds, like with K-12, can also be used by many institutions of higher education.

HEER has a slightly shorter timeline which will vary from institution to institution. Colleges and Universities have one year from the time that they submitted their original paperwork for the US Department of Education, which means for some their obligation deadline could be as early as April 2021. Regardless, K-12 districts and Higher Education Institutions still have ample time to use their allocated CARES Act funding.

Across the board, all these funding opportunities would allow video collaboration solutions if they are purchased by the institutions for distance/online/hybrid/blended learning due to closures or limitations on students allowed on campus.

# Equipping Schools for Distance and Hybrid Learning Environments

In a world where in-person, full-time learning may take a long time to return, Logitech can help your school stay connected and engaged. Logitech's solutions can improve the ability of schools and colleges to deliver distance/hybrid learning today, while equipping them to respond quickly to future disruptions.

Whether it's educators holding virtual classes, lecturers giving interactive virtual seminars, or faculty conducting remote assessments, Logitech solutions enable educators, students, and parents to bridge the gap between classroom and home learning environments. By boosting engagement and the quality of remote learning experiences, we empower everyone in a virtual classroom to learn more, do more and be more.





### Case Study: Farragut High School

To ensure continuity of learning and promote student engagement in her virtual and hybrid classes, Señora Allison Maldonado, an Advanced Placement (AP) Spanish teacher with more than 30 years of teaching experience, turned to Logitech and Microsoft Teams to ensure equal access to learning for all students wanting to take AP Spanish.

[Learn More](#)

### Case Study: Appleby College

See how Appleby College leverages Logitech and Zoom to sustain their community and provide innovative education during unpredictable times. Deploying over 50 hybrid classrooms in less than sixty days, the IT team at Appleby has provided a long-term model for keeping students engaged and learning, while providing faculty easy-to-use reliable video tools.

[Learn More](#)

## Logitech video collaboration solutions are used for a wide variety of use cases in education with many benefits, examples include:

- **Coordinated Response:** Improve coordinated preparedness and response efforts of local educational agencies with state, local, Tribal, and territorial public health departments, and other relevant agencies, to prevent, prepare and respond to the coronavirus
- **Training & Professional Development:** Support training for staff of the local education agency on sanitation and ways to minimize the spread of infectious disease and how to leverage technology to support continuity of education and interactions between students and classroom instructors
- **Supplemental Learning/Summer Programs:** Support distance learning during the summer months to address the needs of low-income students, students with disabilities, English learners, migrant students, students experiencing homelessness, and children in foster care.
- **Distance Learning:** Increase access and support education interactions between students and classroom instructors for all students, improve student engagement for better student outcomes, ensure no one is left behind no matter their location
- **School-Based Health Care:** Enable students to receive special education services or visit health providers virtually from a school clinic or meeting space, without risking a visit to an office or hospital.
- **Blended Learning:** Give students more flexibility to customize their learning experiences with access to prerecorded lectures to supplement traditional instructor-led classroom activities
- **Accessibility:** Ensure all students have equal access to curriculum, whether students are geographically dispersed across large campuses or students are unable to get to class due to location or other restrictions, enabling a video first strategy reduces travel and saves people time
- **Curriculum Enhancement:** Extend access to STEM Education, take virtual field trips, save travels costs and benefit from interactive teaching methods
- **Social/Emotional Needs:** Support the social/emotional needs of students with personalized interactions and access to mental health services and supports



## MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR CARES ACT FUNDING

# HEALTHCARE

In the healthcare sector, the Coronavirus pandemic has resulted in an exponential increase in demand for telemedicine services. In fact, the structure of healthcare may forever be changed as the pandemic has made telehealth synonymous with healthcare delivery. Fortunately, there are CARES Act dollars like the \$175 billion in HHS Provider Relief Fund to help providers with budgetary shortfalls and increase their capacity to conduct telehealth encounters. Around \$75 billion remains to be paid out through the HHS Provider Relief Fund, with additional rounds of funding expected until the pandemic subsides.

In the long-term, there are many grant programs available funded through the annual federal budget process to promote the delivery of telemedicine services, especially

to rural and underserved areas. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program is one such grant that is available each year to specifically fund video endpoints that are being used for distance learning or telemedicine activities. Applications for DLT are typically due in the early Spring each year and funding can be spent over the 3-year project period of the program.

The funding is not just limited to what is available from the federal government. Using video and camera technology to promote telemedicine is one of the easiest technology use cases to justify when it comes to grants across the board. Since telemedicine inherently increases access to health services, it is a viable use case across state and foundation grant funders as well.

# Telehealth: Plan, Prepare and Respond for Better Patient Outcomes

The global pandemic has brought to the forefront the critical role telehealth can play in the delivery of personalized patient care. Providers and health systems are experiencing unprecedented challenges in meeting the demand for healthcare services, and are turning to telehealth to help limit exposure, respond to the crisis, and provide on-going care.

Healthcare providers must also be prepared and equipped to maintain worker, family, and patient safety, while enabling collaboration from afar. As a result, the use of video has quickly emerged as a critical tool that is at the heart of many telehealth strategies.

With a portfolio of standards based, USB plug-and-play devices, Logitech makes it easy to stand up [telehealth services](#) in any environment. Our devices connect seamlessly to most communication platforms and can be integrated into a variety of patient management platforms. Logitech's flexible, scalable and cost-effective solutions make it easy to immediately setup technology needed to deliver healthcare services to triage COVID-19 suspected cases, treat, support, and monitor COVID-19 confirmed cases, and develop a long-term telehealth service for patients with mobility issues due to age or chronic medical condition.

Logitech is a trusted brand with proven experience meeting the demands in a changing healthcare environment. Our innovative video collaboration solutions have been deployed in thousands of healthcare organizations worldwide, improving patient experiences and outcomes.





### Case Study: HopeCam

Hopecam connects children with cancer to their classrooms, friends, and support system while undergoing cancer treatment. Using Zoom and Logitech video collaboration solutions, HopeCam empowers students to keep up with their education and stay connected to the relationships that mean the most.

[Learn More](#)



### Case Study: MedSitter

Discover how MedSitter integrated the Logitech MeetUp on a mobile cart to make it possible to monitor patients remotely. This telehealth solution can be used to enable busy clinical staff to provide proper round-the-clock observation for patients in their care while limiting exposure and reducing the usage of personal protective equipment.

[Learn More](#)

## Logitech video collaboration and productivity solutions are used throughout the healthcare industry to support:

- **Command and Control Centers:** To support internal communication with administration, staff, families and with external entities such as public health authorities, other facilities, and community organizations
- **Triage/Assessments:** Set up telehealth carts at alternate triage sites for patient assessments to mitigate surges in emergency departments
- **Virtual Rounds:** Equip physicians, residents and other team members to check on patients virtually from the safety of an office or conference room to limit exposure and support the need for other family members to be included in medical care discussions at the virtual bedside
- **Patient Monitoring:** Provide proactive monitoring and communication, while limiting exposure and reducing use of personal protective equipment.
- **Family Visitation:** Protect vulnerable patients, set up separate areas in facility or other locations for family visitation
- **Behavioral Health:** Extend access to mental health services, crisis intervention, suicide prevention and individual and family counseling services
- **Education & Training:** Educate health care professionals on procedures, processes, safety measures and prevention control methods
- **Daily Communications:** Support internal communication with administration, staff, families and with external entities such as public health authorities, other facilities, and community organizations

# MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR CARES ACT FUNDING

## STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

Under the CARES Act, the original date by which Coronavirus Relief Fund monies had to be incurred by was December 30, 2020. According to the U.S. Department of Treasury, “incurred” means performance or delivery of items (i.e. hardware and software must be on-site and/or installed). Further, if payment for any of those eligible services trailed by up to 90-days, the purchase would still be approved by the Treasury.

As recipients struggled to procure supplies and solutions, due to increased demand and supply-chain disruptions, many awardees feared as to whether or not they would be able to use their CRF funding in time or have to return it to federal reserves.

Fortunately, Congress heard the public’s concern and took action. With the recent passage of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021, **the CRF deadline was extended to by one year.**

The biggest funding bucket within the CARES Act is the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF), which designates \$150 billion for payments to state, local, and tribal governments to fund responses to the COVID-19 public health crisis. Only local governments with populations over 500,000 are eligible for these funds. For the 16 states that do not meet the population threshold, the states will receive the entire allocation and can then regrant or distribute those funds to small and medium-sized local governments at their discretion.



There are three main rules attached to these funds:

1. Expenditures must be incurred due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
2. Expenditures must not be accounted for in that state or government’s budget most recently approved as of March 27, 2020.
3. Purchases must be incurred between March 1, 2020 through December 31, 2021.

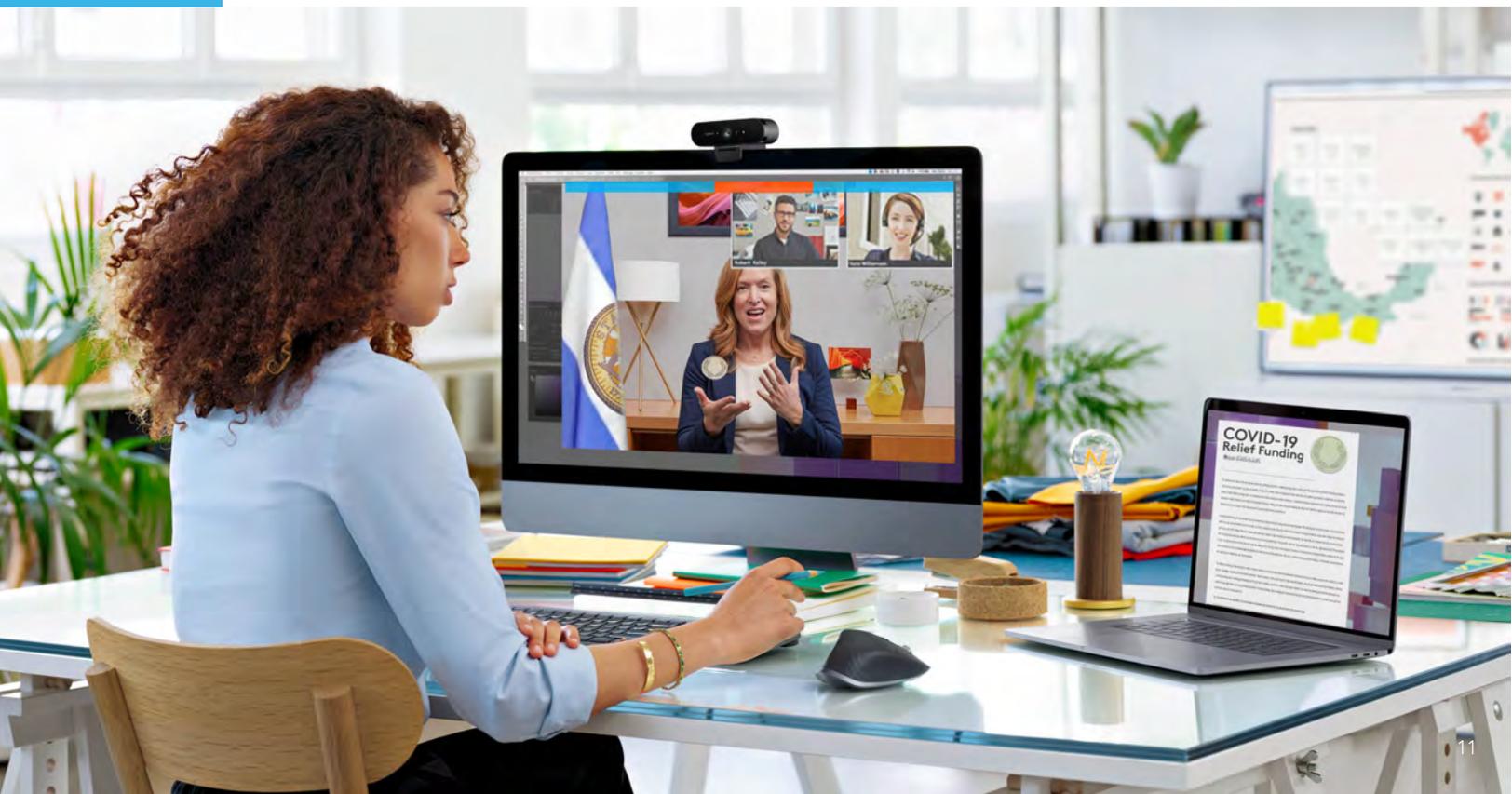
As state and local government workforces have moved to work from home, these entities have taken advantage of CRF’s flexibility to purchase remote work solutions, such as video collaboration technologies, so that their employees can **continue to efficiently work together to deliver crucial services to the public.**

# Enabling a Remote/Hybrid Workforce to Support Continuity of Government Services

In addition to closing businesses, schools and medical practices, COVID-19 closed government office buildings, forcing federal, state, and local government employees to shift to remote and home workspaces. These closures forced IT departments to quickly mobilize and embrace new technologies to support continuity of operations and effectively deliver services to both employees and the public.

As government IT leaders look to the future with continued uncertainty and reduced budgets, a new normal is evolving. This new normal includes having the ability to support a variety of government services with a newly distributed/hybrid workforce, while empowering teams with the tools needed to be more effective and productive in any environment. Evolving workforces and workplaces require modern tools that are easy to deploy, use and manage, with the ability to support seamless connectivity to existing unified communication platforms and technology systems.

With Logitech's advanced video collaboration and innovative productivity solutions, government IT leaders can equip employees with the tools needed to increase responsiveness in times of crisis, deliver improved access to services from any location, and increase engagement both within and outside of agencies to better serve their missions. Logitech solutions empower employees to increase speed, agility, and comfort to adapt and thrive in the new normal, while agencies take advantage of increase efficiencies and reduced costs.





**BILL KEHOE**  
CIO & IT Department Director, King County



**TIM RITCHIE**  
President and CEO  
The Tech

### Case Study: King County Technology (KCIT)

King County provides technology services to all 14,000 employees across King County, holding up to 200 meetings per week. KCIT selected Logitech's easy-to-use video conferencing room systems to standardize its conference room experience, recruit new talent and improve its bottom line with shorter, more productive meetings.

[Learn More](#)

### Case Study: The Tech Museum

The Tech Museum of Innovation is a premier interactive science and technology center. The organization uses Logitech video collaboration solutions and Zoom Rooms to connect with students and educators around the world. The seamless integration has helped them scale quickly and build connections with remote participants worldwide.

[Learn More](#)

## Leading use cases for Logitech video collaboration and productivity solutions in government include:

- **Telework/Work from Home:** Enable remote teams to continue operations and efficiently work together to deliver crucial services to the public while maintaining open communication with management.
- **Continuity of Operations:** Expand, simplify, and improve access to services to mitigate operational impact during mass disruptions, equip employees to remain productive and deliver citizen services.
- **Emergency Response:** Gain a clear picture of disaster sites for more informed decision making and improved response, while keeping command and control centers up to date.
- **Intra/Inter-agency Collaboration:** Foster cooperation, partnerships, and bridge organizational silos with agencies with overlapping jurisdictions and shared responsibilities.
- **Courts:** Speed the judicial process and save taxpayer dollars with the ability to support arraignments, hearings, misdemeanor pleas, interpretation services, and remote witness testimony over video.
- **Corrections:** Support rehabilitation and re-entry programs, family, and attorney visits, eliminate transportation costs and safety risks associated with transporting inmates between facilities.
- **Education & Training:** Increase access to skills training, workshops, and seminars, keep employees with up to date with changing policies and procedures, reduce travel time and expenses.
- **Telehealth:** Connect physicians and other medical specialists to patients and their caregivers to improve the quality of healthcare services provided to program beneficiaries/patients.
- **Public Access to Government Meetings:** Enable governing boards to livestream or conduct interactive meetings using video conferencing to comply with open meeting laws that require providing public access to government meetings.

# MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR CARES ACT FUNDING

## IMPORTANT DATES: YOUR CARES ACT SPENDING TIMELINE

The below table provides a quick visual to help you keep track of all those important dates for when your organization will need to obligate, incur costs, claim reimbursement, or even spend down their CARES Act funding.

ELIGIBLE ENTITY	CARES ACT FUNDING BUCKET	DATES TO REMEMBER
Local Education Agencies	Elementary & Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER)	<b>9/30/2022</b> Available for obligation.
Local Education Agencies, Institutions of Higher Education, Other Education Providers	Governors Emergency Education Relief Fund (GEER)	<b>9/30/2022</b> Available for obligation.
Institutions of Higher Education	Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEER)	<b>Between April 9, 2021 and September 30, 2021</b> Available for obligation up to one year after your institution filed their certification paperwork. Your deadline is unique to your school.
Healthcare Providers	HHS Provider Relief Fund	<b>6/30/2021</b> Funds must be spent, unless extended by future legislation.
State and Local Governments	Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF)	<b>12/31/2021</b> Cost must be incurred, but there is a 90-day grace period in instances of supply chain disruption. This date may be extended by future legislation.

# CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE AND RELIEF SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT

Nearly 10 months have passed since the enactment of the CARES Act. Despite the vital support that this emergency stimulus funding package initially provided and continues to offer, it is clear further support is needed for America's educators, healthcare providers, and government agencies. Fortunately, Congress has been working tirelessly since then to pass another round of COVID-19 emergency response funding.

On December 27, 2020, the Consolidated Appropriations act of 2021 was signed into law. This legislation provides funding for the federal government for the remainder of the fiscal year as well as nearly \$900 billion dollars – sourced from unused CARES funds and new allocations – in COVID relief support. Specifically, these COVID relief monies will provide additional funding opportunities, extend deadlines for certain previous CARES Act funding buckets, and allow waivers for key social support program requirements essential during the pandemic (such as extending the timeline for which one may leverage unemployment benefits). It will likely take a few months for this new wave of support to make its way from federal coffers to local organizations, but rest assured future funding is on the way. Following are highlights of what to expect.

## EDUCATION

- \$82 billion for another round of support to education providers, similar to the CARES Act, including funding for – the **Governors Emergency Education Relief Fund** (specifically including funds for private schools); the **Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund**; the **Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund** (including yet undisclosed set asides for minority serving institutions, development institutions, and for institutions with greatest unmet needs); and relief for education providers in US territories or those under Bureau of Indian Education.
- \$285 million for a **Connecting Minority Communities Pilot Program** to support communities around Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and other minority-serving institutions (MSIs) through broadband connectivity. Funds are predominantly intended to facilitate remote instruction.
- \$10 billion for childcare provider supports.

## HEALTHCARE

- \$3 billion for the HHS Provider Relief Fund to assist providers with healthcare-related pandemic expenses and lost revenue. The legislation gives providers more flexibility in calculating lost revenues and allowing health systems to move funds between sites.
- Nearly \$250 million for the FCC COVID-19 Telehealth Program to support efforts of healthcare providers. The FCC has many projects in the queue from the Spring when the original \$200 million in CARES Act funding was exhausted. The legislation requires the FCC to allow unfunded applicants from the first round the ability to edit and resubmit their applications.
- \$4.25 billion in Health Surveillance and Program Support, including \$1.65 billion for substance abuse prevention and treatment, and \$1.65 billion for community mental health services. These funds will be sent to states and distributed to substance abuse and mental health providers.
- \$600 million for the Certified Community Behavioral Health Centers (CCBHCs) Expansion Program.

## STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

- \$5.1 billion for broadband deployment grants in both tribal and rural areas that are aimed at bridging the digital divide and ensuring Americans have affordable access to broadband services during the pandemic.
- \$4.5 billion in direct grants for states, territories, and tribes to support vaccine planning and distribution activities, \$210 million specifically set aside for the Indian Health Service for vaccine planning and distribution activities at IHS facilities, tribes, and tribal organizations, and \$300 million in vaccine distribution activities to high-risk and underserved populations.
- \$4.25 billion in Health Surveillance and Program Support, including \$1.65 billion for substance abuse prevention and treatment, and \$1.65 billion for community mental health services.
- \$15 billion set aside for Grants for Shuttered Venue Operators, available to certain live venue operators or promoters, theatrical producers, live performing arts organizations, and relevant museum operators.
- \$25 billion to states and local governments, and tribes through another round of the Coronavirus Relief Fund, specifically targeting rental assistance and housing stability efforts.
- \$26 billion to for transportation infrastructure, including \$10 billion for highway infrastructure improvements and \$2 billion for airport improvements.

# LOGITECH GRANTS SERVICES PROGRAM TO SUPPORT YOUR FUNDING NEEDS

Even though the CARES Act is a one-time funding opportunity, don't fret if your organization has already expended its allotment and still has remaining video collaboration needs. Just before the end of 2020, Congress passed legislation to allot another round of stimulus funding in 2021. Further, over \$6 billion is available each year through additional state, federal, and foundation grant opportunities. These are the traditional grant opportunities which occur on an annual cycle and are available to assist organizations even when there is not a global pandemic. All the advice provided in this guide is relevant to pursuing those other opportunities as well.

Whether its CARES Act funding or beyond, through the **Logitech Grants Services Program**, your team can receive professional grants intelligence for your next project, including:

## PROJECT CONSULTATION:

Each engagement begins with getting to know your organization and the goals to serve or address the needs in your community. Our team has deep expertise to help guide you in assessing technology needs, how it aligns with your mission, any budgetary requirements, and the impact the technology can bring to the community in need.

## CUSTOMIZED FUNDING REPORTS:

Once a project plan is in place and team assembled, it's time to start looking for funding options to support your project. Your Logitech representative will gather the information needed to generate a free funding research report. This report provides a listing of relevant funding programs for you

to consider including federal, state, and private/corporate foundation grants.

## GRANT-READINESS COACHING:

Once you have selected a grant program to pursue, your Grants Development Consultant is available to help you and your colleagues further develop and define your video project based on funder requirements. If your agency already has that core idea in place, the consultant can help further articulate needs of the project and provide input on other elements further strengthen your project.

## PROPOSAL DEVELOPMENT:

Once it is time to put pen to paper and begin drafting your application, Logitech has a range of support services available. If your agency has a designated grant writer these services include unlimited proposal draft review and feedback. If you don't have the resources to prepare a full proposal in-house, your Grants Development Consultant can work with you to evaluate your grant-writing needs and determine the best level of support to optimize outcomes for funding.



## NEED HELP?

Contact the Logitech team today at [www.logitech.com/vcsales](http://www.logitech.com/vcsales) to speak with someone about the **Logitech Grants Services Program** or visit or visit [www.logitech.com/vc](http://www.logitech.com/vc) to learn more about Logitech's solutions that can help you fulfill your mission.

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