



Senate Counsel, Research, and Fiscal Analysis

FISCAL ISSUE BRIEF
Federal COVID-19 Funding
Judiciary and Public Safety

August 2020

The federal government responded to the COVID-19 pandemic by enacting a series of laws that provide funding to states for a variety of purposes. As of June 30, 2020, four laws were enacted.

- P.L. 116-123 Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act
- P.L. 116-127 Families First Coronavirus Response Act
- P.L. 116-136 Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act)
- P.L. 116-139 Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act

The provisions under the jurisdiction of the Judiciary and Public Safety budget provide funding to state and local governments and non-profit agencies. Table 1 lists the enacted provisions and the amounts allocated to recipients in Minnesota. For amounts received by the state, Table 1 indicates whether, as of June 30, 2020, the Legislative Advisory Commission approved the funding and the date of approval. A summary of the enacted provisions follows Table 1, including the recipients, the purposes of the funding, and the length of time the funding is available.

Table 1 – Federal COVID-19 Funding for Judiciary and Public Safety
(Dollars in Thousands)

Law	Federal Awards with State Allocation Estimates	Amount	LAC Approved
116-136	Justice Assistance Grants – State Government	8,145	
116-136	Justice Assistance Grants – Local Government	3,652	n/a
116-136	Emergency Management Performance Grants	1,770	5/22/2020
116-136	Family Violence and Prevention Services Grants	589	5/28/2020
116-136	Firefighter Assistance Grants	Direct Local	n/a

Summary of Federal COVID-19 Funding for Judiciary and Public Safety Programs

State and Local Justice Assistance Grants, Federal Department of Justice

The grants fund state agency and local government projects that prevent, prepare for, and respond to the COVID-19 virus. Funds must be coordinated with other available COVID-related

funding. Details of distribution will follow a needs assessment and priority identification phase. Funds will be distributed at the state and local level by the Department of Public Safety, Office of Justice Programs.

Emergency Management Performance Grants, Federal Department of Homeland Security

The grants fund mitigation activities related to slowing the spread of COVID-19, including the integration of emergency management and public health operations, the collection and display of public, private and governmental data of hospital bed capacity and usage, the collection and display of PPE inventories and burn rates to forecast future needs, and planning for alternative care sites. All funds will pass through the Homeland Security and Emergency Management division of the Department of Public Safety to local government applicants. The grants are available for activities funded through January 26, 2022.

Family Violence and Prevention Services Grants, Federal Department of Health and Human Services

The grants provide additional support to existing family violence shelters for needs arising from the COVID-19 pandemic. Allowable expenditures include staffing, utility and rental costs, food and toiletries, shelter supplies and transportation services. The grants are available for activities funded through September 30, 2021.

Firefighter Assistance Grants

The grants provide financial assistance directly to eligible fire departments and emergency medical service organizations for critical personal protective equipment and supplies needed to prepare for, and respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency. Because these grants are made directly to local governments, the state of Minnesota does not have an allocated share. The grants are available for activities funded within one year of award.

This Fiscal Issue Brief reflects public information for federal COVID-19 funding that was available in early June 2020. Federal agencies continue to provide information and allocation amounts for enacted funding programs. If you want the most current information for any of the provisions discussed in this Fiscal Issue Brief, please contact Chris Turner (chris.turner@senate.mn 651-296-4350).