

# Connecticut Farm Bureau Video Conference

April 7, 2020

United States Congressman

**JOE COURTNEY**

Serving Connecticut's  
Second District



# COVID-19 Legislation Signed into Law

Phase I

Coronavirus Preparedness and Response  
Supplemental Appropriations Act

Phase II

Families First Coronavirus Response Act

Phase III

Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security  
(CARES) Act

# Phase I

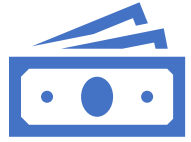
- \$8.3 billion in funding enacted on March 6
- Provided initial \$950 million in relief to states
- Included \$2.2 billion in public health funding and \$3 billion for vaccine and diagnostic research and development

# Phase II

- \$100 billion in funding enacted on March 18
- Paid sick and family leave tax credit for employers with fewer than 500 employees
- \$1 billion to states to expand Unemployment Insurance programs

# Phase III

- Appx. \$2 trillion in stimulus & aid
- \$1.38 billion in aid directly to CT
- Direct payments to individuals & families
- Expansion of Unemployment Insurance
- Assistance for businesses & USDA supports



## Direct Payments to Individuals & Families

- Individuals making up to \$75,000 and joint filers making up to \$150,000 will receive \$1,200 with an additional \$500 per minor child. Payments will phase-down for higher income
- Payments will be based on 2018 or 2019 IRS filing information
- Individuals who receive Social Security or other retirement benefits may still be eligible
- Payments will be directly deposited into your account on file with IRS; payment delivery for others still being assessed
- These payments are not considered taxable income



## Expansion of Unemployment Insurance

- Provides additional \$600/week in UI through July 31, 2020
- Extends UI benefits for 13 weeks
- Creates Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program for self-employed and gig economy workers
- CT DOL system is overloaded with requests—there will be retroactive benefits, but expect processing delays
- CT DOL encourages businesses to designate UI claims as a “temporary shutdown” as opposed to full layoffs in order to expedite processing through CT DOL portal



# Relief & Assistance to Businesses

- Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL)
  - SBA has indicated farms are ineligible for program – this was not the intent
  - Requested SBA to change position & working with leadership for more relief
- Paycheck Protection Program (PPP)
  - Farms are eligible – work with your farm credit agency or bank to enroll
  - \$350 billion in cash-flow assistance to maintain payroll & forgivable loans of up to \$10 million available
  - Enrollment start dates:
    - April 3: Small businesses and sole proprietorships
    - April 10: Independent contractors and self-employed individuals





## Department of Agriculture Supports

- Provides \$9.5 billion in funding for direct payments to livestock producers, specialty crop growers, and dairy farmers
- Additional \$14 billion in borrowing authority for the Commodity Credit Corporation
- Closely monitoring USDA implementation so that small and family farms get their fair share
- Administratively, FSA working to relax loan process for current borrowers and applicants



# Resources:

- Rep. Courtney's Resource Page: [courtney.house.gov/COVID19](https://courtney.house.gov/COVID19)
- IRS Guidance for Payments: [www.irs.gov/coronavirus](https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus)
- CT Small Business Development Center: [ctsfdc.com/covid19-businessresourcecenter/](https://ctsfdc.com/covid19-businessresourcecenter/)
- CT DOL Unemployment Insurance: [fileCTUI.com](https://fileCTUI.com)



# Stay Connected with Rep. Courtney



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