

# DETERMINING THE DISTRIBUTION OF EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE FUNDS FROM COVID-19 RELIEF BILL

## STATE/TERRITORY ALLOCATIONS \$25 BILLION

January 2020

State/Territory	Allocation	State/Territory	Allocation
Alabama	\$326,358,801.20	New Jersey	\$589,011,704.40
Alaska	\$200,000,000.00	New Mexico	\$200,000,000.00
Arizona	\$492,131,217.20	New York	\$1,282,268,820.90
Arkansas	\$200,961,311.80	North Carolina	\$702,966,451.50
California	\$2,610,593,356.20	North Dakota	\$200,000,000.00
Colorado	\$385,124,024.50	Ohio	\$775,405,764.40
Connecticut	\$235,873,751.10	Oklahoma	\$263,975,438.50
Delaware	\$200,000,000.00	Oregon	\$281,264,683.40
District of Columbia	\$200,000,000.00	Pennsylvania	\$847,688,778.80
Florida	\$1,441,188,973.40	Rhode Island	\$200,000,000.00
Georgia	\$710,207,372.20	South Carolina	\$346,020,970.50
Hawaii	\$200,000,000.00	South Dakota	\$200,000,000.00
Idaho	\$200,000,000.00	Tennessee	\$456,682,774.50
Illinois	\$834,709,842.60	Texas	\$1,946,983,603.80
Indiana	\$447,937,423.40	Utah	\$215,507,410.00
Iowa	\$209,783,452.70	Vermont	\$200,000,000.00
Kansas	\$200,000,000.00	Virginia	\$569,661,203.50
Kentucky	\$296,897,443.50	Washington	\$510,182,193.10
Louisiana	\$308,042,376.60	West Virginia	\$200,000,000.00
Maine	\$200,000,000.00	Wisconsin	\$386,777,591.50
Maryland	\$401,575,013.80	Wyoming	\$200,000,000.00
Massachusetts	\$457,129,720.30		
Michigan	\$660,906,592.10	Puerto Rico	\$325,000,000.00
Minnesota	\$375,152,158.50	American Samoa	\$9,682,885.60
Mississippi	\$200,000,000.00	Guam	\$33,600,948.00
Missouri	\$407,924,164.80	Northern Mariana Islands	\$10,400,669.30
Montana	\$200,000,000.00	Virgin Islands	\$21,315,497.10
Nebraska	\$200,000,000.00	Tribal Areas	\$800,000,000.00
Nevada	\$208,105,615.30		
New Hampshire	\$200,000,000.00	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$25 BILLION</b>

**Note: These allocations combine the allocations to the state government and local jurisdictions within each state.**

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The Treasury Department has now published information on the state maximum allocations of emergency rental assistance funding. Treasury provides a brief [methodology document](#) online that explains how they will allocate emergency rental assistance funds.

## TOTAL MAXIMUM ALLOCATION TO STATES

Treasury determined a state's total maximum allocation by allocating the money to be divided among the states (and the District of Columbia) proportionally by each state's share of the total U.S. population. After subtracting out funds for tribal areas and U.S. territories and administrative costs, the Treasury Department will distribute approximately \$23.785 billion to the 50 states and the District of Columbia.<sup>1</sup>

Treasury's allocation process can be replicated by first assuming each state receives a share of the funds equivalent to its share of the total US population. For total maximum allocation to the states, Treasury used population estimates from the [Vintage 2020 Population Estimates](#), released by the Census Bureau on December 22, 2020. For example, because California accounts for 12% of the US population, it would be allocated approximately 12% of the funds.

The COVID-19 relief bill stipulates that no state will be allocated less than \$200 million. Because 18 states would not receive this minimum allocation using the simple proportional formula, adjustments are necessary to bring them up to the minimum. After allocating the minimum allocation to the smaller states, the remaining funds can be divided among the other states in proportion to the remaining population, to replicate Treasury's allocation.

**The total maximum allocation determined by the Treasury Department is not equivalent to what the state government will receive**, but rather reflects the total of all emergency rental assistance that will be distributed to the state government and to all local jurisdictions (cities and counties) within that state.

## DIRECT ASSISTANCE TO CITIES AND COUNTIES

Cities and counties with populations of 200,000 or more are eligible to apply for a direct allocation from the Treasury Department. To be approved, an eligible local government must submit a certification from its chief executive that its use of funds will be consistent with the uses allowed by law. If a local jurisdiction applied for a direct allocation by midnight, January 12, 2020 and is certified, it will receive a portion of the total maximum allocation for the state, and the state government will receive correspondingly less.

If a local jurisdiction applies for a direct allocation, their allocation is subtracted from the state's total maximum allocation. Local jurisdictions will be allocated 45% of their per capita share of the state maximum allocation:

$$(\text{city or county population} \div \text{state population}) * 0.45 * \text{state total maximum allocation}$$

Importantly, Treasury is using [Vintage 2019 population estimates](#) at this step of the process, because those are the most recent data available for city and county populations. Both the city/county population and the state population in that formula should be drawn from the 2019 estimates, to estimate what a city or county will receive.

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<sup>1</sup> The District of Columbia was treated as a territory during the initial distribution of CRF funds but will be treated as a state for the purposes of this round of distribution.

For example, in the last round of distribution, Jefferson County, Alabama received CRF funds directly. There are approximately 659,000 people in Jefferson County and 4,900,000 in Alabama as a whole. The total maximum allocation to Alabama was about \$1.9 billion. Jefferson County's allocation was accordingly about \$115 million:

$(\text{Jefferson County population} / \text{Alabama population}) * 0.45 * \text{Alabama total maximum allocation}$

$$(658,573 / 4,903,185) * 0.45 * \$1,901,262,160 = \$114,915,910$$

Importantly, these are not additional funds—they come out of what the state government would otherwise receive (their total maximum allocation). Although Alabama's total maximum allocation was about \$1.9 billion, Alabama's state government received about \$1.79 billion in CRF in the spring. Therefore, the total amount that state governments will receive is dependent on the number of eligible local jurisdictions that apply and are certified.

## OVERLAPPING LOCAL JURISDICTIONS

If multiple jurisdictions that cover same population (e.g., Los Angeles City and Los Angeles County) both apply for direct allocations, then the city's allocation is based on its population and the county's allocation is based on the county population minus the city population. For example, if both the city of Los Angeles and Los Angeles County receive a direct allocation, the city will receive aid proportional to its 4 million residents, and the county will receive an amount of aid based only on the 6 million residents who do not live within the city limits.

## TERRITORIES

Separate from the allocation to the states and the District of Columbia, the bill allocates \$400 million to be distributed among the U.S. territories of Puerto Rico, American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Virgin Islands. It stipulates that at least \$75 million of that funding will be allocated to the four smaller territories, with the remainder going to Puerto Rico.