Governor outlines transparency process for federal funds

Yesterday, Governor Brad Little signed an executive order forming two new federal funds oversight committees that both Idaho’s legislative leaders and statewide-elected officials will participate in.

Gov. Little said that Idaho will lead the nation in shining light on how these public funds will be used to help us fight coronavirus in the state. “Transparency in government spending is one of my highest priorities, and I am proud that Idaho will lead the nation in transparency,” Little said.

Recently, the CARES Act was passed, which included an estimated $1.25 billion in federal funds that Idaho will receive to fight the COVID-19 pandemic. The state anticipates receiving $1.25 billion in COVID-19 relief on April 24. The state’s first tranche will be used to cover the uninsured. And, a small tranche will be used to support Idahoans and industries that have been impacted by COVID-19. The state will release a COVID-19 daily report to our members on a regular basis.

The Governor’s Coronavirus Financial Advisory Committee will make recommendations to the Governor on how federal funds should be used to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19. The Governor’s Coronavirus Financial Advisory Committee will consist of 11 members as follows:

- Alex Ada, Administrator, Division of Financial Management (Chair)
- Janie Blevins, Chief of Staff, Governor’s Office of Strategic Policy
- Patricia Fullerton, Director, Idaho State Tax Commission
- Rainbow Fullerton, Chief, Office of Strategic Policy
- Tony Haley, Director, Idaho Department of Commerce
- William Harrison, Idaho Department of Health & Welfare
- Brian Nix, Director, Department of Administration
- Kim Shadle, Director, Idaho Department of Labor
- Josh Whitworth, Chief of Staff, Office of the State Controller
- Representative Rick Youngblood, Co-chair, Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee
- Senator Steve Bair, Co-chair, Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee

The committee will be responsible for making recommendations to the Governor on which federal funds should be used to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19. The Governor has put a working group together to ensure that money is appropriately used to support Idahoans and industries that have been impacted by COVID-19. The Governor’s Coronavirus Financial Advisory Committee will meet weekly to ensure that the Governor receives and makes recommendations on the use of funds on our behalf.

In addition, State Controller Brandon Woolf is partnering with Governor Little to report funds that Idaho will receive to fight the COVID-19 pandemic.

Federal funding ~ a quick update

With all the meetings about the recent passed CARES Act and the $1.25 billion federal stimulus package, there will be still little debate about who and how money will be distributed.

Federal funding is being distributed to federal, state and local governments to support hospitals in their response to COVID-19. The federal government has already committed $19 billion to hospitals and providers to support their efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Governor Little has announced that the state will get a third-party validation on the repairs before returning the equipment to hospitals.

Bloom Energy has partnered with Stanford University to oversee a program that could bring hundreds of ventilators back into service. Governor Little has announced that the state will get a third-party validation on the repairs before returning the equipment to hospitals.

In addition, IHA will work with you.

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