

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. _____

To waive cost share requirements for certain Federal assistance provided under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH (for herself, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. CASSIDY, and Mr. PETERS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To waive cost share requirements for certain Federal assistance provided under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Local Community
5 Emergency Relief Act of 2020”.

6 **SEC. 2. WAIVER FOR CERTAIN COST SHARE REQUIRE-**
7 **MENTS.**

8 (a) COVERED DECLARATION DEFINED.—In this sec-
9 tion, the term “covered declaration” means—

1 (1) a major disaster declared by the President
2 under section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster
3 Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.
4 5170) during calendar year 2020; and

5 (2) an emergency declared by the President
6 under section 501(b) of the Robert T. Stafford Dis-
7 aster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42
8 U.S.C. 5191(b)), or any subsequent major disaster
9 declaration under section 401 of such Act (42
10 U.S.C. 5170) that supersedes the emergency dec-
11 laration, during calendar year 2020.

12 (b) **WAIVER OF COST SHARE REQUIREMENTS.**—Not-
13 withstanding any other provision of law, including any
14 agreement, the Federal share of any assistance awarded
15 under a covered declaration shall be not less than 100 per-
16 cent of the eligible costs, and, for purposes of subsection
17 (a)(2), shall include assistance provided for the following:

18 (1) Miscellaneous costs, such as the costs of
19 cleaning and sanitizing public areas and buildings
20 where individuals who have contracted COVID-19
21 have been present to prevent the spread of the virus.

22 (2) Other needs assistance for uninsured, dis-
23 aster-related necessary expenses and serious needs,
24 including—

1 (A) child care assistance for families,
2 healthcare workers, first responders, and others
3 whose children cannot attend school due to
4 mandatory school closures and daycare center
5 closures;

6 (B) funeral and burial assistance for fatali-
7 ties resulting from the COVID–19 disease;

8 (C) increased operating costs for essential
9 government services due to such emergency, in-
10 cluding costs for implementing continuity plans,
11 and sheltering or housing for first responders,
12 emergency managers, health providers and
13 other essential employees; and

14 (D) public health costs including, medical
15 services, testing (including serological testing),
16 preventative care, transportation, medical waste
17 disposal, and prescriptions for individuals who
18 have contracted COVID–19.

19 (3) Mental health services.

20 (4) Critical needs assistance for households
21 with immediate or critical needs for vital resources
22 due to the disruption of community services and
23 higher demand and limited availability of commod-
24 ities.

1 (5) Medical equipment, regardless of whether
2 such equipment is used for emergency or inpatient
3 care, including all Federal agency assets, temporary
4 and permanent, and the non-Federal purchase of
5 such equipment.

6 (6) The purchase and distribution of food,
7 water, ice, medicine, and other consumable supplies,
8 including personal protective equipment and inclu-
9 sive of impacts to food stocks at private, non-profit
10 food banks and the costs of delivery.

11 (7) Personal protective equipment decontamina-
12 tion costs.

13 (8) Hospital and morgue capacity expansion
14 projects to meet actual or projected COVID-19
15 surge demands.

16 (9) The total costs of maintaining hospital ca-
17 pacity expansion projects as “warm sites” during
18 COVID-19 non-peak periods.

19 (10) Public health communications campaigns
20 related to providing emergency COVID-19 informa-
21 tion, increasing public awareness of the threats, and
22 to mitigate against future spread of the virus.

23 (11) Technical assistance to eligible entities.

24 (12) Security and law enforcement costs, in-
25 cluding overtime, directly related to COVID-19.

1 (c) APPLICABILITY.—The Federal share described in
2 subsection (b) shall apply to assistance provided before,
3 on, or after the date of enactment of this Act.