



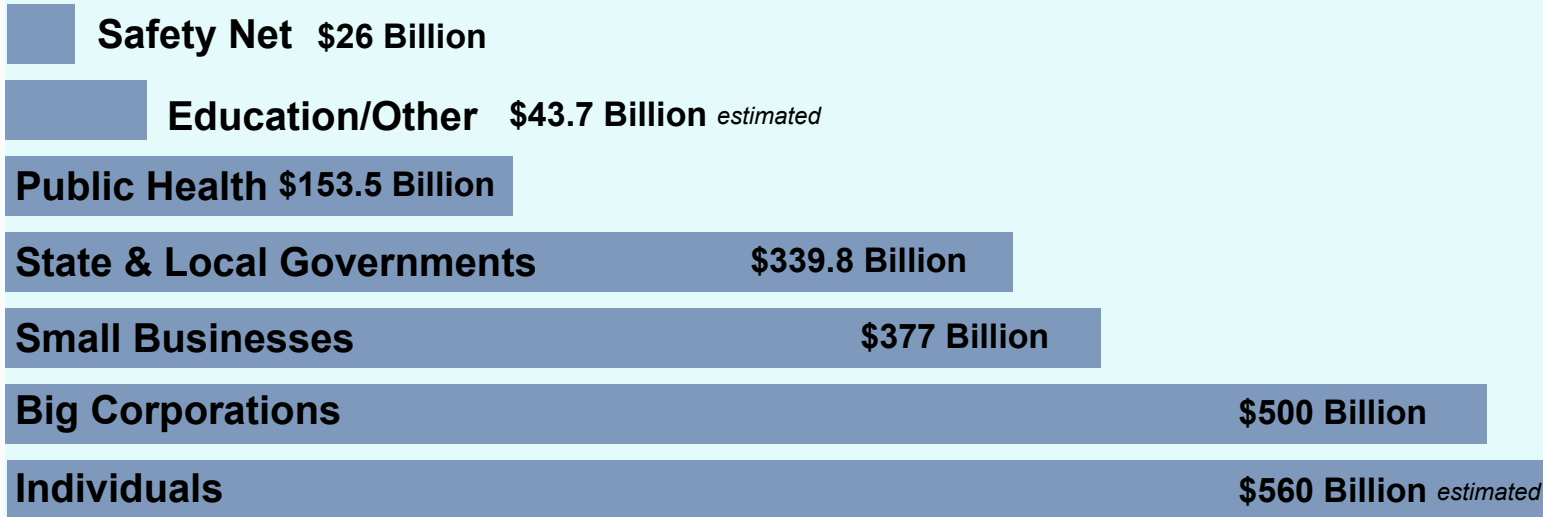
Civics is all around us. There is a lot to know about the government and how “We the People” interact with the government and each other. Let’s help each other expand our civic literacy.

The United States Congress passed, and the president signed into law, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act or the **CARES Act**, in response to the COVID-19/Novel coronavirus outbreak and its impact on the economy, public health, state and local governments, individuals, and businesses.

Congress has the power to pass this sort of emergency spending and funding bill, under **Article I** of the United States Constitution. This has happened during times of potential or active **military conflict**, **natural disaster**, or **economic hardship**. Emergency spending and funding bills passed by Congress are intended to help the economy and provide support for **states**, individuals and **businesses** that have been impacted by the economic downturn. The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) provides an estimated \$2 trillion stimulus package to help mitigate the harmful effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the United States.

How the \$2 Trillion Breaks Down

The CARES Act provides relief to several groups impacted by the coronavirus pandemic.



Source: Estimates for third relief bill based on bill text, committee, and administration numbers. Credit: Audrey Carlsen/NPR

To Do and To Think: Based on the graphic provided, what conclusions can you draw about the CARES Act? What questions do you have about the CARES Act?

Learn MORE about the role of Congress and the CARES Act. Free registration may be required.

- [Articles I, II, and III](#), from Civics360
- [Frequently Asked Questions about the CARES Act](#), from U.S. House Committee on Financial Services
- [Pandemics](#), from the U.S. Government Accountability Office

