COVID-19
NATIONAL AND STATE POLICY UPDATES

Please note that things are changing rapidly with regard to both State and National policy. Therefore, we ask that you please check back for ongoing updates as we work to provide you with the most current and up to date information as it relates to addressing the needs of survivors in Arizona.

Federal Legislation

On Thursday, April 23, 2020, Congress passed legislation to provide $484 billion in relief for small business lending, as well as $75 billion in funding for hospitals and $25 billion for COVID-19 testing. There were no additional funds for state and local governments. Full text of the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act can be found [here](https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/congress/house-expected-pass-latest-coronavirus-aid-bill-thursday-n1190376). The latest funding has been referred to by both parties as “interim” legislation meant to bridge the gap between the $2.2 trillion CARES Act and the next expansive round of legislation as a result of the pandemic.¹

Survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence continue to face heightened risk during the pandemic. Advocacy organizations are working diligently to provide resources to survivors who are facing increasingly complex barriers to safety and well-being (e.g., loss of jobs, lack of access to childcare, limited legal options, being trapped with abusers, increased risk of sexual and domestic violence, and the impact of isolation on mental health). We continue to advocate with our national partners in urging our Members of Congress to allocate additional emergency funding for victims and survivors, including sexual violence services funding, in the 4th Phase of emergency funding.

State News

The Arizona State Legislature previously announced plans to reconvene on May 1, 2020 as a formality to adjourn sine die, which would have officially marked the end of the 2020 legislative session. That decision was placed on hold last week after controversy surrounding outstanding legislation. Yesterday, House Speaker Bowers announced that the Legislature would not reconvene on May 1 as previously planned, but did not offer a new timeline or an estimate as to when a decision might be made. The ongoing debate continues regarding the rest of the session and whether leadership will reconvene to sine die or proceed in passing legislation that was making its way through the legislative process.

Should the members of the Arizona House of Representatives and Senate be called back into a special session, it would most likely be sometime in June with the need to address budgetary fallout resulting from COVID-19, including the $1.1 billion shortfall projected by the Joint Legislative Budget Committee (JLBC) earlier this month. We continue to advocate on both the state and national levels to our lawmakers for emergency funding during this time so that services remain open and available to victims and survivors of sexual and domestic violence.

Governor Ducey has issued a handful of Executive Orders and made numerous announcements in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Executive Order 2020-33 Returning Stronger was issued by Governor Ducey on April 29, 2020 that extended the original stay-at-home order until May 15, 2020 and outlined a plan for the gradual re-opening of essential businesses in Arizona.

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Last Updated: MAY 1, 2020
These are just some of the highlights from recent news. More information and the most recent information from the Office of the Governor can be found by visiting https://az.governor.gov/news-releases

**Additional Information:**

While ACESDV staff are primarily working remotely from the safety of their homes, we have measures in place to maintain full confidentiality and are continuing operations and support to survivors and the community. Please visit our COVID-19 specific page for updates at www.acesdv.org/covid-19 as well as additional resources below:

Department of Economic Security (DES) services related to COVID-19: https://des.az.gov/services/coronavirus

Arizona Department of Health Services COVID-19 specific information: https://www.azdhs.gov/COVID19


Arizona at Work: www.arizona@work.com

To apply for unemployment benefits: http://www.azui.com/ or by telephone at (877) 600-2722

Arizona Hospitality Workforce Connection: https://tourism.az.gov/hiring-opportunities/