



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.

The Arizona Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence (ACESDV) stands in solidarity with the Black community during these tragic and traumatic events, and will continue to stand with people of color to uproot systemic racism, classism, sexism, and other forms of oppression. We are committed to working together to end violence in all forms by dismantling oppression in Arizona and promoting equity among all people. Please read our full [Statement on the Murder and of George Floyd and Institutionalized Racism](#).

Federal Legislation

On Friday, May 15, 2020 the U.S. House of Representatives passed the 4th Phase of emergency funding via an omnibus bill titled the Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions (HEROES) Act ([H.R. 6800](#)). The HEROES Act includes critical funding and policy improvements to help address survivors' ongoing, urgent housing, economic, and other human needs during this pandemic.

We are grateful to the House for passing the HEROES Act and the inclusion of survivor-specific funds in VAWA and FVPSA. More, however, is still needed for these programs. The funds for survivors' housing stability, sexual assault services, and culturally specific programs still do not meet the current needs. In addition to providing paid safe leave for survivors, access to unemployment insurance for those who have to leave their jobs due to domestic or sexual violence is also needed. Survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence continue to face heightened risk during the pandemic. We are advocating beside our national partners for the Senate bill to include and expand upon the HEROES Act's provisions for sexual and domestic violence survivors and the programs that serve them. Negotiations with the Senate are currently underway, though a deal is not anticipated until mid-June or early July.

State News

At the Arizona State Legislature, the Senate initially made the motion to adjourn *sine die* on May 8, 2020, while the House reconvened and began holding committee meetings on Monday, May 18, 2020, bringing forward legislation that was deemed by leadership to be non-controversial and/or COVID-19 related. The House made the motion to *sine die* on Thursday, May 21, 2020, which brought the Senate back on Tuesday, May 26, 2020 to accept the House's motion. The Senate quickly passed the motion to *sine die* upon return, marking the end of the Fifty-fourth Legislature - Second Regular Session.

On June 5, 2020 Governor Ducey signed the remaining 32 bills into law that reached his desk from the legislative session. After over 1700 bills were introduced this session, 90 were signed into law and zero were vetoed. This was an all-time low for bills signed into law during a regular session.¹

¹ Office of the Governor. (2020 June 5). Governor Ducey Takes Action on All Remaining Bills [Press Release]. Retrieved from <https://azgovernor.gov/governor/news/2020/06/governor-ducey-takes-action-all-remaining-bills>

Originally, multiple special sessions were anticipated to address anything COVID-19 related, including the budgetary fallout from COVID-19 including the [\\$1.1 billion shortfall projected](#) by the Joint Legislative Budget Committee (JLBC) earlier this session. Recent estimates predict that the shortfall may not be as severe, and discussion surrounding a special session seems to become less likely as time passes.

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

On May 31, 2020 Governor Ducey issued a statewide [Declaration of Emergency](#) beginning at 8:00pm until 5:00am each night from the date of the declaration until Monday, June 8, 2020 at 5:00am. This declaration was not further extended and has therefore expired.

[Executive Order 2020-40](#) Containing the Spread of COVID-19, Continuing Arizona Mitigation Efforts was issued on June 17, 2020 and included:

- Continuing to boost diagnostic testing, including expanding rapid testing capability;
- Amplifying contact tracing in partnership with counties, including utilizing National Guard assets and providing additional resources to counties;
- Increasing awareness of distancing and face-covering guidelines, including authorizing local governments to implement enhanced mitigation measures;
- Continuing to focus on long-term care settings, including providing \$10 million for additional PPE and face masks;
- And enhancing guidance for establishments to limit congregating and enforce mitigation policies.²

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>

The Arizona Bar Foundation's COVID19 legal resource page: <https://covid19.azlawhelp.org>

The Undocumented Workers Relief Fund:

<https://www.azfoundation.org/Giving/GivingCircles/LatinaGivingCircle/ArizonaUndocumentedWorkersReliefFund.aspx>

Important Election Information:

August 4th Primary Election – the last day to register to vote is Monday, July 6, 2020

November 3rd General Election – the last day to register to vote is Monday, October 5, 2020

To update your voter registration or register to vote, please visit:

<https://servicearizona.com/VoterRegistration/selectLanguage> or the [Arizona Secretary of State's website](#).

² Office of the Governor (2020 June 17). Governor Ducey Announces Enhanced COVID-19 Action Plan [News Release]. Retrieved from <https://azgovernor.gov/governor/news/2020/06/governor-ducey-announces-enhanced-covid-19-action-plan>