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MEMORANDUM

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**TO:** INTERESTED CLIENTS  
**FROM:** CORNERSTONE GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS  
**SUBJECT:** Technology Provisions in Division B, Emergency Appropriations of the CARES Act  
**DATE:** March 30, 2020

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This memo outlines the opportunities for technology companies looking to help the United States respond to Coronavirus pandemic. Congress allocated \$340 billion in new funding in the CARES Act to address the needs of the nation. The bill gives broad authority to many agencies to “prevent, prepare and respond to coronavirus, domestically and internationally.” This memo highlights opportunities specifically of interest to technology companies that can provide innovative solutions to help federal employees work remotely, help medical professionals leverage technology to provide real-time tracking of COV-19 cases, offer healthcare workers access to technology to offer telemedicine, and more. The items of interest are organized by subcommittees of the Congressional Appropriations Committees. President Trump signed the CARES Act into law today, March 27, 2020.

**Title 1 - Department of Agriculture**

The *Rural Utilities Service* is allocated \$25 million for “Distance Learning, Telemedicine, and Broadband Programs” to make internet access more accessible to rural America as millions transition to working from home. In addition, the Reconnect Pilot Program is allocated \$100 million for broadband access “in rural areas without sufficient access.”

**Title II - The Departments of Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies**

The *Economic Development Administration* is allocated \$1.5 billion for economic assistance to help revitalize local communities after the pandemic to boost industries, such as manufacturing supply chains, tourism and more.

The *Department of Justice* is allocated \$2 million for “Justice Information Sharing Technology” to allow telework and other important technology improvements.

**Title III – The Department of Defense**

The *Defense Production Act* is allocated \$1 billion to invest in cutting-edge manufacturing capabilities to increase production of specific equipment, including personal protective devices and other medical equipment to meet the growing demand.

**Title IV – Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies**

The *Department of Energy* is allocated \$28 million for “necessary expenses relating to supporting remote access for personnel” and other needs to “respond to coronavirus.”



#### **Title V – Financial Service and General Government**

The *Judiciary* is allocated \$7.5 million for continuation of critical court services, including “video conferencing for criminal proceedings.”

The *Election Assistance Commission* is allocated \$400 million “for emergency requirements” necessary to conduct elections, which could include increasing access to vote by mail, expanding early voting, growing access to online registration services and more.

The *Federal Communications Commission* is allocated \$200 million for “health care providers to address coronavirus by providing telecommunications services, information services and devices necessary to enable the provision of telehealth services.”

The *Small Business Administration* is allocated \$562 million to ensure SBA has the resources to provide Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL) to businesses that need support during the pandemic.

#### **Title VI – The Department of Homeland Security**

*Emergency Management Performance Grants* is allocated \$100 million for state, local, tribal and territorial governments to support coordination, communication and logistics.

The *United States Coast Guard* is allocated \$141 million for the “mobilization of reservists and increasing the capability and capacity of Coast Guard information technology systems and infrastructure.”

The *Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency* is allocated \$9.1 million to “support of interagency critical infrastructure coordination and related activities.”

The *Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)* is allocated \$45 million to expand information technology and communication capabilities to build capacity.

The *Disaster Relief Fund* is allocated \$45 billion to support immediate needs of state, local, tribal and territorial governments to protect citizens and help them recover from the effect of the coronavirus pandemic, including medical response, National Guard deployment, coordination of logistics, community services and more.

#### **Title VII – The Department of the Interior**

The *Smithsonian Institution* is allocated \$7.5 million for “deep cleaning, security, information technology and staff overtime.”

The *John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts* is allocated \$25 million for “deep cleaning and information technology to improve telework capability and for operations and maintenance requirements related to the consequences of the coronavirus.”

#### **Title VIII - The Department of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies**

The *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention* is allocated \$4.3 billion”

- With not less than \$1.5 billion for “grants to or cooperative agreements with States, localities, territories, tribes, tribal organizations, urban Indian health organizations, or health service providers to tribes, including to carry out surveillance, epidemiology, laboratory capacity,



infection control, mitigation, communications and other preparedness and response activities,”

- Not less than \$500 million shall be for “global disease detection and emergency response” and
- Not less than \$500 million shall be for “public health data surveillance and analytics infrastructure modernization.”

The *Department of Education* is allocated \$30.7 billion for “Education Stabilization Funds” for states, school districts and institutes of higher education for costs related to coronavirus, including for educational technology, online learning, distance learning and more.

The *Corporation for Public Broadcasting* is allocated \$75 million to “maintain programming and services and preserve small and rural stations threatening declines in non-Federal revenue.”

The *Institute of Museum and Library Services* is allocated \$50 million for “Grants and Administration” to “expand digital network access, purchase internet accessible devices, and provide technical support services.”

The *Social Security Administration* is allocated \$300 million to pay the “benefits of all employees affected as a result of office closures, telework, phone and communication services for employees, overtime costs, and supplies.”

#### **Title IX – The Legislative Branch**

The *Senate* is allocated \$10 million to support technology costs associated with telework and coronavirus response. The *House of Representatives* is allocated \$25 million for the same purpose.

#### **Title X – Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies**

The Veterans Affairs Department is allocated \$2.2 billion for “Information Technology Systems.” There is also a provision allowing “short-term agreement or contracts with telecommunications providers to expand tele-mental health services for isolated veterans during a public health emergency.”

#### **Title XI – The Department of State**

The *United States Agency for International Development* (USAID) provides \$95 million for operating needs to support evacuations, ordered departures, surge support, increased technical support for remote functions and other needs.

#### **Title XII – The Department of Transportation and Housing and Urban Development**

The agencies are allocated \$48.5 billion for transportation and housing activities to address the global public health pandemic, including to protect the livelihood of specialized transportation workers, provide safe conditions for workers, preserve mobility assets for commuters and more.

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