



Women In Government welcomes you to #WIGWednesday!

We will get started shortly.

1. All participants are muted through the system.
2. We will have a Q&A period at the end of the presentation, be sure to use the Chat Box feature to ask questions!
3. This virtual round-table event will be recorded and provided on our website once the the event is over



Join Bob Blancato and the WIG team to  
*Learn Ways We Can Come Together (while still social distancing) to  
Help the Vulnerable Populations During COVID-19*

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Moderated by:

Washington State Representative  
Cindy Ryu

# Women In Government's Board of Directors

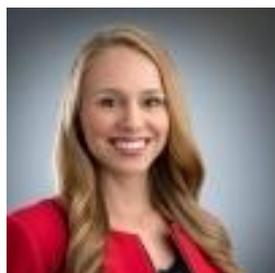
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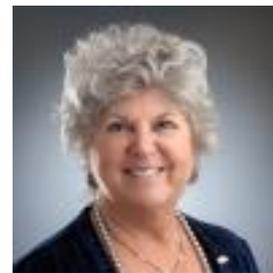
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(D-GA)

# Moderated by:

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Washington State Representative  
Cindy Ryu

# Featured Speaker: Bob Blancato

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Executive Director, NANASP  
National Coordinator, Defeat Malnutrition Today

# Coming Together: Introduction

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Last spoke to WIG in 2018, and so much has changed

We are in an unprecedented time as a nation

Beyond the tragic numbers of those who have died or been diagnosed with the coronavirus is how it has impacted this nation and its people

From the very start, this was both a health care crisis and an economic one

The economic aftermath will consume Congress and the Administration for months to come

However, the response so far out of Washington has been important

# The Three Bills

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To date, we have the enactment into law of 3 emergency bills

- Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act
- Families First Coronavirus Response Act
- CARES Act

And be certain of the fact that there is a 4<sup>th</sup> bill actively in the development stage

Its size and focus still unclear but it will be built around a lot of what was covered in the CARES Act

Even before this new bill passes, it is expected that Congress as soon as this week will pass legislation to provide more funding for the Paycheck Protection Program for small businesses which could run out of money this week

# Older Adult Nutrition Funding

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In our work with both NANASP and the Defeat Malnutrition Today coalition our focus has been on vulnerable older adults and their ongoing need to maintain access to nutrition

We found immediate interest in Congress on this led by Rep. Rosa DeLauro of CT who chairs the all-important Labor-HHS Subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee

Her staff connected with us and our colleagues at Meals on Wheels America to get an idea of immediate issues and what to expect

This led to \$250 million in emergency funds for the Older American Act nutrition programs: congregate, home-delivered, and those provided for Native Americans

# Why Were the Funds Needed?

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This was needed to address rapid changes in this program, including widespread conversion of previously congregate nutrition participants to having their meals delivered to their homes or providing grab and go options at congregate sites

These developments and others were straining local nutrition budgets, whether for additional transportation and food costs to hiring extra staff

These funds came first and another \$500 million provided in the second package

Human impact of big increases in older adults being homebound and isolated also a concern

Recently, these emergency funds have been able to be used for telephone and technological reassurance programs to perform well-being checks

- We hope to have this expanded to specifically address whether older adults are experiencing higher rates of malnutrition

# Other Key Provisions for the Vulnerable

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In Families First Coronavirus Response Act:

- \$500 million for WIC for low-income pregnant women/mothers who lost jobs or were laid off
- \$400 million for the Emergency Food Assistance Program for low-income people
- Maintain essential access to lunch for students
- Suspend work and work training requirements for SNAP
- Additional SNAP flexibilities in public health emergency—to provide emergency benefits
- An Emergency Paid Leave benefit program for those diagnosed with COVID-19

# Also in Families First...

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Emergency unemployment insurance including emergency funds to states to process and pay unemployment benefits—and the 10 million who have applied for initial benefits over the past two weeks shows why this is necessary

For states that might see unemployment exceed 10 percent, 100 percent federal funding is provided for extended benefits for 26 weeks

The bill waived cost sharing for COVID-19 test under Medicare

An initial \$100 million to fund community health centers who faced an end to funding at the end of May

And emergency FMAP increase (Federal Medical Assistance Percentage) for duration of the emergency

# Key Provisions in CARES Act

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\$820 million increase for the entire Older Americans Act, with \$500 million more for nutrition and \$100 million for the family caregiver support program

\$7 billion for affordable housing and homelessness assistance

Close to \$1.2 billion for tribal communities, including health care system response and for the USDA Food Distribution program

\$8.8 billion for child nutrition programs

\$15.5 billion for SNAP to handle increased enrollment

# Key Provisions in CARES for States

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The legislation designates \$339.8 billion for programs that will go to state and local governments, including:

- \$274 billion toward specific COVID-19 response efforts, including \$150 billion in direct aid for state/local governments
- \$6.5 billion total for the Community Development Block Grant, the Economic Development Administration and the Manufacturing Extension Partnership, all aimed at mitigating local economic crises
- \$13 billion for K-12 schools
- \$14 billion for higher education
- \$5.3 billion for programs for children and families, including immediate assistance to child care centers

# Other Key CARES Provisions

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\$900 million for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program

Another \$450 million for the Emergency Food Assistance Program

\$425 million to increase access to community based mental health services

Much in the way of small business relief through loans, emergency grants

Cash payments to individuals (\$1,200 per individual taxpayer, up to a certain income limit)

Extra unemployment benefits (\$600/week)

Telehealth provisions

More funding for VA healthcare

# A Fourth Bill?

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Coming soon, just a matter of when

Some provisions advocates would like to see:

- Allow all SNAP beneficiaries to order and pay for groceries online with EBT benefits (only possible in a handful of states currently)
- More funding for emergency housing and service coordinators
- Funding for high-speed internet infrastructure projects
- Funding for clinical labs working on COVID-19 response
- Further increasing the FMAP to 12% (raised to 6.2% in Families First Act)

# What You Can Do?

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The federal response is evolving based on the changing nature of what is happening at the state and local level

You as elected state legislators can do so much at this time

Start by following the money and making sure it goes from D.C. to the state to intended local entities in a timely fashion and if it's not, initiate direct contact either with your Congressional delegation or the federal entity responsible

Continue to connect on the ground to determine need, both current and expected

Lobby to waive or lower as many matching requirements as may exist for emergency funds, especially for Medicaid, which is experiencing record high enrollment at a time when state treasuries are overstretched

# Conclusions

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This was titled “Coming Together”: that we are and that we must do

This unprecedented crisis has reaffirmed one important principle—that government’s role is most important in these times

The response to date from D.C. being bipartisan, prompt and decisive gives comfort and confidence to the American people

Yet in reality—we are dealing with a state and localized crisis.

- The decisions on social distancing, essential services, and shelter in place are being driven at the state and local level.

The role and impact of state legislators like yourself is important and will also be felt especially important downstream from this crisis

Thank you—stay safe and keep up your important service to your state and constituents

# Helpful COVID-19 Resources

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NANASP: <http://nanasp.org/covid-19>

Defeat Malnutrition Today: <http://defeatmalnutrition.today/covid-19>

Administration for Community Living: <http://acl.gov/covid-19>

Small Business Administration: <https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/loans/coronavirus-relief-options>

USDA Information: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/disaster/pandemic/covid-19>

Housing and Urban Development Information: <https://www.hud.gov/coronavirus>

# Let's be social!

#ConnectingLegislativeLeaders  
#WIGWednesdays

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# We hope you enjoyed our #WIGWednesday session

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**Please join us for these upcoming #WIGWednesdays programs:**

**April 15, 2020:** Mary Kosinski, Deputy VP of Science and Regulatory Advocacy at PhRMA, *Biopharmaceutical Industry Battle Against COVID: Progress Update and Hope*

**April 22, 2020:** *Developing a Vaccine for COVID-19*, Moderated by WIG Board Member Assemblywoman Lisa Krasner with featured speaker Clement Lewin, PhD, MBA, Associate Vice President Head BARDA Office & NV Stakeholder Engagement, Sanofi Pasteur

**April 29, 2020:** *What the CARES Act Means for Small Businesses, Individuals and Non-profits* Moderated by Chair Senator Stacey Guerin featuring Katie Vlietstra Wonnenberg, Principal, Public Private Strategies as speaker.

# The Women In Government team thanks you for participating today!

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