Declaring a Disaster Emergency Due to the Presence of Coronavirus Disease 2019 in Colorado


I. Background and Purpose

The Governor is responsible for meeting the dangers to the State and people presented by disasters. C.R.S. § 24-33.5-704(1). The Act defines a disaster as “the occurrence or imminent threat of widespread or severe damage, injury, or loss of life or property resulting from any natural cause or cause of human origin, including but not limited to . . . epidemic.” C.R.S. § 24-33.5-703(3). The threat currently posed by COVID-19, a respiratory illness that can spread from person to person, constitutes a disaster for purposes of the Act.

On March 5, 2020, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment’s (CDPHE) public health laboratory confirmed the first presumptive positive COVID-19 test result in Colorado. Since then, the number of confirmed cases has continued to climb, and there is community spread throughout the State. I verbally declared a disaster emergency on March 10, 2020, and on March 11, 2020, I issued the corresponding Executive Order D 2020 003, as amended and extended by Executive Orders D 2020 018, D 2020 032, D 2020 058, D 2020 076, D 2020 109, D 2020 125, D 2020 152, D 2020 176, D 2020 205, D 2020 234, D 2020 258, D 2020 264, D 2020 268, D 2020 284, D 2020 290, D 2020 296, D 2021 009, D 2021 022, D 2021 028, D 2021 045, D 2021 061, D 2021 068, D 2021 087, D 2021 102, D 2021 114, and this Executive Order. On March 25, 2020, I requested that the President of the United States declare
a Major Disaster for the State of Colorado, pursuant to the Stafford Act. The President approved that request on March 28, 2020.

My administration, along with other State, tribal, local, and federal authorities, has taken a wide array of actions to mitigate the effects of the pandemic, prevent further spread, and protect against overwhelming our health care resources. The actions we have undertaken to date have made progress in these areas, but we must continue taking aggressive action to minimize the duration of this epidemic and of the disruption to our daily lives.

This Executive Order amends Executive Orders D 2020 003, D 2020 018, D 2020 032, D 2020 058, D 2020 076, D 2020 109, D2020 125, D 2020 152, D 2020 176, D 2020 205, D 2020 234, D 2020 258, D 2020 264, D 2020 268, D 2020 284, D 2020 290, D 2020 296, D 2021 009, D 2021 022, D 2021 028, D 2021 045, D 2021 061, D 2021 068, D 2021 087, D 2021 102, and D 2021 114, to rescind an allocation of $79,994,066 from CDPHE from the Disaster Emergency Fund and make a transfer of $78,494,066 from the Disaster Emergency Fund to the Controlled Maintenance Trust Fund (CMTF), which is a cash fund included in the FY 2020-21 State Emergency Reserve. The amendment also reallocates a total of $36,112,831 from CDPHE to other agencies as follows: $4,100,000 from CDPHE to the Department of Corrections (DOC) for jail backlog and staffing costs; $3,512,831 from CDPHE to the Department of Public Safety (DPS) for response activities related to COVID-19; and $28,500,000 from CDPHE to the Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE) for costs associated with the Colorado Jumpstart program established by Executive Order D 2021 104. The source of these reallocations is the Coronavirus Relief Fund sub-account of the Disaster Emergency Fund.

II. Amendments


On April 8, 2020, the funds in the Disaster Emergency Fund were deemed insufficient pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-33.5-706(4)(b), and eighty three million five hundred twenty thousand eight hundred ninety six dollars ($83,520,896) was transferred from the Controlled Maintenance Trust Fund to the Disaster Emergency Fund for COVID-19 related purposes; zero dollars ($0) was transferred from the Unclaimed Property Tourism Promotion Trust Fund to the Disaster Emergency Fund for COVID-19 related purposes; zero dollars ($0) was transferred from the Colorado Water Conservation Board Construction Fund to the Disaster Emergency Fund for COVID-19 related purposes; and zero dollars ($0) was transferred from the Major Medical Insurance Fund to the Disaster Emergency Fund for COVID-19 related purposes.
Pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-33.5-706(4), I order that three hundred fifty two million twenty thousand eight hundred ninety six dollars ($352,020,896) from the Disaster Emergency Fund be encumbered for response activities related to COVID-19. Of these funds, two hundred five million dollars ($205,000,000) shall come from the Coronavirus Relief Fund sub-account of the Disaster Emergency Fund. Of the funds coming from the Coronavirus Relief Fund sub-account, one hundred sixteen million two hundred twenty nine thousand eight hundred twenty six dollars ($116,229,826) shall be encumbered and made available to CDPHE for response activities related to COVID-19; three million five hundred twelve thousand eight hundred thirty one dollars ($3,512,831) shall be encumbered and made available to the CDPS for response activities related to COVID-19; thirty eight million two hundred ten thousand eight hundred eighteen dollars ($38,210,818) shall be encumbered and made available to the DOC for response activities related to COVID-19; thirty seven million seven hundred forty eight thousand two hundred twenty seven dollars ($37,748,227) shall be encumbered and made available to the CDLE for response activities related to COVID-19; one million one hundred fifty nine thousand eight hundred ninety dollars ($1,159,890) shall be encumbered and made available to the Office of Information Technology (OIT) for response activities related to COVID-19; five million dollars ($5,000,000) shall be encumbered and made available to the Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS) for response activities related to COVID-19; two hundred thousand dollars ($200,000) shall be encumbered and made available to the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) for response activities related to COVID-19; one million six hundred eighty eight thousand four hundred eight dollars ($1,688,408) shall be encumbered and made available to the Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA) for response activities related to COVID-19; and one million two hundred fifty thousand dollars ($1,250,000) shall be encumbered and made available to the Colorado Department of Higher Education (CDHE) for response activities related to COVID-19.

In addition, I order four million six hundred eighty seven thousand three hundred eighty six dollars ($4,687,386) from interest that accrued to the Coronavirus Relief Fund be encumbered and made available for response activities related to COVID-19, of which four million four hundred seventeen thousand six hundred fourteen dollars ($4,417,614) shall be encumbered and made available to CDPHE and two hundred sixty nine thousand seven hundred twenty two dollars ($269,772) shall be encumbered and made available to Department of Personnel & Administration (DPA).

Funds from the Coronavirus Relief Fund sub-account of the Disaster Emergency Fund shall remain available for expenses incurred from March 1, 2020 to December 31, 2021, and any unexpended funds shall remain in the Disaster Emergency Fund. Funds from interest earned on the Coronavirus Relief Fund shall remain available for expenses incurred from March 1, 2020 through December 31, 2021. All other funds from the Disaster Emergency Fund shall be available until expended.
III. **Duration**


GIVEN under my hand and the Executive Seal of the State of Colorado, this thirtieth day of June, 2021.

Jared Polis
Governor