

Protecting Moms and Babies During COVID-19



Congressional action has been critical in protecting Americans during the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. There is still much more for Congress to do to protect the health of at-risk populations, including mothers and infants.



Invest in the Nation's Nonprofit Sector

March of Dimes is working to meet the challenges of these times and fight for pregnant women, infants and their families to remain as healthy as possible during the crisis. We strongly support significant new funding for the CARES Act Paycheck Protection Program and urge Congress to address the revenue cap for nonprofit and charitable organizations who wish to qualify for SBA loans. We urge Congress to work with the Secretary of the Treasury to ensure that a lending program for nonprofits is established and implemented.



Prioritize the Health of Moms and Babies

March of Dimes asks that Congress ensure the unique needs of pregnant women, new mothers, and infants are prioritized in our nation's response to COVID-19. History shows us that mothers and infants are uniquely impacted by infectious disease outbreaks. To address the gap in the response, March of Dimes established the Mom and Baby COVID-19 Intervention and Support Fund to address the urgent need for research, advocacy, and education to protect moms, babies and families from COVID-19 and the yet-unknown future effects of the virus.

The ultimate goal of The Fund is to ensure families stay informed about COVID-19, therapeutics and a vaccine are developed with moms and babies top of mind, and interventions are distributed so everyone has access. We ask Congress to include significant new funding in the next package to support non-profits in leveraging their networks and expertise to support COVID-19 response activities.



Protect Patients and Support Families

As Congress continues to respond to the COVID-19, we urge every step possible to guarantee all Americans can access diagnostic testing and appropriate treatment without fear of unaffordable out-of-pocket-costs. March of Dimes recognizes families across the United States are under tremendous stress right now. It is imperative that the next COVID-19 response package bolster support for struggling families – including improving emergency paid sick days and paid leave policies created by previous packages, increasing access to nutrition programs, and strengthening home visiting programs.



Bolster Public Health and Health Care Infrastructure

We encourage Congress to make smart, long-term investments in the nation's public health infrastructure and have joined with other organizations in asking for \$4.5 billion in additional annual funding for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), state, local, tribal and territorial core public health infrastructure. Of this amount, March of Dimes strongly encourages Congress to direct at least \$100 million to CDC's Emerging Threats to Moms and Babies initiative.

Congress should immediately provide at least \$100 million to CDC to reinvigorate and improve the Emerging Threats to Moms and Babies initiative to provide real-time clinical and survey data from all states and jurisdictions on the impact of COVID-19 on pregnant women and their babies. Further, Congress must sustain this level of funding beyond the current crisis to ensure we have a national infrastructure to quickly identify and respond to new threats to mothers and infants.