Business Practice Forum Call along with COVID 19 Call Notes
Wednesday, September 9th, 2020

Please keep checking the COVID 19 area off the ACIL homepage as information is being added daily. There is currently information up on the site regarding loan forgiveness guidelines, how to calculate the forgiveness amounts along with a forgiveness application.

https://www.acil.org/page/COVID-19_Coronavirus_Information_ACIL

This week, the House and Senate are session with a stopgap FY21 government funding bill (continuing resolution (CR)) beginning on October 1st topping the agenda, along with a fourth COVID-19 relief package and extension legislation for the current surface transportation reauthorization due to expire on September 30th. The CR is expected to keep the government funded at least through a post-election, lame duck session, which could be extended into next year if either chamber or the White House switches party control. Additionally, the following hearings were held:

• **Wednesday, September 9th:** Senate Banking hearing on “The Status of the Federal Reserve Emergency Lending Facilities,” House Small Business hearing on “Transparency in Small Business Lending,” “Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee held a hearing on the role of vaccines in preventing outbreaks, the House Oversight and Reform Coronavirus Crisis Subcommittee held a hearing on elections during the pandemic, and the Senate Banking Committee held a virtual hearing on Federal Reserve emergency lending programs.

• **Thursday, September 10th:** the House Oversight and Reform Committee held a hearing on producing an accurate census count and the House Financial Services Committee held a virtual hearing on aid to states and territories during the pandemic.

• **Friday, September 11th:** the House Ways and Means Committee held a hearing on “Consequences of Inaction on COVID Tax Legislation.”

Finally, the Senate Republicans introduced their new coronavirus relief bill, which would provide $300 in increased weekly federal unemployment benefits through December 27th, additional money for the Paycheck Protection Program and liability protections for schools and businesses as they try to reopen. The cost of the package is estimated at $500 billion. Per Sen. Cornyn, “I think our Republican conference will be unified” with at least 51 Senate Republicans likely to support the bill. The bill needs 60 votes for passage.
**Senate COVID-19 Four Stimulus Bill**

The Senate voted on their slimmed down version of the next stimulus package and the bill totals $500 billion including:

- $10 billion for US Postal Service
- Liability Protection
- $105 billion for education funding—mostly K-12
- Extension of small business loans under Paycheck Protection Program
- Expanded unemployment benefits in line with Executive Order--$300 extra a week. (Extended until December 27, 2020)
- Appropriations for Health and Human Services
- $29 billion to prepare for and respond to COVID, including development of countermeasures and vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics, purchase of vaccines,
  - Of which $2B for Strategic National Stockpile
  - Of which $20B for BARDA
  - Of which $6B for distribution, monitoring and tracking COVID vaccines
- $16B for testing, contact tracing, surveillance, containment and mitigation to monitor COVID

Missing from the package:

- Funding for Provider Relief Fund (Senate Republican HEALs Act included an additional $25B)
- Funding for NIH (Senate Republican HEALs Act included $15.5B)
- Funding for state and local governments

**The FY21 National Defense Authorization Bill**

The final version of the defense authorization bill will likely come after the November election. Armed Services Committee staff from both chambers have been working to reconcile as many issues as possible before the October recess, but many of the major sticking points remain unresolved and it is unlikely that they will have been ironed out by the end of September. It usually takes several weeks once House and Senate conferees have been named for the conference to finish its work. The conferees have yet to be named and if the President signs the legislation it will be the 60th consecutive year that the NDAA will become law.

**Member Discussion Topics:**

**Diversity in the workplace**

ACIL staff is asking Jason Greer for his availability for a future webinar to address this issue and in the hope for future peer discussion by the Best Practice Forum attendees. Jason previously addressed ACIL members at an earlier ACIL Annual Meeting.

**Forgiveness Preparation and Filing**

There was one member on the call in the process of applying for forgiveness.