



PRESS STATEMENT

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Ohioans can't wait for more COVID aid

Yesterday, the federal government's negotiations over a new, broad COVID-19 relief package collapsed. Policy Matters Ohio Executive Director Hannah Halbert released the following statement about what a lack of federal aid means for Ohioans:

"Most Ohioans have been doing everything we can to keep ourselves, our families, and neighbors safe: We've stayed home, worn masks and donated our time and money to help those most suffering during the pandemic and recession. Our leaders in Washington must do everything they can to make sure we can get through this difficult time. That means fully leveraging the resources of the federal government to help states and people manage this continuing crisis.

"Today, about half a million Ohioans have been laid off from their jobs, but the \$600-a-week unemployment lifeline expired weeks ago. Our local governments are cash strapped due to falling tax collections, but people need more services than ever. Our school administrators and leaders are dealing with the constantly shifting sands of remote learning and safety precautions for students attending in person, but without the federal assistance to cover all the increased costs. Parents are balancing caring for small children while also trying to work, with fewer safe child care options due to inadequate federal support.

"Ohio can't wait. Bills are due. Schools work must be done. We need leaders who will treat our problems with urgency."

For more analysis of the federal response to the pandemic and recession, see also:

- [State of Working Ohio 2020: Reset and Unrig](#)
- [Congress needs to get back to the table, get the job done](#)
- [Senate Republican COVID package falls short](#)
- [Experts, officials say Ohio's cities need relief](#)
- [Advocates, experts and physicians call on Senate to boost Medicaid funding in next stimulus](#)
- [Expand food assistance and stimulate Ohio's economy](#)
- [Strengthen public higher ed with targeted relief](#)
- [Trump's "lost wages assistance" and Ohio](#)

Policy Matters Ohio is a nonprofit, nonpartisan state policy research institute with offices in Cleveland and Columbus.