



# HOUSING ALERT

March 23, 2020

## COVID-19 UPDATE

MHI has created a website to keep you apprised of COVID-19 developments that impact manufactured housing. The website provides helpful links, breaking news, and an up-to-date look at what MHI is working on in Washington and around the country. [Visit our COVID-19 News and Updates page.](#)

### **Senate Vote Expected Soon on Third Coronavirus Relief Package**

Over the weekend, Senator Mitch McConnell unveiled a third massive funding package – the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Securities (CARES) Act (S.3548) – which is aimed at providing additional economic relief from the impact of COVID-19 on individuals, families and businesses.

The bill includes provisions such as direct cash payments to Americans, loans to small businesses, assistance for large businesses (airlines, hospitality industry) in severely distressed sectors of the economy, and funding for hospitals. Bipartisan negotiations are ongoing and MHI has been working with housing industry groups and Congress as the package is finalized. MHI has been pushing for rental assistance as a part of the relief packages being considered by Congress. Together with other housing industry leaders, MHI [sent a letter to the Senate](#) requesting rental assistance as well as financial mitigation measures for community owners.

[MHI has also joined a coalition of business groups](#) to urge Congress to ensure that action is taken to help businesses survive the crisis to reduce their costs and increase their cash flow in the coming weeks.

This proposal is the third federal intervention being considered by policymakers as the national emergency escalates. Last week, the “[Families First Coronavirus Response Act](#)” was signed into law. This bill guarantees free COVID-19 testing, secures paid emergency leave, and enhances unemployment benefits. MHI joined a coalition of groups to secure changes to the mandatory paid leave provision that was included in this [second relief package](#). The first federal intervention was an \$8.3 billion package for small businesses adversely impacted by COVID-19, which was signed into law on March 6.

## **Essential Workforce Designation for Manufactured Housing During Stay-At-Home Orders**

MHI has been working closely with the White House, Department of Homeland Security, and other real estate groups to ensure manufactured housing operations are considered essential and not restricted by the stay-at-home orders by state and local governments.

MHI has requested that the manufactured housing industry be included on the Department of Homeland Security's essential workforce list. We make the case that construction of factory-built housing and manufactured housing community operations should be included on essential workforce lists. To corroborate MHI's efforts to have the industry on the federal list, email your request to: [CISA.CAT@cisa.dhs.gov](mailto:CISA.CAT@cisa.dhs.gov).

We are also offering assistance to any state association that requests help with advocacy on this important topic. We have provided information for state associations to reach out to governors and local leaders since these orders are currently coming at the state and local levels. MHI congratulates those Executives who have effectively secured the essential workforce status for the industry within their states.

## **FHFA Announces Mortgage Forbearance for Multifamily Property Owners Who Suspend Evictions While Impacted by COVID-19**

The Federal Housing Finance Agency announced today that Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac (GSEs) will offer mortgage forbearance for multifamily property owners who suspend all evictions for renters due to the financial impact from the COVID-19 outbreak. This announcement applies to manufactured housing community owners that have received financing through either Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac.

Under this suspension, property owners will be required to suspend evictions throughout the duration of the forbearance. Any property owner with a GSE-backed multifamily mortgage who has been impacted by COVID-19 will be eligible for the forbearance.

MHI is closely monitoring legislative activity at every level of government to ensure the companies and team members who make up our industry have the support to continue working through the COVID-19 crisis.

If you have any questions, please contact MHI's Advocacy and Communications Department at [MHIgov@mfgghome.org](mailto:MHIgov@mfgghome.org) or 703-558-0675.

© 2020 the Manufactured Housing Institute (MHI), Arlington, Virginia. All rights reserved. The content and works provided herein are protected under US copyright law and, where indicated, US trademark law. Without the prior written consent of MHI (which may be withheld in MHI's sole discretion), reproduction, distribution, transmission, caching or other commercialization of MHI copyrighted or trademarked material is strictly prohibited.