# The American Rescue Plan Act

National League of Cities



**CITIES STRONG TOGETHER** 





- Prioritizes stabilization of local government operations, households, and small businesses
- Positions communities on a path to economic recovery



For the first time, all 19,000 municipal governments are entitled to a direct, non-competitive federal formula grant from the U.S. Treasury Department (Coronavirus Local Fiscal Relief Fund)

### **Direct funding means:**

- All cities, towns, and villages are entitled to a federal grant from the new Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund.
- Aid obligated to municipalities is not in any way mingled with aid obligated to state or county governments.
- Aid for municipalities is protected from state our county interference by iron-clad statutes compelling states to comply, including penalties for states that fail to carry out their responsibilities to small cities and towns.



### **1.**Use dedicated grants and programs first whenever possible

Save Local Fiscal Recovery Funds for gaps and priorities not eligible for other federal and state assistance programs

### **2.**Assess government operations AND community needs

Ask valuable staff and stakeholders for help creating a comprehensive needs assessment; be prepared to pivot

### **3.**Prioritize fiscal stability and returning to work

Save pet projects for earmarks

### 4. Maintain records and document success

Create long-term information infrastructure for your future leaders

### **5.**Your Congressional Delegation is part of your success

Invite Members of Congress to re-openings, ribbon-cuttings, etc.



### Summary of funds/programs relevant to cities

 Live table with links to guidance

 Use these dedicated programs for needs BEFORE direct relief Select topic to view program information. To select multiple items in a list, hold down the Ctrl (PC) or Command (Mac) key. Then click on your desired items to select.

#### Topic

All

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Agency	Program	Summary	Amount	Eligible City Sizes	Link to Federal Program
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention	Funding for education and awareness campaign encouraging healthy work conditions and use of mental and behavioral health services by health care professionals	The Secretary, acting through the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and in consultation with the medical professional community, shall use amounts appropriated to carry out a national evidence-based education and awareness campaign directed at health care professionals and first responders (such as emergency medical service providers), and employers of such professionals and first responders. Such awareness campaign shall—(1) encourage primary prevention of mental health conditions and substance use disorders and secondary and tertiary prevention by encouraging health care professionals to seek support and treatment for their own mental health and substance use concerns; and (2) help such professionals to identify risk factors in themselves and others and respond to such risks.	\$20 million		
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention	Funding for COVID–19 testing, contact tracing, and mitigation activities	To carry out activities to detect, diagnose, trace, and monitor SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19 infections and related strategies to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Wil be distributed through existing CDC vehicles/cooperative agreements to the public health departments/officials in the 64 CDC jurisdictions - https://www.cdc.gov/cpr/epf/index.htm	\$47.8 billion	State Block Grant	
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention	Funding for COVID–19 vaccine activities at the centers for disease control and prevention	To conduct activities to enhance, expand, and improve nationwide COVID-19 vaccine distribution and administration, including activities related to distribution of ancillary medical products and supplies related to vaccines; and provide technical assistance, guidance, and support to, and award grants or cooperative agreements to, State, local, Tribal, and territorial public health departments for enhancement of COVID-19 vaccine distribution and administration capabilities. Wil be distributed through existing CDC vehicles/cooperative agreements to the public health departments/officials in the 64 CDC jurisdictions - https://www.cdc.gov/cpr/epf/index.htm	\$7.5 billion	State Block Grant	
Centers for Disease	Funding for vaccine confidence	To strengthen vaccine confidence in the United States, including	\$1 billion		

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### **Renter and Homeowner Assistance**

- \$21 billion for Emergency rent relief and utility assistance; extra for rural housing
- \$10 billion for Homeowner Assistance Fund mortgage payments, property taxes, utilities, insurance

### **Homeless Intervention**

- \$5 billion for Emergency housing vouchers to address homelessness
- \$5 billion for HUD Homeless Assistance Programs
- \$400 million for FEMA Emergency Food and Shelter Program

### **Small Business Access to Credit**

- \$50 billion for SBA
- \$7.25 billion for the Paycheck Protection Program
- \$15 billion for EIDL grants to businesses in low-income communities
- \$10 billion was allocated for the State Small Business Credit Initiative

### **Targeted Relief**

- \$28.6 billion for food service businesses
- \$1.25 billion for shuttered arts and culture venues
- \$175 million for "community navigator" pilot program
- Corporation for Public Broadcasting stabilization grants to small and rural stations

### Intervention for Disproportionate Harm

- \$3 billion for EDA Economic Adjustment Assistance Grants (competitive)
  - 25% reserved for states and communities to address losses in the travel, tourism or outdoor recreation sectors

### Transportation

- \$30.5 billion for grants to transit agencies
- \$8 billion for relief for airports and airport concessions

## **ARPA: Water and Energy Assistance Funding**

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- \$1.1 billion available in Water Assistance Funds
  - \$500 million for the Low-Income Household Drinking Water and Wastewater Emergency Assistance Program from American Rescue Plan to assist with payments for drinking water and wastewater expenses.
  - \$638 million also available from Dec. 2020 Omnibus/Coronavirus package
- \$4.5 billion for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) helps keep families safe and healthy through initiatives that assist families with energy costs.
- ~ \$10 billion for the Homeowner Assistance Fund can also be used by recipients for utility assistance.



- Emergency Paid Sick Leave and Expanded Family Medical Leave Tax Credits
- Child Tax Credits improvements for 2021
- Increase in exclusion for employer-provided dependent care assistance
- Strengthening the earned income tax credit (EITC), including for individuals with no qualifying children
- EITC Temporary Changes

## **ARPA: Education**

- Emergency and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER)- \$122B to State education agencies and school districts to help safely reopen and sustain the safe operation of schools.
  - 90% must pass through to local education agencies within 60 days of receipt.
  - <u>Allocations</u> based on the proportion that each State received under Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) in the most recent fiscal year
  - Includes three State-level reservations for activities and interventions that respond to students' academic, social, and emotional needs and address the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on underrepresented student subgroups
    - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will provide \$10 billion to states to support COVID-19 screening testing for K-12 teachers, staff, and students in schools

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- Emergency Assistance to Non-Public Schools Program (EANS) \$2.75B
  - Targeted at private schools that "enroll a significant percentage of low-income students" and that have been most impacted by the COVID-19 emergency
  - Award grants by formula to each Governor with an approved Certification and Agreement based on the State's relative share of children ages 5-17 who are from families at or below 185 percent of the poverty level and enrolled in non-public schools
- Funding for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act \$3B
  - IDEA Part B \$2.7 B in formula grants to states to support children with disabilities ages 3 through 21
  - IDEA Part C \$250 M in formula grants to states to support early intervention services for infants and toddlers birth through age two and their families
- Higher education emergency relief fund \$39.6B
  - At least 50% of an institutions total allotment must go to student grants; for-profit schools but use 100% of their allocation on student grants
    - \$36 billion for public and private nonprofits; \$3 billion for minority –serving institutions federally recognized Title IV colleges and universities); \$198 million unmet need; \$396 million for for-profit institutions (funds must only be used on student grants)



- Child Care Stabilization \$23.975 billion for a one-time grant program to states to help support child care providers remain afloat through the pandemic.
  - Utilizes the same formula as CCDBG.
  - 90% must pass through to subgrants to qualified child care providers.
  - Funds must be obligated by the state within FY2021 or FY2022.
- Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG) \$15 billion in one-time emergency funds to support child care, including funding for essential workers.
  - Funds to be obligated in FY2021, FY2022 or FY2023
  - Includes authorization to provide child care assistance to "health care sector employees, emergency responders, sanitation workers, and other workers deemed essential during the response to coronavirus by public officials, without regard to the income eligibility requirements of section 658P(4) of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9858n(4)).""
  - Waived CCDBG requirements:
    - Do not have to spend 70% of funding on direct services to families
    - Do not need to spend 12% of funding on quality improvement activities
- Child Care Entitlement to States (CCES)- \$3.55 billion for Child Care Assistance Block Grants to states
- Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program (MIECHV) \$150 million to remain available through the end of FY2022.
- Head Start \$1 billion for Head Start and Early Head Start programs for essential support for local programs' continued delivery of safe, high-quality services to children and families from at-risk backgrounds.
- Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) State Grants \$350 million
  - 100 million for CAPTA Title I for grants to support state child protective services programs and infrastructure
  - \$250 million for CAPTA Title II for funding directly to communities to provide community-driven services to support and strengthen families so children can remain safe.
- **Violence Prevention and Services -** \$450 million for violence and prevention services including emergency supports.
- Older Americans Act (OAA) Programs \$1.434 billion including funding for senior centers, healthy aging programs, nutrition, in-home services, transportation, caregiver support and elder abuse protections.



#### **Nutrition Supports**

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
  - Extends 15% increase in SNAP benefits through September 2021
  - \$1.15 billion for states over three years, without requiring states to match those funds
  - \$1 billion in nutrition assistance for Puerto Rico, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marina Islands and American Samoa
- Extends Pandemic-EBT program for the full duration of the pandemic, including summers.
- Women's, Infants & Children (WIC) program \$880 million to support pregnant and postpartum women, infants, and children living at low incomes.
  - Including temporary increase in the fruits and vegetables WIC participants can purchase with their benefits from \$9 to \$35 per month through this coming September.
- **Commodity Supplemental Food Program** \$37 million in support for health foods for low-income persons who are at least 60 years old.
- Meal Reimbursement for Youth in Emergency Shelters who are under 25 years old and who receive assistnace, including non-residential assistance, from emergency shelters

#### Employment

- Unemployment Insurance (UI) Extension
  - Extends pandemic UI through September 6, 2021.
  - Increases the total number of weeks from 50 to 79.

#### Veterans

- **COVID-19 Veteran Rapid Retraining Program** \$386 million to provides up to 12 months of training and employment assistance for unemployed Veterans to enter high demand occupations.
- State Homes \$750 million for both construction grants (\$500 million) and payments (\$250 million) to State Homes to greatly improve the living conditions of our most vulnerable Veterans.
- Medical Care and Health Needs \$14.5 billion for COVID-19 related health care, including information technology and facility requirements, ensuring access for 9.2 million enrolled Veterans who may have delayed care or have more complex health care needs as a result of the pandemic. It also provides resources for Veterans currently receiving housing support, including an estimated 37,000 homeless Veterans.

### **ARPA: COVID Detection, Mitigation and Vaccines**



- **Testing, Contact Tracing and Mitigation -** \$47.8 billion distributed to states via existing cooperative agreements to public health departments in the 64 CDC jurisdictions.
  - 50 states;
  - Five U.S. territories and three freely associated states in the Pacific;
  - Six localities: Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles County, New York City, Philadelphia, and Washington, D.C.; and
  - Federally recognized tribal governments that meet the NOFO requirements and serve, through their own public health infrastructures, at least 50,000 people.
- Vaccine Activities 7.5 billion to improve nationwide vaccine distribution and administration
- Vaccine Confidence \$1 billion to strengthen vaccine confidence
- Nursing Facilities Infection Control \$200 million
- Emergency Medical Supplies \$10 billion for purchase, production or distribution of medical supplies and equipment related to COVID-10
- Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)
  - Builds on provisions in the Families First Coronavirus Response legislation that required Medicaid and CHIP coverage of COVID-19 testing without cost-sharing, to explicitly require Medicaid and CHIP coverage of COVID-19 vaccines, and treatment including prescription drugs and conditions that complicate COVID-19 treatment, without the imposition of cost-sharing charges.

### **ARPA: Broadband Infrastructure and Digital Inclusion Benefits**

- Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund \$122B to states and local education agencies, permissible uses include technology for online learning (through Department of Education)
- Homeowner Assistance Fund \$9.96B to states, permissible uses include payment of broadband bills for homeowners (through Department of Treasury)
- Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds \$350B to states, localities, tribes and territories, permissible uses include broadband (through Department of Treasury)
- Coronavirus Capital Improvements Project Fund \$10B for states and territories for projects enabling work/education/health monitoring, including remotely (through Department of Treasury)
- Emergency Connectivity Fund \$7.171B for E-Rate support to schools and libraries for broadband service and connected devices to be used by students/staff/patrons on- or off-site (through FCC)
  - FCC REQUEST FOR COMMENT OUT NOW: NLC filed initial comments April 5, reply comments due April 23, WC Docket No. 21-93
  - Seeking feedback on: program rules and metrics, whether entities beyond schools and libraries should be eligible, which services and equipment should be reimbursable, whether funding can be used for facilities/network improvements, how to prioritize funding requests, and how to sunset the program post-pandemic emergency

# **ARPA: Public Safety Programs Funding**



#### **Public Health and Safety**

- \$100 million **Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training** (BHWET) Program
- \$1.5 billion **Community Mental Health Services Block Grant** (MHBG) Program
- \$1.5 billion Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant (SABG) Program
- \$50 million Community-based Funding for Local Behavioral Health Needs
- \$30 million Community-based funding for Local Substance Use Disorder Services
- \$80 million Mental and Behavioral Health Training for Health Care Professionals and Public Safety Officers
- \$7.6 billion Public Health Workforce
- \$20 million **Youth Suicide Prevention Grants**
- \$420 million Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics

#### **Emergency Management and Disaster Relief**

- \$50 billion FEMA Disaster Relief and Recovery Efforts
- \$400 million FEMA Emergency Food and Shelter Program for Individuals
- \$100 million FEMA Emergency Management Performance Grant Program
- \$100 million for FEMA's Assistance to Firefighter Grants (AFG) and \$200 million Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER)
- FEMA Funeral Assistance to Individuals
- \$650 Mitigate Cyber-Attacks on federal, state, local, and critical infrastructure systems.
- \$110 million for **FEMA Humanitarian Relief**



#### Transit

ARP contains \$30.5 billion to assist with operating costs, including payroll and PPE expenses. This includes
dedicated funds to support rural transit agencies, transit service for the elderly and individuals with disabilities, and
transit on Tribal lands. These funds are provided based on existing transit formulas to your transit agencies.

#### Aviation

- ARP contains \$8 billion to cover costs of operations, personnel, and cleaning, including a set-aside for rent relief and other costs of airport concessionaires primarily directed toward small businesses and minority-owned firms. ARP contains an additional \$3 billion for the establishment of an Aviation Manufacturing Payroll Support Program to protect aviation manufacturing jobs.
- ARP also contains an additional \$15 billion to continue payroll support for airlines that will be administrated by the Treasury Department with support from USDOT.

#### Amtrak

 ARP gets Amtrak workers back to work and restoring service on routes across the country. ARP contains \$1.7 billion to recall employees furloughed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, restore daily long-distance service, and help states cover lost revenue in state-supported routes.



### **Next Steps**

 NLC is working with the Treasury Department and White House on the implementation of this section of the American Rescue Plan Act, as well as work to make suggestions on guidance.

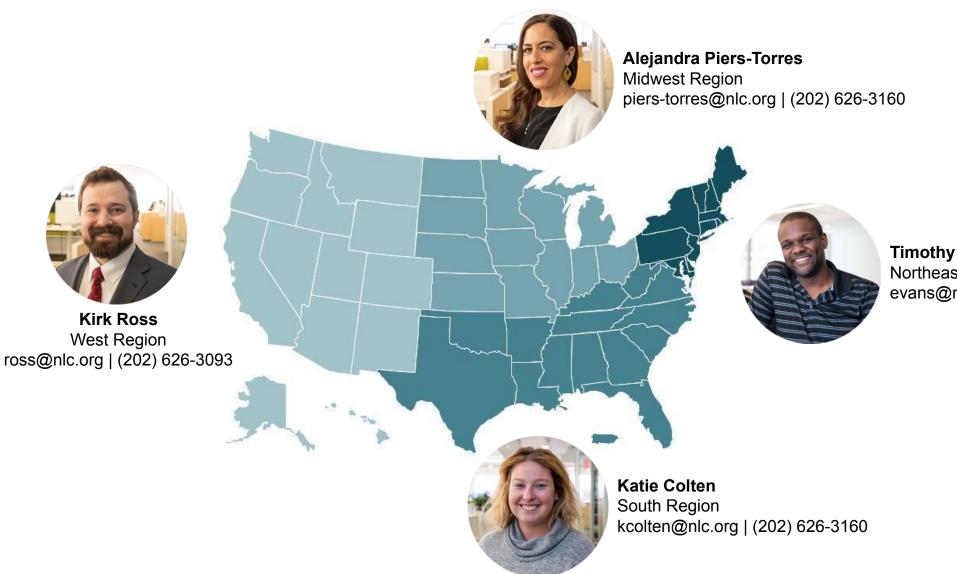
- Weekly NLC Calls on Friday @ 1:30PM EST
  - Ending this Friday, April 23

 If you have any input, questions or to share your ARP Story, through this form which can be accessed by scanning here:



### **Membership Regions**





**Timothy Evans** Northeast/Mid-Atlantic Region evans@nlc.org | (202) 626-3014