American Rescue Plan
Accessing & Advocating for Local & State Funds to Support Immigrant Communities

On March 11, 2021, President Biden signed the $1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021 (H.R. 1319) into law, in turn establishing the $362 billion Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund. On May 10, 2021, the U.S. Department of Treasury released the latest guidelines, and began accepting requests from eligible state, territorial, metropolitan city, county, and Tribal governments to receive their allocation of Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds.

Big Picture State, Local & Tribal Funding Allocations

- $65.1 billion to be allocated and distributed among U.S. counties
- $45.6 billion to be allocated and distributed among metropolitan cities
- $19.5 billion to be allocated and distributed among "Non-Entitlement Units of Local Government"
- $4.5 billion to U.S. Territories
- $20 billion to be allocated and distributed among Tribal governments
- NACO county and state allocation breakdown

An overview of American Rescue Plan allocations can be found HERE by Vera Institute of Justice

Check Out the Map HERE that breaks down the allocation of funding across the country

Funding Objectives

According to the Treasury Department's guidance, recipients may use these funds to:

- Support urgent COVID-19 response efforts to continue to decrease spread of the virus and bring the pandemic under control
- Replace lost revenue for eligible state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments to strengthen support for vital public services and help retain jobs
- Support immediate economic stabilization for households and businesses
- Address systemic public health and economic challenges that have contributed to the unequal impact of the pandemic

ARPA requires that these funds must be expended by December 31, 2024

Flow of Funds

- **States** that have experienced a net increase in the unemployment rate of more than 2 percentage points from February 2020, to the latest available data as of the date of certification, will receive their full allocation of funds in a single payment 60 days after request submission. States that did not see such an increase in unemployment rate will receive funds in two equal tranches 12 months apart. The first payment is received 60 days after a request is submitted.
- **Governments of the U.S. Territories** will receive two payments 60 days after a submission request
- **Local governments** will receive funds in two payments, with 50% provided in May, 2021, and the balance delivered 12 months later
- **Tribal governments** will receive funds in two payments, with 50% provided in May 2021 and the balance delivered 12 months later
- [Additional information on split payments]

Applying for Funds

Jurisdictions must submit a request to receive funding even if they have previously applied for other programs through the Treasury Submission Portal. Eligible jurisdictions will receive further communications regarding the status of their submission via the email address provided in their registration.

Actions Steps to Receiving Funds:

1. **Ensure you have a valid DUNS number**
   - Obtaining a DUNS number: A DUNS number is a unique nine-character number used to identify organizations and track the allocation of federal funds. A DUNS number is required prior to registering with the SAM database. Registering for a DUNS number is free of charge. **DUNS Registration Services**
2. **Register for a SAM.GOV Account**
   - **SAM.gov** is the official government-wide registration database with which to do business with the U.S. government. All Federal financial assistance recipients must register on **SAM.gov** and renew their SAM registration annually to maintain an active status to be eligible to receive Federal financial assistance. There is no charge to register or maintain an entity's SAM registration. Please note that completing a **new registration process** can take up to three weeks.
3. **Gather Submission Requirements**
   - Authorized representatives' name, title, email address
   - Contact person name, title, phone number, and email address
   - Jurisdiction name, address, taxpayer ID number, DUNS Number
   - Funds transfer information, including recipient's financial institution, address, phone, routing number, and account number
   - Completed certification document (to be signed by the authorized representative)

4. **Submit a Request for Funding Through the Treasury Submission Portal**
    - Access requires an ID.me account. **Create an ID.me account** with an accessible email address as all communications regarding your fund allocations will be through that address.

How Funds Will Be Monitored

- Recipients will be required to submit an interim report, quarterly project and expenditure reports, and annual recovery plan performance reports regarding the utilization of their Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. The DOT has set fairly unrestricted guidelines on ineligible use of funds (pension/deposits*) but reserves the right to "recover" any misused funds.
- The Interim Final Rule **permits states, territories, and Tribal governments to transfer Fiscal Recovery Funds to other constituent units of government or private entities beyond those specified in the statute**. Local governments are authorized to transfer Fiscal Recovery Funds to other constituent units of government (e.g., a county is able to transfer Fiscal Recovery Funds to a city, town or school district within it).
- For more information on report submissions and ineligible fund uses visit Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Frequently Asked Questions

What To Do With The Funding

THESE FUNDS ARE FLEXIBLE

- Avoid cuts in existing services for people in need and restore last year's cuts
- Provide unrestricted cash payments to individuals and families with limited incomes, regardless of immigration status
- Use rental assistance to stop evictions
- Provide premium pay for essential government workers*?
- Set up grant to eligible employers with essential workers*?
- Support local infrastructure (water, sewer, broadband services)?

*Essential workers:

The Department of Treasury defines "essential workers" as those in critical infrastructure sectors who regularly perform in- person work, interact with others at work, or physically handle items handled by others. Critical infrastructure sectors include healthcare, education and childcare, transportation, sanitation, grocery and food production, and public health and safety, among others, as provided in the Interim Final Rule.

*Pension / Deposits :

The Treasury interprets "deposit" in this context to refer to an extraordinary payment into a pension fund for the purpose of reducing an accrued, unfunded liability. Simply put, the final rule does not permit funds to be used to make a payment into a pension fund if: (1) the payment reduces a liability incurred prior to the start of the COVID-19 public health emergency, and (2) the payment occurs outside the recipient's regular timing for making such payments.

ARP Local & State Funding Ideas to Support Immigrant Communities

Initiatives	Making the Case	Examples/ Resources
Essential Worker Funds	"This nation's economy has long been built on the backs of our undocumented workforce, and their essential labor that has helped keep our nation running throughout this pandemic. This long overdue relief will offer hundreds of thousands of New York's excluded workers the financial support they need to be able to provide for themselves and their families" ~ Sen. Jessica Ramos - New York State	1. New York State Excluded Worker Fund 2. Other State Hazard Pay Programs
Direct Financial Assistance for Immigrants	"We know many immigrant workers have served on the front line during our pandemic response, and we know that their communities still need our support, I applaud the tireless work of our agencies and nonprofit partners [and] thank the legislators who continue to advocate on behalf of our state's immigrants" ~ Gov. Jay Inslee- Washington	1. Washington COVID-19 Immigrant Relief Fund 2. NYC COVID-19 Immigrant Relief Fund
Legal Representation Funds	"Making quality legal representation available to immigrants facing removal proceedings is essential to living up to the fundamental principles of the U.S. constitution, which establishes due process and the right to a fair trial" ~ Norma Chávez-Peterson - Executive Director ACLU San Diego and Imperial Counties	1. San Diego County Legal Representation Fund 2. VERA SAFE initiative (Vera ARP PPT)
Language Access Initiatives	"As my home town and the entire nation struggle to fight the twin crises of the coronavirus pandemic and America's unfinished racial reconciliation, I am humbled and honored to join Mayor Walsh to imagine new possibilities for healing, recovery, justice and wealth-building for powerful communities who've been denied far too much for far too long" ~ Dr. Karilyn Crockett - Chief of Equity for the City of Boston	1. Boston Language Communications Access (LCA) 2. Washington Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund

Workforce Development Programs	"Every year, our young people walk across the stage and we need to make sure they are exercising the option of attending either a college or university, going into the military or straight into the workforce. This apprenticeship model makes sure every young person has the opportunity to be gainfully employed, learn a skill and if they choose not to go to college or to the military, they can go straight into the workforce." ~ Mayor Randall Woodfin - Birmingham, A.L.	1. Alabama "Earn and Learn" health workforce model 2. The Ohio Manufacturing Extension Partnership

Additional American Rescue Plan Funding Allocations & How to Advocate to Support Immigrant Families

Temporary Tax Provisions

What is available: The ARP includes expansions to three temporary tax provisions that can benefit immigrant families: Economic Impact Payments (EIPs), Child Tax Credits (CTC), and unemployment benefits.

- Economic impact payments (EIP): $1,400 stimulus checks for eligible people who paid their taxes with a social security number (SSN), $2,800 stimulus checks for eligible couples who filed jointly, and $1,400 for every dependent (including but not limited to children) - includes some mixed-status families where the child has a SSN and their parent(s) filed taxes with an ITIN.
- Child Tax Credits (CTC): Credit of $3,600 for children who are up to 6 years old and $3,000 for the children who are between 6 and 17 years old. Includes eligible families that paid their taxes and have a child with a SSN, regardless of the parent's immigration status.
- Unemployment: Unemployment insurance (including federal support of $300/ week) extended until September)

How we can help: People must file tax returns in order to get these credits. Advocates can play a critical role ensuring everyone who is eligible has access to free tax return assistance. Outreach efforts are also needed to let recipients know that EIPs and tax credit refunds do NOT count against the income or asset limits for programs like SNAP, TANF, or Medicaid. Specifically, they're NOT counted as income during the month they are received and the following month, and they're not counted as a resource for 12 months.

Covid-19 Related Services

What is available: The ARP strengthens Medicaid coverage for COVID-19 testing, treatment, and vaccines, including for people who lack the immigration status necessary to be eligible otherwise

How we can help: Advocates should encourage their states to take up the newly expanded Families First state option by filing a Disaster Relief Medicaid State Plan Amendment, which expands access to testing, treatment, and vaccines to all uninsured people with eligible immigration statuses regardless of their income, and dramatically expands access to emergency Medicaid for COVID-19-related services to those not meeting Medicaid's immigration-related eligibility requirements.

Nutrition & Rent Assistance

What is available: The ARP includes investments in food assistance, including investments to give immigrants and their families more access to nutrition benefits. These provisions include:

- Pandemic-EBT (P-EBT)
- Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) funding

How we can help: To maximize these critical benefits, advocates can encourage states that have yet to submit a P-EBT plan to do so for the rest of the 2020-2021 school year for both school-aged and young children. Advocates can also encourage state agencies to reduce administrative barriers in these programs that likely limit participation by immigrants and their family members. Some states, for example, require application submissions to access these benefits. Advocates can encourage local governments to reduce and waive application fees and provide bilingual application materials.

Additional Resources

- Qualified Census Tracts
- National League of Cities: COVID-19 Pandemic Response and Relief
- Grounded Solutions Network: COVID-19 Resources
- For questions about the Treasury Submission Portal or for technical support, email covidreliefitsupport@treasury.gov. For general questions about the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, email SLFRP@treasury.gov or call 844-529-9527