

# AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN TIMING AND SEQUENCING OF FUNDS

The \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan is a complex piece of legislation across multiple dimensions. In the [Federal Investment Guide](#), we offered an outline of how funds are flowing from the federal government through more than 84 individual federal programs using seven different distribution methods and how funds are delivered to a range of public, private, and non-profit entities at the federal, state and local levels. This document presents a breakdown of ARP funding based on the timing and sequencing of funds. When funds become available and when they expire will influence what public and private civic leaders should focus on and mobilize around in the present, over the next six months, and over the next year and beyond.

## THE NEAR TERM: FIRST 100 DAYS

*Marketing nearly \$1 trillion in emergency relief for individuals and small business to maximize local use was an early 2021 priority.*

Since the American Rescue Plan was signed into law on March 11, 2021, one of the most pressing priorities for local leaders has been getting more than \$909 billion worth of immediate aid out the door to individuals and another \$67 billion in aid to small businesses. This involved marketing available relief and ensuring those eligible submitted applications and filed taxes. The ARP offers a range of benefits to [individuals and families](#) and small businesses, many of which will expire by September 2021, or are expected to be depleted well before their final expiration dates. Items highlighted in red in Table I below denote funds available on a first-come, first-served basis that could run out quickly. As of mid-May 2021, the [Paycheck Protection Program](#) and the [Restaurant Revitalization Fund](#) were already out of money, having received far more applications than they could fund.

### I. INDIVIDUAL RELIEF | \$909B

FEDERAL AMOUNT	PROGRAM	ADMIN. LEVEL	EXPIRATION
\$411B	Individual checks	Federal	N/A
\$141.5B	Tax Filing for CTC, EITC, CDCTC, health credits	Federal	May 17, 2021*
\$298B	Added Unemployment Insurance & UI Tax Exemption	State	Sept. 6, 2021
\$7.6B	Added SNAP, WIC, P-EBT benefits	State	Sept. 30, 2021
\$14.9B	CCDBG Child Care Subsidies for Essential Workers	State	Sept. 30, 2021
N/A	COBRA benefits	Employer	Sept. 30, 2021
\$4.5B	LIHEAP	State/Local	Sept. 30, 2022
N/A	Affordable Care Act Enhanced Subsidies	Federal/State	Dec. 30, 2022
\$500M	LIHWAP	State/Local	Dec. 30, 2023
\$21.5B	Rental Assistance	State/Local	Sept. 30, 2025
\$9.6B	Homeowner Assistance	State	Sept. 30, 2025
N/A	FEMA Funeral Assistance	Federal	Sept. 30, 2025

\*FEDERAL TAX FILING DEADLINE

## II. SMALL BUSINESS RELIEF | \$67B

FEDERAL AMOUNT	PROGRAM	ADMIN. LEVEL	APPLICATION OPENS	APPLICATION OPENS
\$16B	SBA Shuttered Venue Operators Grant Program	Federal	April 26, 2021	Until expended
\$28.6B	SBA Restaurant Revitalization Fund	Federal	May 3, 2021	Until expended
\$135B	NEH Humanities Relief	Federal	April 7, 2021	May 14, 2021
\$135B	NEA Arts Relief	Federal	June 2021	TBA
\$7.25B	SBA Paycheck Protection Program	Federal	March 2021	May 31, 2021
\$15B	SBA Targeted EIDL Advance	Federal	Open now	Until expended
N/A	SBA COVID EIDL Loans	Federal	Open now	Dec. 31, 2021

INFORMATION CURRENT AS OF 5/17/21

## THE MID-TERM: FIRST SIX MONTHS

Cities and states must plan and apply for competitive grants open in 2021 and 2022.

From March to September 2021 and beyond, application windows for ARP-funded competitive grants will open up to address a range of challenges. Cities must track open opportunities and encourage eligible city agencies, community partners, research institutes, and businesses to apply, particularly to ensure those same entities don't draw from limited flexible city funds for projects that could be funded through competitive grants. Applications can be found on federal agency websites or on [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov). The primary competitive federal grants included in the ARP are listed in Table III, and a sampling of ARP-funded grants listed on [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) as of May 14, 2021 are shown in Table IV.

## III. COMPETITIVE FEDERAL GRANTS FUNDED BY THE ARP

FEDERAL AMOUNT	FEDERAL AGENCY	PROGRAM	APPLICATION OPENS	APPLICATION CLOSES	ADDITIONAL INFO	FUND LIQUIDATION DEADLINE
\$3M	Commerce	EDA Economic Adjustment Assistance	TBA	TBA	Information	Sept. 30, 2027
\$100M	EPA	Grants for Pollution in Low-Income Communities	Varies	Varies	Information	Until expended
\$7.2B	FCC	Emergency Connectivity Fund E-Rate Grants	2 filing windows, TBA	TBA	Information	Sept. 30, 2030
\$3B	DOT	Aviation Manufacturing Jobs Protection Program	TBA	TBA	Information	Sept. 30, 2030
\$300M	FEMA	AFG & SAFER Firefighter Grants	TBA	TBA	Information	Sept. 30, 2025
\$400M	FEMA	Emergency Food and Shelter Program	Ongoing	Ongoing	Information	Sept. 30, 2025
\$50B	FEMA	Disaster Relief Fund	Ongoing	Ongoing	Information	Sept. 30, 2025
\$1.75B*	HHS	COVID-19 Expanded Genomic Sequencing	TBA	TBA	Information	Until expended
\$420M	HHS	Expansion Grants for Community Behavioral Health Clinics	TBA	TBA	Information	Until expended
\$7.6B	HHS	Community Health Center Support**	Varies	Varies	Information	Until expended
\$7.6B	HHS	Expanding the Public Health Workforce**	Varies	Varies	Information	Until expended
\$600M	NSF	COVID Related R&D	Varies	Varies	Information	Sept. 30, 2022
\$175M	SBA	Community Navigator Pilot	TBA	TBA	Information	Sept. 30, 2022
\$500M	USDA	Rural Community Facilities Program Grants	Ongoing	Ongoing	Information	Sept. 30, 2023

\*ONLY \$400 MILLION WILL BE AWARDED COMPETITIVELY

\*\*THESE PROGRAMS WERE NOT IDENTIFIED AS COMPETITIVE GRANTS IN THE FEDERAL INVESTMENT GUIDE, BUT AT LEAST SOME PORTION OF THESE FUNDS WILL BE AWARDED COMPETITIVELY

Competitive funds can be challenging to track. Some general pointers are below:

**Timing Varies & Sub-Grants are the Norm:** Competitive ARP funding sources are primarily being offered as supplemental funding for pre-existing federal grant programs, meaning the application windows for individual programs will vary. Pools of funds are also not necessarily going to open up for application all at once and are instead likely to be broken down into smaller grant opportunities with specific sub-areas of focus.

**Example:** The ARP included \$100 million in supplemental funds for various Environmental Protection Agency grant programs, and as of May 2021, applications were open for \$10.5 million worth of those funds across two different grant programs, with more announcements to follow. \$6 million worth of funds are open through the Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem Solving Grants (EJCPS) program, and \$4.5 million are open through the Environmental Justice Small Grants (EJSG) program.

**A Mix of Formula & Competitive Funds:** Some ARP funds will be offered as a mix of formula and competitive grants, rather than exclusively as formula grants. This is particularly true for funds running through the CDC and Dept. of Health and Human Services focused on public health innovation and the response to COVID-19, which we previously identified as formula grants to public authorities in the Federal Investment Guide. That said, some grants are competitive only in the perfunctory sense, in that eligible entities must secure set amounts through an application process.

**Example 1:** The ARP included \$7.6 billion in HHS funds to support community health centers, which we categorized as formula funds in the Federal Investment Guide. Of that, \$6 billion of the funds were awarded by formula to community health centers nationwide, \$1 billion is being awarded for health center construction and capital improvements on an application-only basis, and an additional \$150 million is open to health center look-alikes (LALs) on an application-only basis.

**Example 2:** The bill also called for \$7.66 billion for expanding the public health workforce. So far, \$125 million of that will be awarded to 10 non-profit entities to hire and train vaccine outreach staff that will be deployed regionally.

**Formulaic from Federal to State, Competitive from State to Local:** ARP funds that will flow to states as formula grants may also be opened up to municipalities or non-profits as competitive grants. City staff overseeing ARP funds should familiarize themselves with how their state distributed supplemental funds received through federal formula grant programs in the CAREs Act and December 2020 Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) and should be in good communication with state agencies about their plans for the distribution of supplemental ARP funds, particularly state health and human services departments.

**Example:** In Pennsylvania, the state received \$55 million in COVID-19 supplemental funds from the CRRSAA for the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant Program. The state Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs awarded \$2.7 million of those funds as competitive grants, worth up to \$400,000 each, issued to five to eight organizations working to offer employment services to those in recovery from substance abuse. The ARP included an additional \$1.5 billion in supplemental funds for the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant Program.

#### IV. COMPETITIVE GRANTS ON GRANTS.GOV AS OF MAY 14, 2021

FEDERAL AMOUNT	FEDERAL AGENCY	PROGRAM	APPLICATION OPENS	APPLICATION CLOSES	LIQUIDATION DEADLINE
\$4.5M	EPA	Environmental Justice Small Grants Program (EJSG)	March 2, 2021	June 1, 2021	Until expended
\$6M	EPA	Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem Solving Grants (EJCPS)	March 2, 2021	June 1, 2021	Until expended
\$110M	FEMA	Emergency Food and Shelter Program: Humanitarian Relief	April 19, 2021	May 7, 2021	Sept. 30, 2025
\$100M	FEMA	Emergency Management Performance Grants	April 15, 2021	May 14, 2021	Sept. 30, 2030
\$145M	HHS	Community Health Center Support: Health Care Center Look-Alikes (LALs)	Closed	May 14, 2021	Until expended
\$14.2M	HHS	Pediatric Mental Health Care Access	May 24, 2021	July 2, 2021	Until expended
\$20M	HHS	ACA State Exchange Modernization	July 17, 2021	TBA	Sept. 30, 2022
\$125M	HHS	HRSA Community-Based Workforce for COVID-19 Outreach	May 4, 2021	May 18, 2021	Nov. 30, 2021
\$6M	HHS	CDC Collaboration with Academia to Strengthen Public Health Workforce Capacity	May 7, 2021	July 9, 2021	N/A
—	HHS/NIH	Rapid Acceleration of Diagnostics for Underserved Communities	April 13, 2021	July 7, 2021	N/A

## THE LONG-TERM: 1 YEAR AND BEYOND

*Strategizing productive and equitable uses for long-term funds with transformative potential must begin in 2021 and continue in the years ahead.*

The American Rescue Plan offers over \$532 billion in funds to make significant long-term investments in broadband, clean water and sewer systems, affordable housing, public health infrastructure, small business growth, and public schools, as well as the funds necessary to invest in systems-level changes to improve service delivery and build new opportunities for communities hit hardest by the pandemic. These funds will move the most slowly and will be incorporated into state and local budgets over multiple fiscal years. Local stakeholders should connect their uses of flexible funds to long-term, discrete program funds to maximize their impact and seek out private or philanthropic capital to ensure ARP dollars are used to lay the groundwork for sustainable initiatives.

**Looking Ahead to the American Jobs Plan:** The ARP includes funding for major projects including K-12 school renovations for the purposes of COVID safety, the construction of affordable housing for the homeless through the HOME Investment Partnerships Program, investments in broadband, water, and sewer projects, and supplies transit agencies with relief funds, all of which present an opportunity to begin planning for future infrastructure funds that will flow to the same coordinating entities and public authorities, but at a larger scale.

**Infrastructure & Public Procurement:** Planning for the equitable deployment of any infrastructure funds should involve efforts to improve public procurement processes and supplier diversity initiatives. This will ensure funds are not only spent on projects intended to create more equitable housing, health, education, and transit outcomes, but spent on local women- and minority-owned businesses and construction firms, building local wealth in the process of deploying relief funds.

**State-Run Business Relief for Childcare:** The Childcare Stabilization Fund is the slowest moving form of small business relief in the American Rescue Plan, primarily because it requires states to set up structures through which to disburse the funds, similar to how states and cities handled rental relief programs. Most of these programs will be stood up by the same offices that oversee the distribution of Child Care Development Block Grant funds and will be distributing funds to the same, licensed childcare providers. States are required to obligate 50% of their allotted funds by December 2021, and awards may still be issued into 2022 depending on how quickly each individual state sets up their program. The American Families Plan and American Jobs Plan also include long-term investments in childcare systems and the care economy. The ARP funds should be used as a springboard to catalyze long-term innovations in this sector, which is ripe for reform.

**Moving from Small Businesses Recovery to Growth:** The ARP also funds a second round of the State Small Business Credit Initiative, which will get underway in 2022, and is designed to leverage private capital towards to the purpose of growing small businesses. State applications are due in December 2021, and as of May 2021, all states eligible to participate submitted a Notice of Intent to Apply (NOI) to the Treasury Department. As cities consider how to use their local relief funds to help small businesses, they should simultaneously plan for the next round of SSBCI.

## V. LONG-TERM ARP INVESTMENTS | \$532 BILLION

FEDERAL AMOUNT	FEDERAL AGENCY	CATEGORY	PROGRAM	LOCAL RECIPIENTS	EXPIRATION
\$23.9B	HHS	Business Relief	Childcare Stabilization Fund	Childcare providers	Sept. 30, 2023
\$122.7B	DOE	Education	Public K-12 Funds	Local education agencies (LEAs)	Sept. 30, 2024
\$30.5B	DOT	Transportation	Federal Transit Agency Grants	Public transit agencies	Sept. 30, 2024
\$325.5B	Treasury	State & Local Government Fiscal Relief	State & Local Government Fiscal Relief	State, county, and local governments	Dec. 31, 2024
\$5B	HUD	Housing	HOME Investment Partnerships Program	Affordable housing projects to address homelessness	Sept. 30, 2025
\$100M	HUD	Housing	Housing Counseling	Housing counseling intermediaries	Sept. 30, 2025
\$5B	HUD	Housing	Emergency Housing Vouchers	Public housing authorities, voucher recipients	Sept. 30, 2030
\$10B	Treasury	Economic & Small Business Development	State Small Business Credit Initiative	Small businesses	Until expended
\$10B	Treasury	Infrastructure	Capital Projects Fund	States, broadband and connectivity projects	Until expended