American Rescue Plan Act Highlights: $65.1 billion in direct federal aid to all counties

Deadline to spend funds is by March 31, 2021. Reporting period begins March 3, 2021, and ends last day of fiscal year a county has expended or returned all funds to U.S. Treasury.

Clerks, Commissioners, County-County Allocation

• Based on the county share of the U.S. Counties that are CDBG recipients (urbanized counties) will receive the largest of the population-based share or the share under a modified CDBG allocation formula. Treasury will allocate the first tranche of payments within 60 days of enactment. Second payment no earlier than one month from the first tranche.

Allowable Uses:

• Respond or mitigate the public health emergency with respect to COVID-19, including negative economic impacts, including assistance to households, small businesses, and nonprofits, or aid to impacted industries such as tourism, travel, and hospitality.

• Provide government services to the extent of the reduction in net tax revenue (i.e. local, property tax income) due to the public health emergency.

• Make necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure.

• Can transfer the funds to a private nonprofit organization, a public benefit corporation involved in the transportation of passengers or cargo or a special-purpose unit of State or local government.

• Respond to workers performing essential work during the COVID-19 public health emergency by providing premium pay to eligible workers of the counties that are performing such service, or providing grants to eligible employers that have eligible workers who perform essential work.

• Guardrails for Recovery Funds: States are allowed to use the funds to either directly or indirectly offset a reduction in the net tax revenue due to law, regulation, or administrative changes.

• No funds shall be deposited into any pension fund.

• Only states may use the funds to purchase securities of the U.S. Treasury, No funds shall be deposited into any pension fund.

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CDC Guidance for Those Vaccinated—COVID-19 vaccines are effective at protecting you from getting sick. Based on what we know about COVID-19 vaccines, people who have been fully vaccinated can start to do some things that they had stopped doing because of the pandemic. We’re still learning how vaccines will affect the spread of COVID-19. After you’ve been fully vaccinated, you should still wear a mask, stay at least 6 feet apart from others, and avoid crowds and poorly ventilated spaces until we know more.

New! Small and Rural Law Enforcement Executive Association (SRLEEA) Advocacy for small, rural police and sheriff departments who serve 75,000 people or less and have a department of 75 sworn or less. Membership is free for all law enforcement, civilian staff, students, NGO, and federal partners and includes training resources, webinars, and forums. This is a national forum to exchange ideas and communicate effectively about COVID-19 in your county using the power of the media. [Toolkit here]

DOE offering free technical assistance for community solar initiative [Read more]

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