

The Senate recently approved its version of the *American Rescue Plan Act of 2021* with several changes to the House-passed original. The House is expected to approve the revised package tomorrow and President Biden is expected to sign it into law shortly thereafter.

Below is a summary of the bill as it relates to DHS programs and activities.

Unemployment Assistance:

- **Maintains enhanced unemployment benefits at \$300/week** from March 14, 2021 through September 6, 2021.

Stimulus Checks:

- **Provides direct payments worth up to \$1,400 per person:**
 - Individuals earning less than \$75,000/year (and couples earning less than \$150,000/year) will be sent the full amount.
 - The upper income limit for payments is \$80,000 for individuals and \$160,000 for couples.
 - Payments will be calculated based on 2019 or 2020 income.
 - Adult dependents are eligible recipients.

State and Local Aid:

- **Provides \$350 billion in aid to state and local governments:**
 - States will receive roughly \$195 billion of this amount and the remainder will be divided evenly between cities and counties.
 - Funds can cover costs incurred through the end of 2024.

Pandemic Emergency Fund:

- **Establishes a \$1 billion Pandemic Emergency Fund:**
 - 92.5% of the fund will be distributed to states for direct cash assistance to low-income families with children. Funds will be distributed based on the state's population of children and past expenditures on cash assistance to low-income families with children.
 - 7.5% of the fund will be reserved for tribal TANF programs and distributed at the discretion of the HHS Secretary.

Provider Relief Fund:

- **Infuses \$8.5 billion into the Provider Relief Fund (PRF)** to help rural healthcare providers who have yet to receive a payment.

Medicaid:

- **Requires Medicaid coverage for COVID-19 vaccines and treatment without beneficiary cost-sharing (with vaccines at a 100% federal match) through one year after the end of the federal public health emergency.** States also have the option to provide coverage for vaccines and treatments to uninsured individuals without cost-sharing at a 100% federal match.
- **Allows states to extend Medicaid eligibility to women for twelve months postpartum.** States have five years to pursue this option.
- **Provides Medicaid eligibility (for five years) to incarcerated individuals 30 days prior to their release.**
- **Provides an enhanced FMAP to incentivize state Medicaid programs to cover mobile crisis intervention services for mental health or substance use crises.** Mobile crisis services are teams of mental health professionals who provide psychiatric services to individuals in their own homes or sites outside of traditional clinical settings.
- **Provides a 100% federal match for services provided to Medicaid beneficiaries who receive care through Urban Indian Organizations (for two years).**
- **Eliminates the cap on Medicaid drug rebates (starting in calendar year 2023).**
- **Temporarily increases FMAPs by 10% to help states improve Medicaid home- and community-based services.** The increase will last for one year.
- **Eliminates the limit in maximum rebate amounts for single-source drugs under Medicaid by January 1, 2024.**
- **Allows outpatient drugs used for COVID-19 treatment to be included in the Medicaid Drug Rebate Program.**

CHIP:

- **Requires CHIP coverage for COVID-19 vaccines and treatment without beneficiary cost-sharing (with vaccines at a 100% federal match) through one year after the end of the federal public health emergency.**
- **Allows states to extend CHIP eligibility to women for twelve months postpartum.** States have five years to pursue this option.

Skilled Nursing Facilities:

- **Reserves \$200 million for COVID-19 infection control support in skilled nursing facilities.** Support will be provided via quality improvement organizations.
- **Reserves \$250 million to establish “strike teams” to respond to COVID-19 outbreaks in skilled nursing facilities.**

Tribal Health:

- **Provides \$6 billion to support the activities of the Indian Health Service (IHS), including:**
 - \$2 billion for lost revenue.
 - \$140 million for information technology, telehealth, and electronic health records infrastructure.
 - \$84 million for urban Indian health programs.
 - \$420 million for mental and behavioral health services.

Mental Health / Substance Abuse:

- **Allocates \$3.5 billion for the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment and Community Mental Health block grant programs.**
- **Allocates \$80 million for mental and behavioral health training** among healthcare professionals, para-professionals, and public safety officers.
- **Allocates \$50 million to support existing SAMHSA grant programs** which support youth mental health services and suicide prevention efforts.
- **Allocates \$420 million in grant funding for Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs).**

Older Adults / Adult Protection / Elder Justice:

- **Provides \$188 million for the Elder Justice Act in FY2021 and FY2022.** The Elder Justice Act was passed in 2010 to address abuse, neglect, and exploitation among seniors.
- **Ensures that funding for adult protective services (APS) can be used for all adults.**
- **Provides \$1,434,000,000 for programs authorized by the Older Americans Act (OAA):**
 - \$740 million for senior nutrition programs.
 - \$25 million for services (including nutrition) for Native American communities.
 - \$470 million to support home- and community-based services (including COVID-19 vaccine outreach and social isolation).
 - \$145 million for the National Family Caregiver Support Program.
 - \$10 million for the long-term care ombudsman program.

Child Care / Protection:

- **Increases annual funding for the Child Care Entitlement to States (CCES) to \$3,550,000,000 per year (and waives the state match on new funding for FY2021 and FY2022):**
 - \$3,375,000,000 is reserved for states.
 - \$100,000,000 is reserved for tribes.
- **Provides \$14,990,000,000 for the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG).** Funds may be distributed through FY2023.
- **Creates child care stabilization grants for child care providers** who were either open when they applied or closed due to COVID-19. Funds can be used for a range of operating expenses.
- **Provides \$23,975,000,000 for the child care stabilization fund** (see above).
- **Provides \$250 million for child abuse and neglect prevention programs under the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA).** Funds will not be subject to a state match and will be distributed based on states' populations of children under the age of 18.
- **Provides \$100 million for the child abuse and neglect treatment and response state grant** under CAPTA.

Nutrition Assistance:

- **Allows the Pandemic-EBT (P-EBT) program to be implemented in any school year during which the federal public health emergency was in effect.**
- **Allows P-EBT benefits to be extended to the summer.**
- **Maintains the 15% increase in SNAP benefits through September 30, 2021.** Additional administrative funds will also be distributed to states to help accommodate higher caseloads.
- **Provides \$25 million to promote technological improvements** for SNAP online purchasing, electronic benefit transfer systems, and SNAP mobile payment technologies.