**American Rescue Plan Act of 2021**

[**(Full Text)**](https://www.congress.gov/117/bills/hr1319/BILLS-117hr1319enr.pdf)

[**(Title by Title Summary)**](https://www.democrats.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/ARP%20-%20Title-by-Title%20Summary.pdf)

The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 is the latest Coronavirus relief package adopted by congress and signed into law by President Biden on March 11, 2021. The Act provides an estimated $1.9 trillion in mandatory funding, tax policies, and program changes aimed at mitigating the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Funding for which CACs may be eligible:**

* **$350 billion** in direct aid is included for states, counties, cities, and tribal governments. These funds may be used to replenish lost revenue, cover increased expenditures, and mitigate economic hardships. *(May cover costs incurred by December 31st, 2024.)* 
  + **$195.3 billion** to states *(May be subject to legislative appropriation or executive discretion. Chapters should explore circumstances that may be unique to their state.)*
    - **$500 million** base amount to each state and DC
    - **$169 billion** allocated based on states’ share of unemployed workers between Oct. and Dec. 2020.
  + **$120.2 billion** to local governments
    - **$65.1 billion** to counties [(Funds by County)](https://www.naco.org/resources/featured/state-and-local-coronavirus-fiscal-recovery-funds#table)
    - **$45.6 billion** to metro cities (over 50,000 people) [(Funds by Municipality)](https://www.nlc.org/resource/estimated-local-allocations-in-the-american-rescue-plan/)
    - **$19.5 billion** to towns (less than 50,000 people)
    - **$20 billion** to tribal governments(allocations to be determined)
  + State and local government funding may be used for a wide range of items tied to the public health emergency from COVID-19 or its negative economic impacts (including assistance to households, small businesses, nonprofits, and impacted industries); premium pay for essential workers; revenue loses tied to COVID-19; and necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure.
  + It will be up to each individual state and locality to determine how the funds are received, by whom they are administered, and to whom they are distributed. Chapters and CACs should consult with state and local leaders for specific information on administering entities and processes.
* **$350 million** for CAPTA, in addition to regular appropriations. (*Funds will carry forward until October 1, 2023 and the portion of new funding will not be subject to match requirements.)*
  + **$100 million** **Title I** for states’ response to child abuse including investigations and child welfare agencies
  + **$250 million Title II** for community based child abuse prevention (CBCAP). *(Distribution will be based on states’ populations of children under the age of 18.)* Funds flow through a governor’s designated agency/entity and may be spent flexibly to encourage community-based prevention, collaboration with CPS and other agencies, workforce development, technology enhancements, training, and promoting access to services.

**Program guidance for the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund will be released in the coming weeks. Please continue to check this** [website](https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/coronavirus/assistance-for-state-local-and-tribal-governments/state-and-local-fiscal-recovery-fund) **for further updates.**

**Talking Points for accessing ARP – Current CAC/Chapter Unmet Needs**

* **COVID Impact on CACs:**
* Initially, CAC caseloads dropped by more than 50% in most states, mainly because child abuse reporting was down. (Without teachers having eyes on kids, the reports weren’t happening.)
* CACs were open and saw emergency cases, but many cases were either not seen because they didn’t pose imminent threat, or because there were no initial reports.
  + However, what we did see were even more severe forms of abuse. For example, in Texas, the number of cases of child abuse fatalities doubled during the March/April/May 2020 time frame, over what they were during those 3 months in 2019. [Include any specific data you have on your state that can highlight this. In X, we saw a X% increase in severe forms of abuse cases.]
* Nationally, our centers reported a drop in caseload of 33K kids from 2019 . [Include your specific state caseload drop.]
* We do not believe that there was suddenly a drop in child abuse during this pandemic, *on the contrary, we think the numbers are much higher, and we know that our centers will be hit with a surge of cases when schools do fully reopen and teachers again have eyes on kids*.
* Even more, CACs are currently operating at capacity; and this is before we return to the anticipated pre-pandemic caseload levels.
* As schools in X continue to reopen, and communities are able to return to more normal activities, we know the caseload will increase and, at that same time, we will be trying to work through huge backlogs of cases that continued to grow because of the challenges of the pandemic.
* Still yet, CACs in [your state] lost $X in revenue in 2020.
* **Current National CAC Staffing needs - $66.1M:**
* Nationally, 252 CACs need at least 1 additional Forensic Interviewer (average salary of $50K) - at least $12.6M is needed
  + [In X state, our #of CACs need at least 1 additional Forensic Interviewer (average salary of $50K), $X is needed.]
* Nationally, 198 CACs need at least 1 additional staff to perform medical exams (average salary of $70K) - $13.6M is needed
  + [In X state, our #of CACs need at least 1 additional staff to perform medical exams (average salary of $70K), $X is needed.]
* Nationally, 378 CACs need at least 1 additional mental health therapist (average salary of $70K) - $26.6M is needed
  + [In X state, our #of CACs need at least 1 additional mental health therapist (average salary of $50K), $X is needed.]
* Nationally, 333 CACs need at least 1 additional victim advocate (average salary of $40K) - $13.3M is needed
  + [In X state, our #of CACs need at least 1 additional victim advocate (average salary of $40K), $X is needed.]
* **VOCA/CVF** has made a big difference for CACs! CACs in X state have gone from $X to $X in VOCA funding. (Nationally, CACs have gone from $21M in FY14 to $200-$250M in FY20.) But the CVF that funds VOCA grants is expected to be at $0 by 2022. And here in X, we are currently facing X% cuts. With VOCA in such a dire situation, states are already making significant cuts, with even more coming to CACs and other service providers, with another X% next year. Congress is working on a fix for VOCA, but replenishing the Fund will take time. For this reason, CACs and Chapters need emergency dollars to help bridge this gap.
* **Unmet Needs:**
* In the US Counties covered by a CAC, approximately **583,184 were likely abused in 2019.**
* CACs saw more than 338,000 kids last year, which is a drop in caseload of about 33,000 kids.
* Increased resources will help expand capacity to serve the ***additional 250,000 kids that were likely abused but did not access a CAC***, continue to address the backlog of cases and additional pressures from COVID, and ***assist the additional 600,000+ reported cases of cases of abuse needing a forensic interview that did not get one.***
* Approximately, ***75,000 kids in these unserved counties may have been abused last year and went without access to services.***

Include specific unmet need numbers for your state.