

The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021

The Senate-passed bill contains many provisions led and supported by JFNA:

Small Business Administration (SBA) Program Provisions (PPP)

- Extend eligibility to the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) for charities regardless of total employee size if there are not more than 500 employees at one physical location.
- Provide additional \$7.5 billion for the PPP program, increasing the total program level to \$813.7 billion.
- Provide an additional \$15 billion for the Targeted Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) Advance program.
- Provide an additional \$1.25 billion for the SBA Shuttered Venue Operators Grant Program, including a \$500,000 set aside for technical assistance to help entities apply for grants.

Unemployment Insurance Provisions

- Extend the subsidy for costs incurred by employers who self-insure unemployment through August 29, 2021 and increase the subsidy from 50% to 75% for weeks beginning after March 31.

Health Provisions

- Provide a temporary 10 percentage point increase in the federal share of Medicaid for Home- and Community-Based Services (HCBS), which helps fund payments to home and personal care providers like Jewish family & children's agencies.
- Provide \$4 billion in emergency funding to expand the nation's capacity to address the growing mental health crisis and additional federal resources for mental health crisis response.
- Allocate \$7.5 billion to further bolster vaccine distribution and administration, a portion of which is slated to be used for the deployment of mobile vaccination units, particularly in underserved areas.
- Allocate \$7.6 billion to expand COVID-19 vaccine distribution and administration and testing and contact tracing through community health centers. This funding may expand capacity for mobile testing and vaccination units.
- Provide \$470 million to help older adults and their families, some of which may be used for transportation and other activities specifically to bolster efforts to vaccinate hard-to-reach older adults.

Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP)

- Provide \$400 million in additional EFSP funding, in addition to the \$200 million appropriated in the first CARES bill, to help nonprofits respond to the economic downturn caused by the pandemic. Administered by a public-private national board that includes JFNA, this program supports community-based human service agencies' provision of emergency food, shelter and related critical assistance to people facing economic crises.

- Provide \$110 million in EFSP funding specifically to support nonprofit agencies in border communities responding to federal policies that promote rapid release from DHS custody of migrants crossing the southern border. Both pots of EFSP funding support several Jewish human service agencies.

Organizational Tax Credit Provisions

- Extend the employee retention tax credit, as added by the CARES Act and expanded by the Consolidated Appropriations Act this past December, through December 31, 2021. For the period beginning July 1, 2021, the credit can only be claimed against the employer's share of the Medicare tax rather than other payroll taxes. However, the credit would continue to be refundable for employers with insufficient tax liability.
- Extend the paid sick time and paid family leave credits created by the Families First Coronavirus Response Act from March 31, 2021 through September 30, 2021. It increases the amount of wages for which an employer may claim the paid family credit in a year from \$10,000 to \$12,000 per employee and increases the number of days for which self-employed individuals can claim the credit from 50 to 60.

Earned Income and Child Tax Credit Provisions

- Nearly triple the maximum EITC benefit for childless single workers with incomes up to \$21,427 per year and couples with incomes up to \$27,367 per year and expand the eligible age range to claim the EITC to both older (age 65 and over) and younger workers (to age 19 from 25). These changes increase the maximum credit amount from \$543 to \$1,502.
- Increase the basic Child Tax Credit (CTC) from \$2,000 to \$3,000 per child and provide an additional \$600 for children under age 6, with those additional amounts phasing down above incomes of \$112,500 for single parents and \$150,000 for couples; include 17-year-olds in the CTC for the first time; and direct the IRS to make advance payments of the CTC in monthly installments beginning this July. Make the child tax credit fully refundable for 2021—low-income households would receive the full, larger benefit of the expanded credit.

Funding for non-public schools

- Similar to the provisions passed in prior COVID-19 relief bills, the bill provides \$2.75 billion for non-public K-12 schools whose student body has a substantial percentage from low-income families. Funding would be allocated through governors, each of whom could establish a particular application process and would be available only to cover services or assistance that had not been covered by other federal funding streams.

State and Local Funding Provisions

- Appropriate approximately \$340 billion for state and local governments to mitigate the fiscal effects stemming from COVID-19.
- Provide \$10 billion for a new Critical Infrastructure Projects program to help States, territories, and Tribal governments carry out critical capital projects (including for broadband

expansion), directly enabling work, education, and health monitoring, including remote options, in response to COVID-19.

Support for Older Americans through the Older Americans Act

- \$750 million for Congregate and Home-Delivered Nutrition Services
- \$25 million for Native American Nutrition, Supportive and Caregiver Services
- \$44 million for Evidence-Based Health Promotion and Disease Prevention
- \$145 million for Caregiver Services
- \$10 million for the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program

Nutrition Assistance

- Extend the 15% maximum Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) boost through September 30, 2020.
- Provide \$25 million to make technological improvements to the SNAP online purchasing program.
- Provide \$37 million for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program.
- Extend the Pandemic-EBT Program through September 30, 2020.
- Provide \$390 million for outreach, innovation, and program modernization in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). Also authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to temporarily boost the Cash Value Voucher (CVV) up to \$35 per month for women and children for a four-month period during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Child Care Provisions

- Provide \$3.55 billion per year for Child Care Entitlement for States.
- Provide \$15 billion in additional funding for the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Program - through September 30, 2021.
- Provide \$24 billion to CCDBG lead agencies for Child Care Stabilization subgrants to qualified childcare providers that are either open and available to provide services or closed for reasons related to COVID19. Funds could be used for personnel expenses, cleaning supplies and personal protective equipment, and mental health supports.

Other Provisions

- Provide \$39.6 billion for the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund.
- Provide \$128.6 billion for the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund.
- Appropriate \$200 million to support COVID-19 infection control in skilled nursing facilities to develop and disseminate prevention protocols through contracted quality improvement organizations. Additional funds would be provided to create strike teams in SNFs with suspected or diagnosed cases of COVID-19.

Please contact Stephan.Kline@JewishFederations.org with questions.