

# Utilizing American Rescue Plan Funding to Accelerate Early Learning

**April 30, 2021**



**NLC** NATIONAL  
LEAGUE  
OF CITIES  

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CITIES STRONG TOGETHER

For the first time, all 19,000 municipal governments are entitled to a direct, noncompetitive federal formula grant from the U.S. Treasury Department (Coronavirus Local Fiscal Relief Fund)

## **Direct funding means:**

1. All cities, towns, and villages are entitled to a federal grant from the new Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund.
2. Aid obligated to municipalities is not in any way mingled with aid obligated to state or county governments.
3. Aid for municipalities is protected from state or county interference by iron-clad statutes compelling states to comply, including penalties for states that fail to carry out their responsibilities to small cities and towns.

**Short answer YES, however for precisely what we are still awaiting Treasury Department Guidance.**

To respond to the public health emergency with respect to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID–19) or its negative economic impacts, including assistance to households, small businesses, and nonprofits, or aid to impacted industries such as tourism, travel, and hospitality.

- No more restrictive than the CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Fund

NLC Resource:  
Estimated Local  
Allocations in the  
American Rescue  
Plan Act [https://  
www.nlc.org/  
covid-19-  
pandemic-  
response/](https://www.nlc.org/covid-19-pandemic-response/)

Search by Municipality

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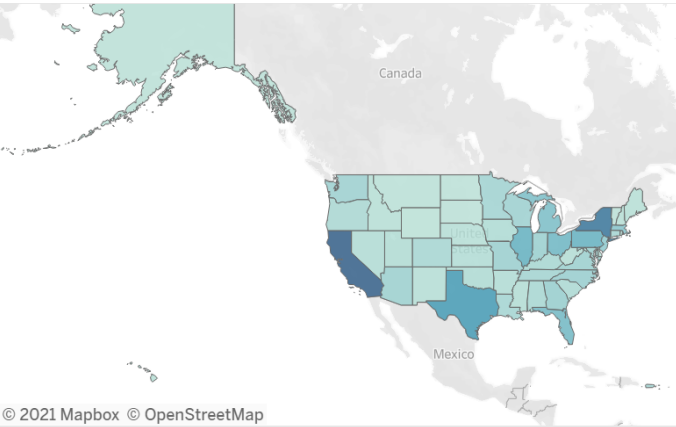
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☐ Metro City

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Funding Allocation for Municipalities

Total Municipal Funding by State



State	F
California	\$8,356,006,304.20
New York	\$6,965,423,740.97
Texas	\$4,771,453,944.53
Illinois	\$3,420,535,204.82
Pennsylvania	\$3,306,492,631.49
Ohio	\$3,057,549,644.84
Florida	\$2,861,776,119.36
Michigan	\$2,467,935,644.92
Massachusetts	\$2,077,815,397.22
New Jersey	\$1,740,513,410.95
Georgia	\$1,408,378,470.68
North Carolina	\$1,354,093,794.70
Indiana	\$1,287,330,589.74
Missouri	\$1,272,403,044.84
Arizona	\$1,233,096,805.93
Virginia	\$1,232,106,909.25
Wisconsin	\$1,187,147,014.85

## California

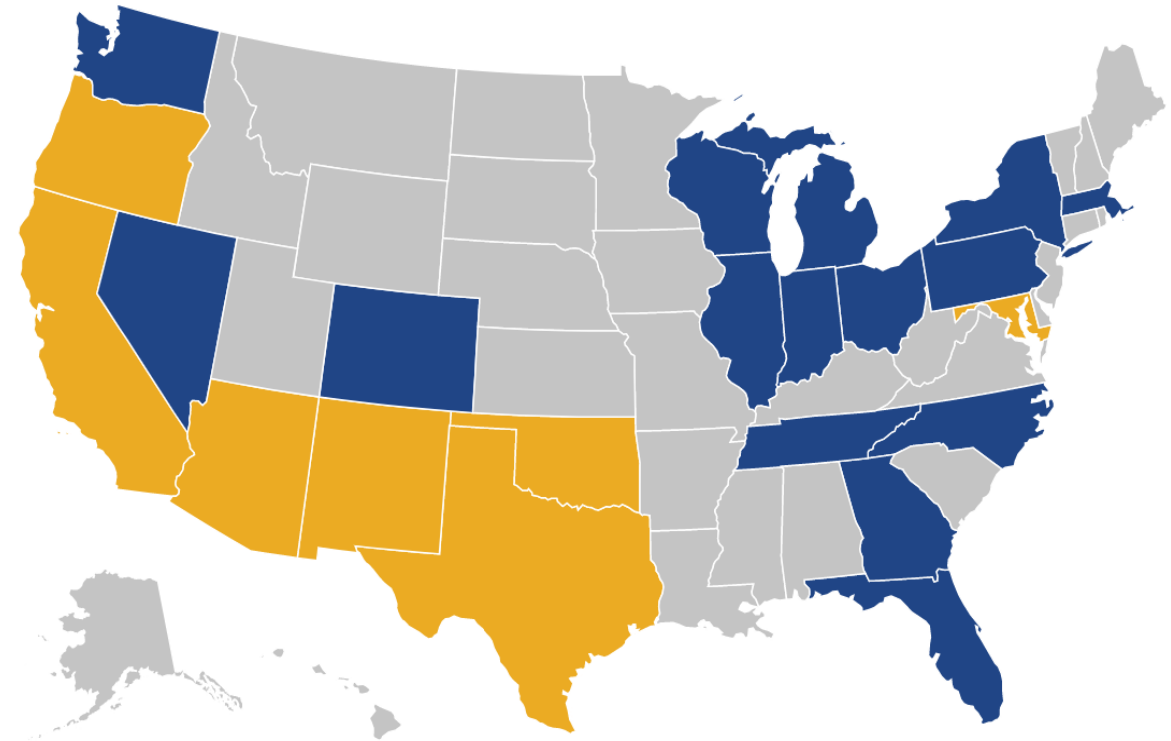
- **Fresno:** \$2,389,809 for child care vouchers for essential workers and vulnerable populations who need affordable child care.
- **San Diego:** \$5 million from its share of the CARES Act and use it to provide childcare vouchers for essential workers and other vulnerable populations. The City entered into an agreement with YMCA Childcare Resource Service and Child Development Associates to administer the vouchers. The City's \$5 million matches \$5 million that the County of San Diego is chipping from its own share of CARES Act funding.

## New Mexico

- **Albuquerque:** \$2.5 million to the City of Albuquerque Community Impact Fund which provides \$2K payments to families for basic needs and childcare.

## Texas

- **Austin:** \$1 million to a Childcare Support Fund



## City of Seattle, WA

1. Financial assistance to family child care providers and child care centers through 2021;
2. Resources to support the construction of new child care centers or to assist with capital improvements to existing child care centers;
3. Investments in mentoring and other programs designed to assist child care providers in obtaining licensing and navigating the process of establishing child care programs; and
4. Investments in training and coaching for child care workers to support their professional development and expand career opportunities.



# How Are Other Cities Thinking About ECE Recovery Broadly?

## Columbus, OH

- 1. Focus on the ECE Workforce:** pay parity, substitute pools, bonuses and benefits, and paid leave
- 2. Support for ECE Awareness:** messaging campaigns and public recognition
- 3. Subsidy Revisions:** paying based on enrollment rather than attendance and paying based on cost of care

## Child Care: Make or Break Moment in Central Ohio



RECOMMENDED ACTION	LABEL
Video and radio PSAs featuring Mayor celebrating ECEs as essential workers focused on education and necessary to overall economic recovery	A
Drive-thru recognition event honoring ECEs featuring high profile public officials and others; include give away of PPE	B
Virtual Site Visits with providers shared across social media platforms to increase awareness for quality of service, education taking place	C
Public education messaging through video and radio PSAs: it is safe to return to school and that facilities are rigorously cleaned and held to very high standards	D
Increased wages to attract and retain qualified staff after losing staff to positions paying more and offering better benefits	E
Bonuses and hazard pay and benefits, such as health insurance	F
Pay parity between ECEs and Kindergarten teachers, accounting for education level and years in the field	G
Establish funded substitute pools to support Directors and other staff to attend to other needs (take breaks, schedule and attend medical appointments, etc.)	H
Direct access to services such as rental and food assistance	I
Looking to federally supported model like AmeriCorps or Teach for America, create and implement a pilot program to support ECE's	J
Mechanism to secure bulk resources (e.g. PPE, cleaning supplies) and meet additional needs created by supporting school-aged children through virtual learning	K
Increased and continued support to off-set additional costs for supplies, modifications, and supporting school-aged students through virtual learning	L
One centralized data system to eliminate reporting redundancies	M
Payments to Providers based upon student enrollment and not attendance to mirror the <u>public school</u> model—even if just for the next 12 months via an Executive Order	N
Consistent communication with public funders and ability to reach a person directly when calling for assistance, particularly in emergency	O
Adjust rates for PFCC based upon cost of providing care	P
Ease restrictions for PFCC (e.g. work requirements for all HH members, attendance requirements)	Q
Priority COVID testing and rapid testing for ECEs as essential employees	R
Increased fees for school-aged students who are onsite participating in virtual instruction	S
Paid time off for Directors and Teachers who are sick or quarantining	T
Base funding on enrollment, not attendance for PFCC	U

- 1. Use dedicated grants and programs first whenever possible**
  - Save Local Fiscal Recovery Funds for gaps and priorities not eligible for other federal and state assistance programs
- 2. Assess government operations AND community needs**
  - Ask valuable staff and stakeholders for help creating a comprehensive needs assessment
- 3. Prioritize fiscal stability and returning to work**
  - Save pet projects for earmarks
- 4. Maintain records and document success**
  - Create long-term information infrastructure for your future leaders
- 5. Your Congressional Delegation is part of your success**
  - Invite Members of Congress to re-openings, ribbon-cuttings, etc...



## ARP Early Childhood Funding

1. **Child Care Stabilization** - \$23.975 billion for a one-time grant program to states to help support child care providers remain afloat through the pandemic.
2. **Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG)** - \$15 billion in one-time emergency funds to support child care, including funding for essential workers.
3. **Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program (MIECHV)** - \$150 million to remain available through the end of FY2022.
4. **Head Start** - \$1 billion for Head Start and Early Head Start programs for essential support for local programs' continued delivery of safe, high-quality services to children and families.

### American Jobs Plan

*Early Childhood Facilities Infrastructure*

### American Families Plan

*Universal Preschool and Child Care Expansion*

## NLC Resources

<https://www.nlc.org/covid-19-pandemic-response/>

1. **COVID-19 Local Action Tracker**
2. **Summary of Provisions**
3. **Allocations and Guidance**
4. **Implementation Questions Form**

### ABOUT ARP

### BILL SUMMARY

### ALLOCATIONS & GUIDANCE

### IMPLEMENTATION QUESTIONS?

### TREASURY DEPT. RESOURCES

## About ARPA

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021 – the latest COVID-19 stimulus package – is a \$1.9 trillion economic stimulus bill. Within the ARP, the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund provides \$350 billion for states, municipalities, counties, tribes, and territories, including \$130 billion for local governments split evenly between municipalities and counties.

NLC has developed a summary of **other notable** provisions relevant to municipalities and local leaders in the ARP **while we wait for additional spending guidance for the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund.**

### SUMMARY OF PROVISIONS

## American Rescue Plan Questions and Feedback

The American Rescue Plan Act includes unprecedented aid to local governments. Congress continues to refine the estimates for allocations from the State and Local Fiscal Relief Funds.

NLC is working with the Department of the Treasury to address the





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