

While the American Rescue Plan (ARP) was signed into law on March 11, 2021 with broad general guidelines, there remains a lack of specificity on the program funding coming to Alaska. This Act includes funding for a variety of State agencies for response, mitigation and recovery efforts related to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. The administration is working with national organizations and federal agencies to clarify amounts, coordinate questions and understand the requirements tied to these funds. It is anticipated that this will be an iterative process with numerous additional items forthcoming as funding opportunities arise and final federal allocations and guidance are released.

Direct Agency Funding Items Included in the Governor’s ARP Package:

Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund (\$112.3 million)

- Allowable “to carry out critical capital projects directly enabling work, education, and health monitoring, including remote options, in response to the public health emergency with respect to the Coronavirus Disease (COVID–19).” A placeholder appropriation is included in the Governor’s ARP package. Use of these funds require application to the Treasury for specific projects, further detail on the requirements and application process should be made available on or before May 10.

Commerce – Coronavirus Local Pass-Thru Funding (\$185.4 million)

- Funds for Alaska communities defined as “nonentitlement local governments and counties” within the Act that will pass through the state Department of Commerce to communities as grants based on the allocation methodology established in the Act and clarified by Treasury.

Education – Institute of Museum and Library Services Funds (\$2.2 million)

- Grants to State Library Administrative Agencies to support the vital programs and services these institutions provide to their communities and so that they may continue to respond to the COVID-19 health emergency.

Education – National Endowment for the Arts Funding (\$758.7 thousand - estimate)

- Grants to arts organizations, local arts agencies, and partners affected by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Health – CDC Funding for COVID-19 Testing (\$22.0 million)

- Funds to ramp up screening testing to help schools reopen and scale up testing in underserved populations; and provide new guidance on asymptomatic screening testing in schools, workplaces, and congregate settings.

Health – CDC Funding for COVID-19 Vaccinations (\$32.4 million)

- Grants for coronavirus vaccine activities to support broad-based distribution, access, and vaccine coverage.

Health – ACF Funding for Pandemic Emergency Assistance (\$3.4 million)

- Funds to provide certain non-recurrent, short-term (NRST) benefits to assist needy families impacted by COVID-19. Grantees must use funds to supplement, and not supplant, other federal, state, tribal, territorial, or local funds. The recipients of NRSTs must be needy families with children affected by the pandemic, but they do not necessarily have to be eligible for TANF cash assistance.

Health – WIC Benefit Improvements (\$1.2 million - estimate)

- Funds to increase Cash Value Vouchers under a qualified food package.

Health – Child Care Development Fund Grants (\$28.4 million - estimate)

- Funds for childcare assistance to health care sector employees, emergency responders, sanitation workers, and other workers deemed essential during coronavirus response without regard to income eligibility.

Health – Child Care Stabilization Grants (\$45.5 million - estimate)

- Funds for subgrants to qualified childcare providers via lead state agencies to stabilize childcare.

Health – Child Abuse Prevention Funding (\$291.0 thousand - estimate)

- Funds for carrying out activities related to section 106 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act.

Health – Mental Health Block Grant Funding (\$3.0 million - estimate)

- Funds for providing community mental health services for adults with a serious mental illness and children with a serious emotional disturbance.

Health – Substance Abuse Block Grant Funding (\$4.7 million - estimate)

- Funds for prevention and treatment of substance use disorders and related activities.

Health – LIHEAP Program Funding (\$23.7 million - estimate)

- Additional funding to provide payments for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program.

Health – Supporting Older Americans and their Families Funding (\$7.0 million - estimate)

- Funds will be made available through an allocation under each title of the Older Americans Act for supportive services, congregate and home delivered meals, preventive services, family caregiver, and Long-Term Care Ombudsman.

Health – Pandemic EBT Administrative Grant (\$768.4 thousand - estimate)

- Partnership with DEED for school lunch program – administrative funding to DPA.

Labor – Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds to AVTEC (\$441.0 thousand - estimate)

- Grants to institutions of higher education to defray costs associated with COVID-19. Half of an institution's funding must be spent on grants to students.

Labor – Unemployment Insurance System Modernization Funds (\$6 million - estimate)

- Grants to state unemployment insurance programs for system modernization.

Military and Veterans Affairs – Emergency Management Grant (\$882.3 thousand - estimate)

- Grants to emergency management agencies with the resources required for implementation of the National Preparedness System and works toward the National Preparedness Goal of a secure and resilient nation.

Transportation - Federal Transit Administration Grants (\$6.6 million)

- Funds are available for operating expenses for all Federal Transit Administration recipients (non-urbanized areas) including an intercity bus apportionment and an apportionment to provide training and technical assistance to rural area transit recipients.

University – Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (\$30.8 million - estimate)

- Grants to institutions of higher education to defray costs associated with COVID-19. Half of an institution's funding must be spent on grants to students.

Other Direct Agency Funding Items that Require Additional Information:

Education - Emergency Education Relief Funds (\$364.5 million)

- Emergency grants to Local Education Agencies that are impacted by COVID-19, distributed per the Title-1 formula, and emergency assistance for non-public school funds. Further information from the US Department of Education on the state maintenance of effort requirements tied to this funding are needed before this item can be added to the Governor's package.

Education – Child Nutrition Funding (Amount TBD)

- Funding to schools and other institutions participating in the National School Lunch Program and related programs to operate the program during the summer months. More information is necessary before this item can be added to the Governor's package.

Environmental Conservation – Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (Amount TBD)

- Funds to assist low-income households with water and wastewater bills. This is a brand-new program and more information is necessary before this item can be added to the Governor's package.

Health – Child Care Assistance (Amount TBD)

- Modifies the state match requirement for funding increases in FFY 2021 and 2022. More information is necessary before this item can be added to the Governor's package.

Health – Home and Community-Based Services Enhanced FMAP (Amount TBD)

- Requires implementation or supplementation of one or more activities to enhance, expand, or strengthen HCBS under Medicaid. Modifies the state match requirement for funding increases in FFY 2021 and 2022. More information is necessary before this item can be added to the Governor's package.

Health – SNAP Administrative Grant Increase (Amount TBD)

- Funds to help states administer the Supplemental Nutrition Program (SNAP) with higher caseloads. More information is necessary before this item can be added to the Governor's package.

Transportation - Federal Aviation Administration Airport Rescue Grants (Amount TBD)

- Grants to all airports that are part of the national airport system, including all commercial service airports, all reliever airports, and some public-owned general aviation airports. The law categorizes airports by type of activities, including commercial service, primary, cargo service, reliever, and general aviation airports. More information is necessary before this item can be added to the Governor's package.

Other - Federal Grants (Amount TBD)

- Other funding opportunities will be made available through various federal agencies that received funding through the American Rescue Plan, but state agency program eligibility for the various funding opportunities is to be determined pending federal allocations and guidance. More information is necessary before this item can be added to the Governor's package.