



# Summary of the Provisions Benefiting Alaska Natives in the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021

Alaska House Finance Committee  
April 14, 2021

Nicole Borromeo  
Alaska Federation of Natives

# Overview

- ▶ **\$1.9 Trillion in Funding:** The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) provides \$1.9 trillion in stimulus aid help the nation recover from COVID-19. Funding is available for a wide variety of programs across nearly every federal agency.
- ▶ **\$32.5 Billion in Tribal Set-Asides:** ARPA includes a number of “Tribal set-asides,” which allocates a percentage of the funding to Native entities, totaling roughly \$32.5 billion – the largest distribution of funds to Native peoples in history.
- ▶ **Each Program has its own Eligibility Criteria:** In some cases, only federally recognized Tribes are eligible for funding. In other cases, Tribal non-profits organizations and Alaska Native corporations are also eligible. Alaska Native corporations can also take advantage of other programs in the bill that benefit corporations.

# Disclaimer

- ▶ **Not Covered in this Summary:** There are numerous tax provisions and amendments to Medicaid and Medicare, and programs to assist small businesses that are not covered in this summary, unless there are specific references to Indian based programs or benefits.
- ▶ **Additional Research is Necessary:** This summary is intended only to present a high-level overview of the provisions benefiting Native Americans in ARPA. Additional research into individual programs is necessary and encouraged.

# Title I – Agriculture, Nutrition & Forestry

- ▶ \$20.2 billion for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers, Ranchers, and Forrest Land Owners and Operators (Sec. 1006).
- ▶ (2) Tribal Set-Asides:
  - ▶ \$10.1 million Tribal colleges and universities; and
  - ▶ \$10.1 million for Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian serving institutions of higher education.
- ▶ Funds can be used as grants to loans to support education, extension, scholarships, and internships.
- ▶ Funds remain are until expended.

- ▶ **\$4 billion for Food Programs** (Sec. 1001).
  - ▶ No tribal set-aside, but funding is available to purchase food for distribution including “seafood” (Section 1001 (b)); and
  - ▶ Seafood processing facilities and processing vessels eligible for grants and loans (Section 1001 (b) (3)).
  - ▶ Tribal non-profit organizations would likely qualify for program participation and funding.

- ▶ **\$500 million for Rural Health Programs** (Sec. 1002).
  - ▶ Tribal non-profit organizations serving rural communities (not Anchorage, Fairbanks, or Juneau) and recognized Tribes in rural communities are eligible for grants.
  - ▶ Funds can be used for telehealth, facility construction, vaccine distribution, medical supplies, lost revenue, staffing, and nutrition programs.
  - ▶ This is a new pilot program which is directed to be up and running within five months.
  - ▶ See 7 CFR 3570.61 (a) for more information.

# Title II – Health, Education Labor, and Pensions

- ▶ **\$1.072 billion for Child Care and Development Block Grants** (Sec. 2201) and **Child Care Stabilization Grants** (Sec. 2202).
  - ▶ Recognized Tribes, Tribal non-profit organization, and Alaska Native corporations are eligible for grants to provide childcare to essential workers (including sanitation workers) regardless of income to stabilize existing programs.
  - ▶ Funds can be used for personnel costs, rent, mortgage, utilities, facility maintenance or improvements, insurance, personal protective equipment, cleaning and sanitization supplies and services, training and professional development related to health and safety practices, purchases of or updates to equipment and supplies to respond to the COVID–19 public health emergency, goods and services necessary to maintain or resume child care services, and mental health supports for children and employees
  - ▶ Funds remain available until the end of fiscal year (FY) 2024).

- ▶ **\$25.401 million for Head Start** (Sec. 2203).
  - ▶ Recognized Tribes and Tribal non-profits are eligible for funding.
  - ▶ Funds will be allocated based on the Head Start Act
  - ▶ Funds remain available until expended.



- ▶ **\$19 million is Survivors of Family Violence** (Sec. 2204).
  - ▶ Funding may be used to support culturally specific community-based organizations to provide culturally specific activities for survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence; to address emergent needs resulting from the COVID-19 public health emergency and other public health concerns; and to promote strategic partnership development and collaboration in responding to the impact of COVID-19 and other public health concerns on survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence.
  - ▶ Of this:
    - ▶ **\$18 million must be allocated for Tribal Family Violence and Prevention Act grantees**; and
    - ▶ **\$1 million must be allocated for Stronghearts Native Helpline**.
  - ▶ Funds remain available until expended.

- ▶ **\$2.5 million for Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment** (Sec. 2205).
  - ▶ No no state match.
  - ▶ Funds remain available until expended.
- ▶ **\$1.75 billion for COVID-19 gene sequencing and surveillance** (Sec. 2402)
  - ▶ Funds can be used to conduct, expand, and improve activities to sequence genomes, identify mutations, and survey the circulation and transmission of viruses and other organisms, including strains of SARS–CoV–2;
  - ▶ Tribal health departments are eligible for funding and can enter into cooperative agreements with states and localities.

- ▶ **\$30 million for Local Substance Use Disorder services including Overdose Prevention** (Sec. 2706).
  - ▶ Recognized Tribes and Tribal non-profit organizations are eligible for funding.
  - ▶ Use of funds is outlined in Section 2706(b).
- ▶ **\$50 million for Behavioral Health Grants** (Sec. 2707)
  - ▶ Recognized Tribes and Tribal non-profit organizations are eligible for funding.
  - ▶ Funds can be used for prevention, intervention, crisis management, substance abuse treatment, and telehealth, among other things.
  - ▶ Use of funds is outlined in Section 2707(b)(2).

- ▶ **\$4.5 billion for Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program** (Sec. 2911).
  - ▶ Recognized Tribes and Tribal non-profit organizations are eligible for grants.
  - ▶ Only 7 Alaska recognized tribes and 6 Alaska Native non-profit organizations are administering this funding.
  - ▶ See Low Income Home Energy Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 8623) for more information.

- ▶ **\$15 million is for Water Bills** (Sec. 2912).
  - ▶ Recognized Tribes are eligible for grants to assist “low income individuals, particularly those with the lowest incomes,” pay drinking water bills.
  - ▶ Funds remain available through FY 2022.
- ▶ **\$25 million billion for Older American and Family Support** (Sec. 2941)
  - ▶ Recognized Tribes, Tribal non-profit organizations, and Alaska Native corporations are eligible for grants.
  - ▶ Funds remain available until expended.

▶ **\$100 million for Rural Housing Assistance.**

- ▶ Purpose is to provide grants temporary adjustment of income losses for residents of housing financed or assisted under certain provisions of the Housing Act of 1949 who have experienced income loss but are not currently receiving Federal rental assistance.

- ▶ **\$7.66 billion for Public Health Workforce.**
  - ▶ Funds may be used for wages, benefits, recruiting, training, PPE, technology, supplies, and administrative costs are eligible uses of funds.
  - ▶ No Tribal Set-Aside BUT “**a non-profit private or public organization**” is IF it has demonstrated expertise implementing public health programs, AND has established relationships with such state or local public health department, Particularly in medically underserved areas (*i.e.*, ANTHC, etc.)
- ▶ **\$1.5 billion for block grants for community mental health services** (Sec. 2701).
- ▶ **\$1.5 billion for block grants for prevention and treatment of substance abuse** (Sec. 2702).

- ▶ **\$80 million for mental health and substance use disorder training for health care professionals AND public safety officers** (Sec. 2703).
  - ▶ Funds administered by the Secretary of Health and Human Services.
  - ▶ Focus is on the “needs of rural and medically underserved communities...to award grants or contracts to ...State or local governments, Indian tribes and Tribal organizations, OR other public or private nonprofit entities (or consortia of entities) (Section 2703(b).
  - ▶ The terms “Indian tribe” and “Tribal organization” are not defined in the new law, but the Department would probably use an existing definition.
- ▶ **\$100 million for Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training** (Sec. 2711).
  - ▶ See 42 U.S.C. 294e-1 for details.
- ▶ **\$420 million for Expansion Grants for Community Behavioral health clinics** (Sec. 2713).
  - ▶ Eligible clinics criteria outlined in 42 U.S.C. 1396a.



# Title III – Banking, Housing, Urban Affairs

- ▶ **\$498 million under the newly established Homeowner Assistance Fund** program for recognized Tribes, Tribally Designated Housing Entities (TDHEs), and the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (Sec. 3206).
  - ▶ Funds may be spent to prevent mortgage delinquencies, defaults, foreclosures, utilities assistance, and the displacement of homeowners experiencing financial hardship due to COVID-19.
  - ▶ The formula allocation mirrors the Rental Assistance Program in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES);
  - ▶ At least 60% of allocations must be allocated to assist homeowners who meet certain income guidelines;
  - ▶ Tribes that do not participate in the Indian Housing Block Grant must “opt in” no later than 30 days after enactment of ARPA in order to participate;
  - ▶ Treasury must begin making payments to Tribes, TDHEs, and the Department of Hawaiian Homelands no later than 45 days after ARPA’s enactment.
  - ▶ Funds remain available until the end of fiscal year (FY) 2025.

- ▶ **\$500 million for the State Small Business Credit Initiative** (Sec. 3301).
  - ▶ Recognized Tribes are eligible to participate for the first time.
  - ▶ Treasury Department must begin making allocations within 60 days of the enactment of ARPA.
  - ▶ Allocations will be based on employment and economic data.
    - ▶ BUT interested Tribal governments had to file a notice of intent with the Department no later than 30 days after enactment of ARPA to be eligible for funding.

- ▶ **\$35 million in Federal Transit Administration Grants** (Sec. 3401).
  - ▶ Funding can be used to support tribal transit agencies impacted by COVID-19.
  - ▶ Of this:
    - ▶ **\$30 million will be allocated through the Rural Areas formula grants**; and
    - ▶ **\$5 million will be allocated through through discretionary grants**.
  - ▶ Funds remain available until the end of FY 2024.

# Title IX –Finance

- ▶ **\$74.85 million for Pandemic Emergency Assistance** (Sec. 9201).
  - ▶ Recognized Tribes and Tribal organizations that participate in the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) are eligible for funding.
  - ▶ Funds will remain available until expended.
- ▶ **\$400 million for Child Care Assistance** (Sec. 9801).
  - ▶ Recognized Tribes and Tribal organizations that receive annual mandatory funding under the Child Care Entitlement program are eligible for funding.

- ▶ **\$20.6 billion in Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds** (Sec. 9901).
  - ▶ \$20 billion tribal set-aside, of which
    - ▶ **\$1 billion will be allocated equitably among all 574 recognized Tribes; and the other**
    - ▶ **\$19 billion will be allocated by the Treasury Secretary on a discretionary basis.**
  - ▶ Recognized Tribes are eligible for funding.
  - ▶ Funds can be used to respond to the negative health and economic impacts of COVID-19, including providing premium pay to essential workers; replacing lost revenues necessary to support government services; and investing in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure.
  - ▶ Funds must be allocated within 60 days of the enactment of ARPA.
  - ▶ Funds remain available through December 31, 2024.

- ▶ **\$500 million for Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Fund.**
  - ▶ Funding may be used for any governmental activity, except lobbying.
  - ▶ Recognized Tribes are eligible for funding.
  - ▶ Funding will be distributed over the next two fiscal years and remain available until the end of FY 2023.
- ▶ **\$100 million for Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund.**
  - ▶ Equal payments of no less than \$50,000 will be made to each recognized Tribe and the State of Hawaii to carry out critical capital projects in response to COVID-19.
  - ▶ Recognized Tribes are eligible to apply for funding.
  - ▶ Funding must be allocated within 60 days after the enactment of ARPA.
  - ▶ Funds remain available until expended.

# Title IX – Indian Affairs

23

- ▶ **\$6.094 billion for the Indian Health Service** (Sec. 1101).
  - ▶ Funding may be used to address the impacts of COVID-19 on the operation of essential health and sanitation programs.
  - ▶ Of this:
    - ▶ **\$2.34 billion must be used for vaccine campaigns, testing, tracing, mitigation efforts, and expanding or sustaining a public health workforce;**
    - ▶ **\$2 billion must be used for lost third party medical billing reimbursements;**
    - ▶ **\$600 million must be used for construction, maintenance, and improvement of facilities and sanitation systems in Native homes;**
    - ▶ **\$500 million must be used for clinical health services and Purchased/Referred Care;**
    - ▶ **\$420 million must be used for expenses related to mental and behavioral health prevention services, treatment services, IT improvement, telehealth expansion, and facilities construction or improvement;**
    - ▶ **\$140 million must be used for improving health IT and telehealth access;** and
    - ▶ **\$10 million must be used for potable water delivery.**
  - ▶ Funds remain available until expended.

- ▶ **\$900 million to address the impacts of COVID-19 on Social Welfare and Public Safety Programs (Sec. 1102).**
  - ▶ Of this:
    - ▶ **\$772.5 million must be allocated for government services** (*i.e.*, assistance to Tribal governments, public safety, and child welfare programs);
    - ▶ **\$100 million must be allocated for the Bureau's Housing Improvement Program;**
    - ▶ **\$20 million must be allocated potable water delivery;**  
and
    - ▶ **\$7.5 million must be allocated for administrative costs and oversight.**
  - ▶ Interior Department cannot consider assistance provided to Tribes with these funds for determining eligibility for the "Small and Needy" Tribes program.
  - ▶ Funds remain available until expended.



- ▶ **\$750 million for Housing Assistance and Support Services** (Sect. 11003).
  - ▶ Of this:
    - ▶ **\$450 million must be allocated for the Indian Housing Block Grant program;**
    - ▶ **\$280 million must be allocated for the Indian Community Development Block Grant program;**
    - ▶ **\$10 million must be allocated for technical assistance;**
    - ▶ **\$5 million must be allocated for the Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grant program;** and
    - ▶ **\$5 million must be allocated for administrative costs and oversight.**
  - ▶ Recipients may use funds for eligible COVID-19-related expenses incurred since January 21, 2020.
  - ▶ Funds remain available until the end of FY 2025.

- ▶ **\$20 million for Native Language Preservation and Maintenance** (Sec. 11004).
  - ▶ Grants are available to Native American language communities to mitigate COVID-19 related disruptions or threats to the survival and continued vitality of their mother tongues.
  - ▶ Health Department must establish a method to award these grants within 180 days of enactment of ARPA.
  - ▶ Eligibility for these new grants is limited to entities eligible to receive other language grants from the Administration for Native Americans.
  - ▶ Funds will remain available until expended.
- ▶ **\$190 million for American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian Education** (Sec. 11006).
  - ▶ Funding is made available for eligible organizations to support Tribal education agencies, Native Hawaiian education organizations, and Alaska Native education organizations eligible for funding under Title VI of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.
  - ▶ \$85 million must be allocated for grants to Native Hawaiian education organizations;
  - ▶ \$85 million must be allocated for grants to Alaska Native education organizations.
  - ▶ These remain available until expended, but the Department must allocate them within 180 days of enactment of ARPA.

# Contact Information

27

Nicole Borromeo

Executive Vice President and General Counsel

Alaska Federation of Natives

3000 A St., Ste. 210

Anchorage, AK 99503

[nborromeo@nativefederation.org](mailto:nborromeo@nativefederation.org)

(907) 263-1310