

Issue: Economy

## Democrats Deliver the American Rescue Plan to Virginia

### Historically progressive, bold legislation

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARP) is historically progressive, bold legislation designed for sustained economic recovery, recognizing that it will not be possible without advancing racial equity. Even though *not one* Republican in the U.S. House or Senate voted for this \$1.9 trillion stimulus package, including the four Republican U.S. Representatives from Virginia, it was successfully passed by Congress and signed into law by President Joseph R. Biden on March 11, 2021.

The ARP is considered one of the most progressive legislative packages to pass into law in the history of the U.S., for the reasons listed in box below.<sup>1, 2, 3, 4</sup> This legislation addresses the health and economic crises created by the COVID-19 pandemic (see box on page two),<sup>5, 6, 7, 8, 9</sup> and in an extraordinary approach, the economic stimulus package serves as a down payment on racial equity.<sup>10</sup>

#### Support for those hardest hit by COVID-19

- An average family in the bottom 20 percent will see their income increase by 20 percent.
- Child poverty will drop by half.
- American's indigenous communities will receive \$32.1 billion in aid, the most significant investment in America's indigenous people.
- Black farmers will receive \$5 billion in aid following a century of discrimination and dispossession, allowing many to survive overwhelming debt and keep their land.
- Broadband connectivity and digital equity will be addressed through several different funds.

The ARP has three major components:<sup>11</sup>

- **Contain COVID-19 and safely reopen schools**, by building a nationwide vaccine program, providing supplies, emergency response, testing, and a public health workforce to stop the spread of COVID-19 while addressing the racial disparities in COVID-19 outcomes and providing community-based, culturally competent care. Also, help schools serve all students regardless of location, safely reopen the majority of K-8 schools, ensure that states and districts meet the learning loss and social and emotional needs of students disproportionately affected by COVID-19, including students of color, English learners, and students with disabilities.
- **Deliver immediate cash and other relief to working families that have borne the brunt of this public health and economic crisis**, in the form of \$1,400 stimulus checks, providing nutrition and housing assistance, expanding access to childcare and affordable healthcare, extending unemployment insurance, and issuing significant tax credits.

- **Support struggling communities hardest hit by COVID-19**, in the form of grants and lending to small businesses enabling them to rehire and purchase sanitation equipment needed to create a healthy workplace. Provide capital to small businesses, including the Small Business Opportunity Fund, which is designed to support economically disadvantaged areas, including businesses owned by people of color. Help transit agencies avoid layoffs and reduced service schedules. Support state, local, territorial, and tribal governments suffering significant revenue losses to keep front-line public employees working while also distributing the vaccine, scaling testing, and continuing vital services.

#### As of June 29, 2021, Virginia:

- has had 680,065 COVID-19 cases and 11,412 deaths,
- has administered 9,028,951 vaccines doses, and
- has been in a state of emergency for 441 days.

#### March 2020

The first case of COVID-19 in Virginia was reported on March 7, 2020. A week later, the first death from COVID-19 was reported. By March 19, Virginia's public schools and state universities had shifted to online classes. On March 23, Gov. Ralph Northam issued an executive order closing all non-essential businesses and banning public gatherings of 10 or more people. State agencies and major companies moved to telework. Metro services were significantly reduced. Hotels, restaurants, and theaters closed—many never to reopen. In Virginia, cases of COVID-19 and filings for unemployment insurance both grew exponentially.

#### June 2021

After fifteen months of the pandemic, what has become undeniably clear is that Virginians of color have suffered significantly greater losses than have white Virginians. Black and Latinx families have suffered greater rates of COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, and deaths than white families. People of color had a higher likelihood of lost wages. The economic crisis crushed low-wage jobs often held by Black and Latinx workers. They are less likely to have access to broadband at home to enable a shift to online classes and telework. They have fewer healthcare resources in their communities and are less likely to access the vaccine.

## Democrats Provide Stewardship for Virginia's Future

It is not just individuals and businesses that will receive stimulus funds—the Commonwealth of Virginia's government will control a significant portion of the nearly \$4 billion in ARP funds directed toward Virginia. To ensure these ARP funds are spent in an effective, equitable, and racially just manner, as intended in the legislation, it is critically important that Democrats continue to control Virginia's legislature and the executive branch.

Already, fiscal conservatives are developing plans to block use of the ARP funds. Eva Marie Stahl of Community Catalyst, Health Policy Hub describes the conservatives on the state level as mobilizing to block use of ARP funds:

“For example, fiscal conservatives are already advancing a set of principles for how state and local governments should use the federal funding. These include limiting the use of funds to short-term projects and squirreling away funds to shield states from future tax hikes; these responses are short-sighted. The infusion of resources is an opportunity to advance a progressive agenda that leverages ARP funds for transformation that directly addresses inequity.”<sup>12</sup>

## Recovery and Rebuilding for Virginians

Virginia is expected to receive nearly \$7.4 billion from the State and Local Government Fiscal Recovery Funds and the Capital Projects Funds. In the aggregate, over seven million state residents will receive more than \$9.3 billion in stimulus payments. The ARP includes significant tax credits, the extension of unemployment benefits, increased SNAP benefits, and housing assistance for Virginians. In addition, the ARP includes support for healthcare, education, transit, small businesses, and broadband connectivity.<sup>13</sup>

### Basics: Individuals and Families

#### Economic Impact Payments—Stimulus Checks

More than 7 million Virginians will receive stimulus checks from the federal government. The American Rescue Plan Act provides a third round of stimulus checks in the amount of \$1,400 for qualifying tax filers based on adjusted gross income (AGI) and filing status. Those who qualify are:

- Individuals with an AGI of up to \$75,000
- Heads of households with an AGI up to \$112,000
- Married, filing jointly with an AGI up to \$150,000<sup>14</sup>

You can check the status of your stimulus check at this [link](#).<sup>15</sup>

#### Recovery Rebate Credit – 2020 Economic Impact Payments

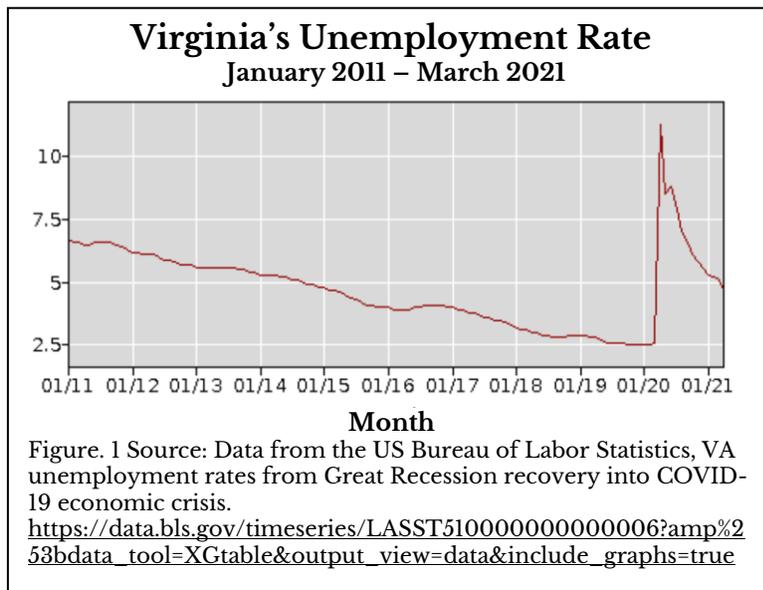
Some eligible Virginians may not have received their earlier 2020 Economic Impact Payments. For example, if they did not file a tax return in 2019, it is likely they did not receive either payment. Alternatively, they may not have received a payment in 2019 if their income was too high but could have qualified for such a payment in 2020 if their income dropped below the threshold.

Earlier stimulus checks were considered advance payments towards the Recovery Rebate Credits that could be claimed in tax credits. These two earlier payments were paid in tranches of \$1,200 and \$600. The Recovery Rebate Credit allows people to claim earlier rounds of Economic Impact Payments they may have missed. Missed Economic Impact Payments will be received in the form of tax refunds. To claim the Recovery Rebate for missed stimulus checks enter your claim on line 30 on form 1040 or 1040-SR.<sup>16</sup>

These same rules will apply for missed current \$1,400 stimulus checks when Americans file their taxes in 2022.<sup>17</sup>

## Unemployment benefits

Following consistent decreases since the Great Recession, the unemployment rate in Virginia soared from 2.6 percent in March 2020 to 11.3 percent in April 2020, as shown in Figure 1. Although the unemployment rate has steadily improved since April 2020, the Virginia unemployment rate continues to be significantly elevated, and stood at 5.1 percent, nearly twice the pre-COVID-19 unemployment rate.<sup>18</sup>



The ARP provides billions in additional federal relief for struggling Virginians who are out of work through no fault of their own by extending the historic unemployment insurance reforms established in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, (CARES Act), through the week ending September 4, 2021.

The ARP extends the Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (PUC), the \$300 weekly federal enhancement in benefits, as well as Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) federal unemployment

insurance for workers who exhaust their regular state benefits. The ARP also extends Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) for the self-employed, gig workers, freelancers, and others in non-traditional employment.<sup>19</sup>

At least 256,320 Virginians would have faced the possibility of losing benefits in March or April 2021 had the programs not been extended.<sup>20</sup>

## Housing Stability

### Rent and Mortgage Assistance

To provide housing stability across Virginia, the ARP provides rental assistance for renters as well as funds for landlords. Virginia will receive \$524 million for emergency rental assistance.<sup>21</sup>

Funds in the ARP for rental assistance are allocated to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and disbursed to the Virginia Rent Relief Program which is administered by Virginia Housing. Both tenants and landlords may apply for relief. For more information about the Virginia Rent Relief Program [click here](#).

Support is also available to homeowners in Virginia through the Homeowners Assistance Fund. Funds are allocated by the U.S. Department of Treasury to states, territories, and tribes. Virginia is expected to receive between \$154 million and \$276 million to help homeowners struggling to afford their mortgage payments, utility bills including internet, and other housing costs.<sup>22</sup>

Housing assistance is also available for members of Virginia's indigenous communities. The Indian Housing Block Grant Program is administered by the Department of Housing and Urban Development. The following tribes in Virginia will receive housing assistance grants:<sup>23</sup>

- Chickahominy Indian Tribe in Providence Forge - \$181,184
- Chickahominy Indian Tribe-Eastern Division in Providence Forge - \$35,624
- Monacan Indian Nation in Amherst- \$208,875
- Nansemond Indian Tribe in Suffolk - \$97,413
- Pamunkey Indian Tribe in King William - \$35,007
- Rappahannock Tribe, Inc. in Indian Neck - \$44,068
- Upper Mattaponi Tribe in King William - \$122,075

## Homelessness

Under the ARP, Virginia will receive \$97 million in funding to reduce homelessness or aid those at risk of homelessness and to provide access to affordable and safe housing.<sup>24</sup> The funding is allocated to the Homeless Assistance and Supportive Services program under HUD and distributed by HOME, Investments Partnership program. The grants have been awarded to 21 recipient organizations across Virginia. See [Appendix A](#) (page 17) for the list of grant recipients.

## Tax credit expansions, lifting children and childless workers out of poverty

The ARP tax credit expansions provide changes to the Earned Income Tax credit, Child Tax Credit, and the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit.

### Earned Income Tax Credit

The Earned Income Tax Credit will benefit an estimated 417,000 workers in Virginia.<sup>25</sup> These are typically low wage workers and childless workers.<sup>26</sup>

### Child Tax Credit

Prior to the passage of the ARP, the child tax credit was \$2,000 per child under the age of 17. The actual tax credit amount depends on the income and taxes owed by the tax filer. In some cases, a taxpayer can get a tax refund but only up to the amount in taxes that they owe, not to exceed \$2,000. Tax filers must have earned \$2,500 during the tax year to receive a refund from the child tax credit.<sup>27</sup> Those taxpayers whose income taxes were zero or very small would receive a maximum payment of \$1,400 from the Additional Child Tax Credit. The existing child tax credit benefitted middle class families while excluding the poorest families.

Because the child tax credit did not kick in until a family earned \$2500, twenty-seven million children across the US including half of all Black and Latinx families and forty-five percent of all rural families did not qualify for the child tax credit or qualified for a partial child tax credit because their parents' wages were too low.<sup>28</sup>

The ARP changes the Child Tax Credit in important ways. It now includes children aged 17. It increases the maximum credit amount from \$2,000 to \$3,000 per child ages 6 to 17, and to \$3,600 for children younger than 6 for many families. It is fully refundable. This means if the Child Tax Credit is greater than the calculated taxes, the full amount of the credit above the calculated taxes is

paid to the taxpayer. Payments for half the refund can be received in amounts of \$250-\$300 throughout the year, so that families can benefit before tax filing time.<sup>29</sup> Families can verify their eligibility or opt out of advance payments at the [IRS Child Tax Credit Portal](#).<sup>30</sup> Note that families whose 2021 income exceeds eligibility limits should opt out of advance payments so they are not hit with owing the IRS when they file their taxes in 2022.

The child tax credit is astonishingly impactful. It will lift 4.1 million American children above the poverty line, cutting the number of children living in poverty by 40 percent.<sup>31</sup> In Virginia, 85,000 children will be lifted above the poverty line as a direct result of the child tax credit. The details are shown in the Table 1.<sup>32</sup> The Child Tax Credit changes are limited to one year because Republicans would not agree to permanent changes. Democrats in the U.S. Congress are actively working to make the changes permanent in new legislation. If the changes are not made permanent, those children lifted out of poverty will likely return to poverty next year.

**Table 1. Child Tax Credit Expansion under the American Rescue Plan Act**

Estimated number of Virginia children who will benefit from Child Tax Credit Expansion				
Children under age 17 left out of full \$2000 tax credit in prior law who will benefit from expansion	Children under 18 lifted above poverty line as a result of expansion	Children under 18 lifted above or up closer to the poverty line as a result of expansion	Children under 18 who will benefit from expansion	Share of children under 18 who will benefit from expansion
530,000	85,000	249,000	1,591,000	86%

Source: For children left out of the full \$2000 Child Tax Credit, data is from the Tax Policy Center national estimate allocated by state based on Center for Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP) analysis of American Community Survey (ACS) data for 2016-2018. For remaining columns, preliminary CBPP analysis of ACS data for 2016-2018. Poverty calculations also use US Census Bureau Supplemental Poverty Measure research files for ACS. <https://www.cbpp.org/research/federal-tax/american-rescue-plan-act-includes-critical-expansions-of-child-tax-credit-and>

Estimated number of Virginia children left out of full \$2000 tax credit in prior law by race and ethnicity.					
Total	White	Black	Latinx	Asian	Another race or multiple races
530,000	194,000	178,000	103,000	17,000	39,000

Source: Tax Policy Center national estimate allocated by state and by race and ethnicity based on CBPP analysis of ACS data for 2016-2018. <https://www.cbpp.org/research/federal-tax/american-rescue-plan-act-includes-critical-expansions-of-child-tax-credit-and>

Estimated number of Virginia children under 18 who will benefit from expanded Child Tax Credit under American Rescue Plan Act by race and ethnicity.					
Total	White	Black	Latinx	Asian	Another race or multiple races
1,591,000	822,000	336,000	230,000	84,000	119,000

Source: Preliminary CBPP analysis of the March 2019 Current Population Survey (national estimate) allocated by state and race or ethnicity based on CBPP analysis of ACS data for 2016-2018. <https://www.cbpp.org/research/federal-tax/american-rescue-plan-act-includes-critical-expansions-of-child-tax-credit-and>

## Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit

For the 2021 tax year, the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit has been increased. The percentage of qualifying expenses has increased from 35 to 50 percent, and eligible families can claim qualifying child and dependent care expenses of up to:

- \$8,000 for one qualifying individual, an increase from \$3,000 in prior years, or
- \$16,000 for two or more qualifying individuals, an increase from \$6,000 before 2021.

These changes result in a tax credit of up to \$4,000 for one person or \$8,000 for two or more people. For the first time, the tax credit is fully refundable. This means if the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit is greater than the calculated taxes, the full amount of the credit above the calculated taxes is paid to the taxpayer.

In addition, under the new law, more people will qualify for the new maximum 50 percent of qualifying expenses credit rate. The AGI level at which the credit percentage is reduced has been increased substantially from above \$15,000 to above \$125,000.<sup>33</sup>

## Child Care

The COVID-19 economic crisis has devastated the childcare sector. As businesses closed in March 2020, enrollment in Virginia's childcare centers and family daycares dropped sharply. Childcare workers are low-wage workers, usually women, and often people of color or immigrants. The average hourly wage in Virginia for childcare workers is \$12.67.<sup>34</sup> Increased costs due to PPE, sanitizer, and 50 percent capacity restrictions have compounded financial pressures on Virginia's childcare sector. As parents return to work, a serious childcare shortage has emerged. Not only are there fewer placements available, but costs have soared. In Virginia, the cost of center-based childcare has *increased by 79 percent* and home-based childcare by *64 percent*.<sup>35</sup> Since March 2020, approximately 2 million women across the US have left the workplace during the COVID-19 pandemic, disproportionately due to caregiving needs. Although fathers have returned to the workforce, women often those without 4-year college degrees have not returned to the workplace as quickly. The shortages and cost prohibitive rates have significantly delayed women returning to the workforce. The emerging childcare crisis has long-lasting effects on women. The longer women are absent from the workforce, the more likely they will receive lower wages compared with men upon re-entry. As a result, the gender pay gap is expected to increase by 5 percent.<sup>36</sup> The ARP includes childcare assistance for Virginia's families. The funds are administered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).<sup>37</sup>

- Virginia Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG) programs - \$306 million. Provides subsidies for low-income families to access childcare. In Virginia, these programs are administered at the county level.
- Virginia Child Care Stabilization Grants - \$490 million.<sup>38</sup> Funds can be spent on wages, benefits, rent, cleaning and sanitation supplies, services, and other goods and services to maintain or resume childcare services. The funds are administered by the Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS).

## Education

COVID-19 has profoundly disrupted student education in Virginia. The pattern of enrollment has changed significantly from pre-pandemic to mid-pandemic. Most notable is the decline in enrollment for pre-kindergarten and kindergarteners. These children who have never enrolled in public school are increasingly being referred to as the “missing children.” The Brookings Institution in partnership with the Division of School Readiness at the Virginia Department of Education compared enrollment data from 2019 and 2020. Decreases in pre-kindergarten and kindergarten enrollment were 20 percent and 13 percent, respectively. The drop in enrollment was most pronounced for pre-kindergarteners considered economically disadvantaged; that rate was 32 percent.<sup>39</sup>

### K-12 Schools

The ARP provides \$2.11 billion to Virginia’s Department of Education for the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) fund administered by the U.S. Department of Education.<sup>40</sup>

The funds for K-12 schools are to support school districts in reopening safely for in-person instruction and addressing the many needs students are facing due to the pandemic. A portion of the funds are targeted towards addressing learning loss, providing resources through the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), and implementing summer enrichment and afterschool programs. The ESSER funds include funding for Wi-Fi hotspots and devices for students without access to remote learning (see [Appendix D](#), page 22, for more information on broadband connectivity funding).

### Post-Secondary Institutions

The ARP’s Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF III) is making critical investments in colleges and universities that serve the students most impacted by COVID-19 by providing \$846 million (across the U.S.). Funding is for Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities, Hispanic-Serving Institutions, and Asian American and Native American Pacific-Islander Serving Institutions. Using a new formula, colleges and universities must distribute half of their allocation to students in the form of financial aid awards to address hardships caused by COVID-19. The remaining portion of the funds can be used on reopening costs, revenue losses, classroom retrofits, personal protective equipment (PPE), and other expenses.<sup>41</sup>

### Head Start and Early Start Programs

Head Start and Early Start programs in Virginia will be receiving \$16.557 million.<sup>42</sup> Grantees are encouraged by the Office of Head Start under HHS to use the funds for extending the program year or summer programs. Currently, Head Start is serving one third fewer children than prior to the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. Grantees are also encouraged to prioritize serving children who are rising kindergartners, children with disabilities, children with housing or food insecurity, and children who did not receive any in-person services this year.<sup>43</sup>

## Healthcare

### Virginia's Health Centers

Twenty-six of Virginia's federally qualified health centers (FQHC) are receiving nearly \$80 million from the ARP.<sup>44</sup> These funds are for COVID-19 vaccine distribution, testing, treatment of vulnerable populations, and delivery of primary and preventive care services for those people at higher risk for COVID-19. The funds may also be used for workforce expansion to support these efforts through staff, equipment, and other infrastructure including modifying existing structures or adding mobile units. Community health centers receive funding through the Health Services and Resources Administration under HHS.<sup>45</sup> They are located in federally designated, medically underserved areas or serve medically underserved populations. See [Appendix B](#), page 19, for a list of the community health centers in Virginia receiving funds from the ARP.

### Health Insurance

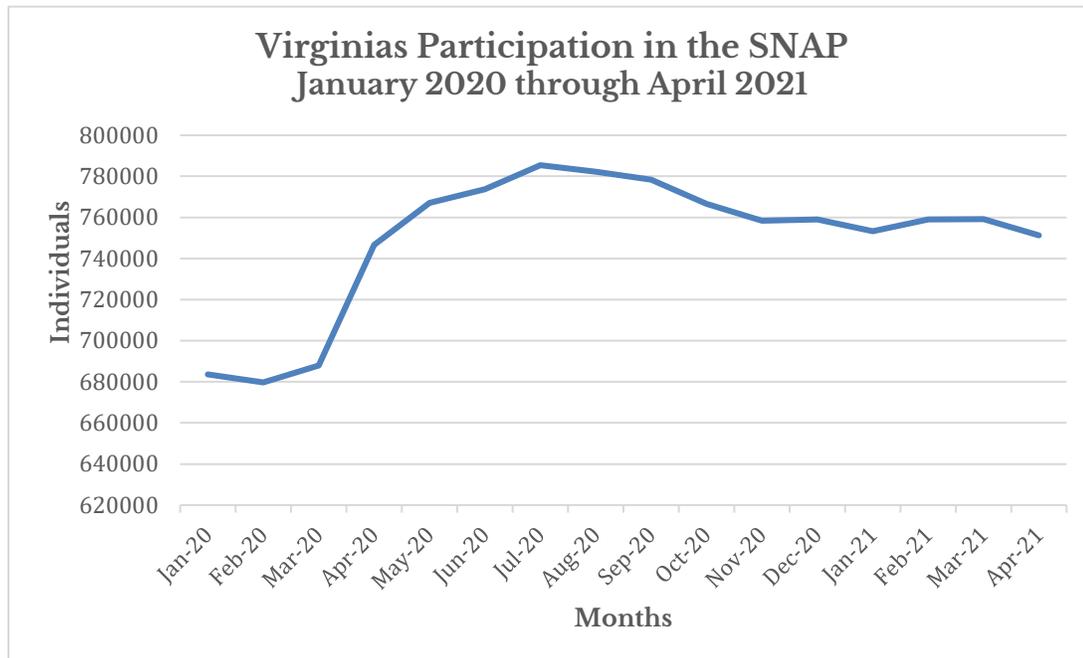
Job losses between February and May 2020 resulted in the greatest increase of uninsured individuals in U.S. history.<sup>46</sup> These record-breaking numbers of uninsured occurred during the worst public health crisis in a century. In May 2020, 14 percent of Virginia's non-elderly adult population was uninsured. The ARP contains a comprehensive effort to decrease the number of uninsured people, through means such as:

- Enhanced ACA Marketplace Exchange subsidies. Virginians currently eligible for the ACA Marketplace subsidies will receive increased subsidies. The ARP reduces the percentage of ones' income that one must pay in premiums.<sup>47</sup> Current enrollees must update their accounts at [HealthCare.gov](https://www.healthcare.gov) to take advantage of new savings. The special enrollment period has been extended to August 15, 2021.<sup>48</sup>
- Enabling silver plans for enrollees with incomes 100-150% of the federal poverty level. Four out of five enrollees will be able to find a plan for \$10 or less/month after premium tax credits, and over 50% will be able to find silver plans for \$10 or less. Silver plans offer lower cost sharing for enrollees.<sup>49</sup>
- Extending subsidies for people purchasing health insurance on the ACA marketplace who have incomes over 400 percent of the poverty level. Capping the percentage of income one pays for health insurance at 8.5 percent will reduce the cost of premiums and increase the number of individuals that qualify for a tax subsidy.<sup>50</sup>
- Providing federal COBRA subsidies up to 100 percent of healthcare plan premiums. Subsidies will be available from April through September 2021 and paid through tax credits.<sup>51</sup>

Premiums after these new savings will decrease, on average, by \$50 per person per month or by \$85 per policy per month. Four out of five enrollees will be able find a plan for \$10 or less/month after premium tax credits, and over 50% will be able to find a Silver plan for \$10 or less.

## Food Security

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). It is considered the front-line defense against hunger in the U.S. The number of Virginians suffering from food insecurity has increased significantly during the COVID-19 pandemic. SNAP recipients increased by 10.5 percent from March 2020 to April 2021; see Figure 2.



**Figure 2.** Created using data from the Commonwealth of Virginia, Department of Social Services monthly SNAP participation reports<sup>52</sup>

The ARP provides the following to combat hunger:<sup>53</sup>

- Extends the 15 percent increase in SNAP benefits through September 30, 2021.
- Supports states as they respond to increased demand for SNAP benefits, over a 3-year period and does not require matching from states.
- Extends the Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer (P-EBT). This is a supplemental benefit for households with children who have temporarily lost access to free or reduced-price school meals due to pandemic-related school closures.
- Allows young adults up to age 24 to be eligible to receive Child and Adult Food Care meals at homeless and youth-serving shelters.
- Increases funds for participants in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women Infant and Children (WIC) to purchase additional fruits and vegetables for 4 months. The cash-value voucher benefits will increase from \$9 per child and \$11 for pregnant, postpartum, and breastfeeding mothers to \$35 temporarily for each child and adult each month.<sup>54</sup> USDA has offered each state WIC agency the choice to opt-in and participate in the increased benefits. Virginia has opted in to offer increased benefits for fruits and vegetables.<sup>55</sup>

## Aid to Virginia Veterans

In addition to the above, the American Rescue Plan has recognized the critical impact that COVID has had on our veteran population and their families. Having one of the largest veteran populations in the country, these programs in Virginia are vital to both the personal and economic recovery of a vital segment of our community with the APR providing:<sup>56</sup>

- Resources for health care debt forgiveness.
- Funds for housing improvements for vulnerable veterans.
- Help for veterans to resolve claims and VA appeals and receive compensation and services faster.
- Support for veterans experiencing unemployment.
- Stimulus payments, increased child tax credit, and expanded childcare tax credits for veterans with children.
- Grants for small businesses owned and controlled by Veterans.
- Critical assistance in the form of a robust job-training program to help thousands of veterans who lost their jobs due to COVID-19.

More detailed information for veteran-specific funds availability is provided by the Department of Veteran's Affairs.<sup>57</sup>

## Help for Small Businesses in Virginia

The COVID-19 pandemic has placed enormous pressure on Virginia's small businesses, and many have closed their doors. Others have had to cut back or lay off employees. Over 31 percent of Virginia's small businesses that closed during the pandemic have yet to reopen.<sup>58</sup>

The ARP provides support for small business owners and their employees. The following amounts are across the U.S. The funds are administered by the Small Business Administration:<sup>59</sup>

- \$7.25 billion for the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) in forgivable Second Draw PPP loans to keep workers on the payroll.
- \$15 billion for the Targeted Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) Advance Program
- \$28.6 billion for a new Restaurant Revitalization Fund to provide grants to help small local restaurants, bars, and craft breweries stay in business and keep their workers employed. To provide comprehensive support to local restaurants, grants from the fund can be used alongside first and second PPP loans, Small Business Administration (SBA) Economic Injury Disaster Loan assistance, and the Employee Retention Tax Credit.
- \$1.25 billion for the Shuttered Venue Operators Grant (SVOG) Program to support live entertainment venues. Venue operators can access both PPP and SVOGs.
- \$10 billion in new funding for the State Small Business Credit Initiative to help small businesses grow and create jobs.

## Agriculture and Rural Virginia

### Strengthening the Food Supply

Early in the COVID-19 pandemic, the U.S. food supply chain began to break down. Prior to the public health crisis, the U.S. food supply was considered productive and efficient at moving food from farms to grocery store channels and food service. To the public during COVID-19, this was experienced as empty shelves at the grocery store. In addition to limited supplies at the grocery store, there was significant food waste because of closed restaurants and cafeterias while the country was shutdown.<sup>60</sup> There were frequent reports of farmers being unable to sell their crops, resulting in the loss of an entire season of crops for the food supply chain. An analysis of the food supply chain found systemic breakdowns, which were summarized as a lack of flexibility, specifically an inability to reallocate food where needed. The U.S. food supply chain was unable to switch from food service channels to increasing supply to grocery stores. This led to farmers leaving crops to rot in fields and dumping truckloads of produce because there were no buyers.<sup>61</sup>

In February, the Biden Administration announced the creation of a government-wide supply chain task force focused on four areas including the food supply chain. The key findings of the Supply Chain Taskforce were published in June 2021.<sup>62</sup> Based on the findings related to the food supply chain, the USDA is making a significant investment in strengthening the food supply chain across the entire U.S. by investing four billion dollars in funds to strengthen the food system, support food production, including improved investments in distribution and aggregation, and making markets fair and competitive for U.S. goods.

### Addressing Racist Policies: Help for Black Farmers

Virginia's Black farmers have suffered over many decades from systemic discrimination and a cycle of debt as a direct result of racist policies at the USDA. Black farmers have been disadvantaged by discriminatory loans and lack of federal subsidies made available to white farmers and have struggled to succeed. The 1920 census records report 233,222 Black farmers in the U.S. and 31,000 Black farmers in Virginia. In stark contrast, current census data records report there are now only 24,672 Black farmers across the U.S. Moreover, out of 44,000 Virginia farmers, only 1,865 are Black.<sup>63</sup> The challenges faced by Black farmers are compounded by disproportionate rates of COVID-19 infection, hospitalizations, death, as well as incredible economic suffering.

"This is the most significant piece of legislation with respect to the arc of Black land ownership in this country," said Tracy Lloyd McCurdy, executive director of the Black Belt Justice Center, which provides legal representation to Black farmers.<sup>64</sup>

The ARP is taking unprecedented steps in not only assisting marginalized communities, but also by righting the wrongs of a century of racist policies towards Black farmers:

- \$4 billion toward debt relief for socially disadvantaged farmers to pay off burdensome debts that have prevented many farmers of color from making a living or taking advantage of opportunities to grow or explore value-added strategies.
- \$1.01 billion in funding to the USDA to create a racial equity commission and address longstanding discrimination across the USDA by investing in land access, outreach, education, assistance overcoming barriers to access USDA programs, business development, and more.<sup>65</sup>

This relatively small portion of the ARP's \$1.9 trillion budget is nonetheless a very important step towards addressing historical and ongoing economic inequities toward Black farmers.

## Support and Infrastructure Development for Rural Communities

Even prior to the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic, rural communities were more vulnerable to public health and economic crises than their urban and suburban counterparts.<sup>66</sup> Members of rural communities tend to be older, surviving on lower wages, and have fewer resources. In addition, many rural areas are classified as medical deserts.<sup>67</sup> There were and continue to be critical shortages of hospitals, specialists, and providers. The existing hospitals are less likely to have ICUs and trauma centers.<sup>68</sup> Further compounding the crisis is the lack of widely available broadband infrastructure in rural areas that would support telehealth, working remotely, and shifting to online education.<sup>69</sup>

The ARP provides support targeted for the needs of rural communities:

- \$500 million (across the U.S.) in funds for the Community Facilities Program administered by USDA for the creation of an emergency rural healthcare grant program. The program will award grants to non-profit health care providers in rural areas with lower than median incomes. Grantees can use the funds for vaccine distribution, medical supplies, lost revenue, telehealth costs, and capital projects.<sup>70</sup>
- \$8.5 billion (across the U.S.) administered by the HHS for healthcare providers and suppliers including federally designated rural health clinics (RHC) to be used for COVID-19 related healthcare expenses and lost revenue.<sup>71</sup>
- \$100 million (across the U.S.) through September 2022 in rental assistance funds for low-income and elderly borrowers living in USDA multi-family housing units.<sup>72</sup>
- \$39 million through September 2023 to help refinance direct loans under the Single-Family Housing Loan Program and the Single-Family Housing Repair Loans & Grants.<sup>73</sup>

## Aid to State and Local Governments

State, local, territorial, and tribal governments have been under unprecedented strain during the public health and economic crises created by the COVID-19 pandemic. While the need for services has significantly increased—including setting up emergency medical facilities, establishing vaccination sites, and supporting struggling small businesses—state and local tax revenue has dropped significantly.

The ARP will provide Virginia with significant funding for state and local governments to assist with costs associated with responding to COVID-19. Virginia will receive \$7.4 billion in local and state government assistance funds.

State government funds:

- \$4.3 billion State Fiscal Recovery Fund<sup>74</sup>
- \$222 million Capital Projects Fund<sup>75</sup>

Local government direct relief funds:

- \$1.66 billion Counties<sup>76</sup>
- \$618 billion Metropolitan Areas<sup>77</sup>
- \$633 million Cities, Towns, and Villages<sup>78</sup>

**State and Local Government Fiscal Recovery Funds** can be used for the following needs:

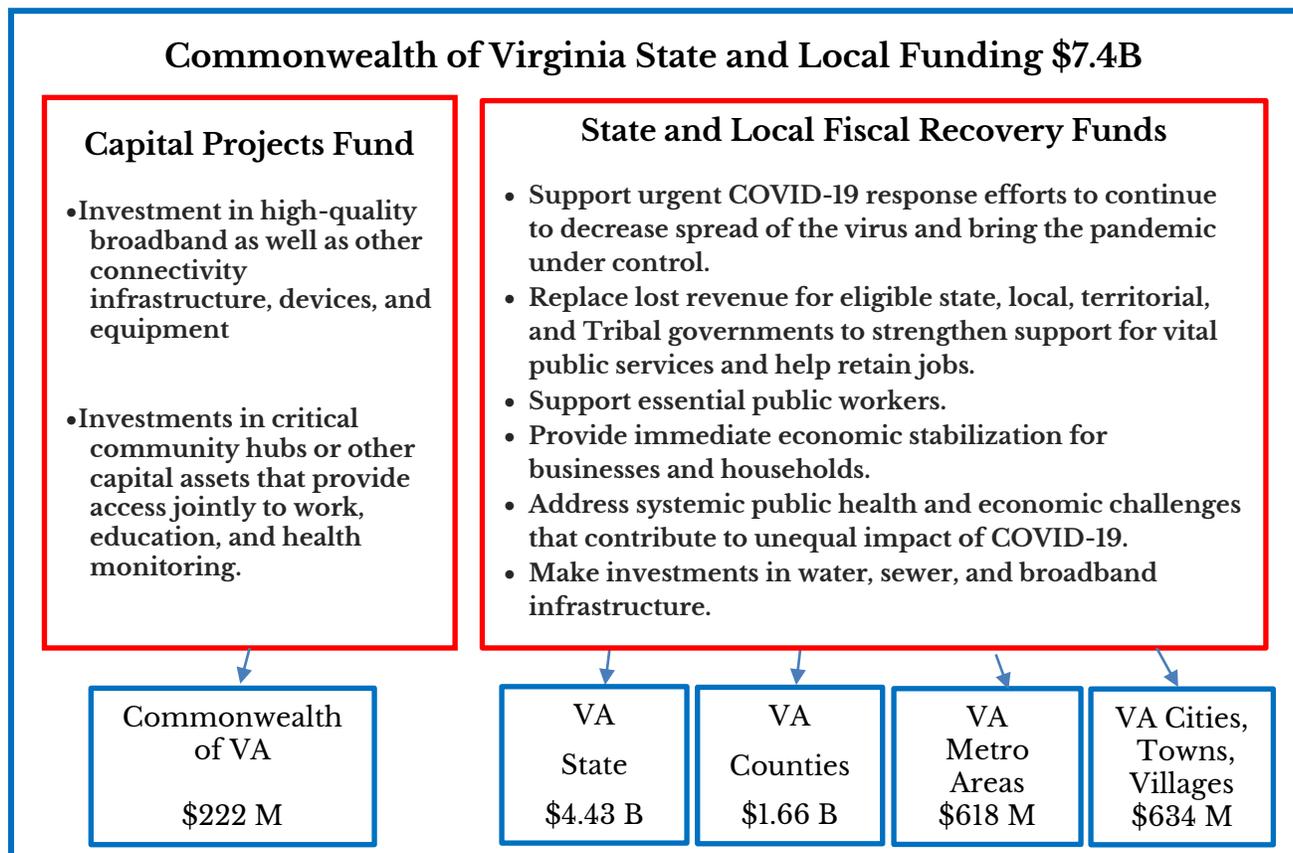
- Support urgent COVID-19 response efforts to continue to decrease spread of the virus and bring the pandemic under control.
- Replace lost revenue for eligible state, local, territorial, and tribal governments to strengthen support for vital public services and help retain jobs.
- Support immediate economic stabilization for households and businesses.
- Address systemic public health and economic challenges that have contributed to the unequal impact of the pandemic.

This funding includes substantial flexibility for supporting essential workers during the COVID-19 pandemic, replacing losses of revenue caused by the public health and economic crises, and making necessary investments in infrastructure including sewer, water, and broadband.<sup>79</sup>

These funds are formula grants. Each municipal government is entitled to receive a calculated share of the \$65.1 billion (U.S. wide total) to allocate to cities, towns, and villages. These are not competitive grants. Local governments are required to submit an application or document their needs in advance.<sup>80</sup> The funds cannot be used by state and local governments to offset tax cuts, to pay down unfunded pension liabilities or create a “rainy day” fund.<sup>81</sup>

**Capital Projects Fund** is for state governments to build out broadband and other infrastructure projects. The projects are intended to increase the connectivity needed for education, work, and healthcare.

The State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds and the Capital Project Funds are two major funds within the ARP contributing to broadband development. See [Appendix D](#), page 22, for more information on broadband connectivity and digital equity funding.<sup>82</sup>



## Transportation

The Department of Transportation, which includes the Federal Transit Administration (see [Appendix C](#), page 20) is receiving ARP funds in three areas of transportation to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic:

- Transit – Funds to help transit agencies avoid lay-offs, support operating costs, including payroll and PPE expenses. The funds are also intended to support rural transit agencies, transit service for the elderly and individuals with disabilities, and transit on tribal lands.<sup>83</sup>
- Aviation – Funds to support operations, personnel, and sanitation, including rent relief and other costs of airport concessionaires primarily directed toward small businesses and minority-owned firms. The funds also provide for the establishment of an Aviation Manufacturing Payroll Support Program to protect aviation manufacturing jobs.<sup>84</sup>
- Amtrak – Funds for the restoration of daily long-distance routes, recall of furloughed employees, and for helping states recover lost revenue from state-supported routes.<sup>85</sup>

## Conclusion

The ARP is historically progressive, bold legislation to ensure the U.S. makes a long-lasting recovery from the COVID crisis and its long-term economic and healthcare consequences, including those related to racial equity. It addresses the food, housing, income, healthcare, and education needs of individuals and families affected by COVID-19. The ARP also funds the needs of state and local government that arose from the COVID-19 public health and economic crises. It addresses government responsibilities such as containing the ongoing pandemic, safely re-opening schools, supporting disadvantaged communities, restoring lost tax revenue, and supporting small businesses.

Although the ARP is well funded, the legislation places tremendous responsibilities on the Commonwealth of Virginia's state government and its local governments. The public trust placed in the government requires their complete compliance with the ARP fiduciary requirements. These funds give state and local governments the tools and means to serve as effective stewards for a healthier, economically stable, and more racially just future for Virginia.

It is critical to the success of the ARP that Virginia's General Assembly and executive branch work together in unison. States elsewhere in the country have begun fighting over control of the ARP funds, something that threatens to derail the essential progress the ARP will engender if successfully executed. A number of state legislatures were in session at the time the ARP was signed into law and, rather than proceed in a cooperative manor to benefit the state, some have already proposed legislation limiting their respective executive branches' control of the ARP funds.<sup>86</sup>

Twenty-five states with Republican governors have announced that they are backing out of the federal pandemic unemployment benefits early. Most are backing out of all the federal unemployment benefits including the PUC, PUA, and PEUC, but some are only backing out of the \$300 weekly supplement provided by PUC (see [page 3](#) for information on unemployment benefits).<sup>87</sup> The Republican governors have argued that extension of unemployment benefits is delaying economic recovery by leaving jobs unfilled. Contrary to this popular conservative trope, this argument is not founded in fact. Unemployment benefits result in millions of dollars spent in local communities. In addition, unemployment rates continue to be higher than pre-pandemic levels. Lack of childcare and fear of COVID-19 are considered the primary drivers for jobs remaining unfilled in specific sectors.<sup>88</sup> Employers most vocal about worker shortages rely on a unempowered, non-unionized, low wage, mostly Black and Latinx workforce who typically lack a strong voice for

representation.<sup>89</sup> Because the federal unemployment benefits are 100 percent federally funded and delivered to workers at no cost to the state, this move is economically short-sighted and will hurt workers of color the hardest. Blacks are disproportionately represented as claimants for unemployment, which is unsurprising as both the public health and economic crises have had a greater impact on people of color.<sup>90</sup> For example, fifty percent of South Carolina’s unemployment claimants are Black, as are 54 percent of Alabama’s, and 66 percent of Mississippi’s.

On May 12, 2021, a joint statement from Gov. Ralph Northam, House Speaker Eileen Filler-Corn, Senate President *pro tem* Louise Lucas, and additional General Assembly leaders set forth their shared priorities for the ARP funds. Their statement speaks for itself:

“This is a unique opportunity to invest in Virginia’s long-term future. We intend to be good stewards of these taxpayer dollars, in full compliance with fiduciary guidelines. We reject calls to refuse these federal dollars, and we support the law’s prohibition on cutting state taxes to substitute federal dollars. We embrace this rare opportunity, and we choose to invest. We stand united on how to position Virginia for the future.”<sup>91</sup>

Gov. Northam has called the General Assembly to reconvene in special session on August 2, 2021, at which they time will begin allocating critical ARP funds totaling over \$4 billion.<sup>92</sup>

**In the upcoming general election of November 2, 2021, all 100 seats are up for reelection in the House of Delegates, as well as the Governor, Lt. Governor, and Attorney General seats. Democrats currently control the House of Delegates with a 55-45 majority. A two-thirds majority is required for a veto-proof majority. The State Senate currently is controlled by Democrats with a 21-19 majority. The State Senate seats will not be up for reelection until 2023. With razor-thin margins, it is essential to maintain solid Democratic majorities in both the State House and Senate to ensure Virginia not only recovers—but aggressively excels—in leading us out of the COVID-crisis. This is not a time to be fearful or short-sighted, otherwise its aftermath is bound to linger for years, or even generations to come.**

## Note on funding numbers

All of the foregoing funding numbers are based on ongoing programs, specific amounts and availability of which are subject to change over time. For future reference, primary sources to refer to for core funding numbers at the national and state-level include:

- [H.R.1319 - American Rescue Plan Act of 2021](#) - text of complete law.<sup>93</sup>
- [ARP Alerts](#) – Sign up for alerts/updates to actions, bill text, cosponsors, or summaries.<sup>94</sup>
- [Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds](#)<sup>95</sup>  
[American Rescue Plan Benefits for Virginians](#)<sup>96</sup>

## Appendices

- A. Homelessness and Support Services Grant Recipients
- B. Health Care Centers Grant Recipients
- C. Transportation and Airports
- D. Broadband Connectivity and Digital Equity

### Appendix A

#### Homelessness and Support Services Grant Recipients

Name	State	Award Amount
Alexandria	VA	\$2,243,216
Chesapeake	VA	\$2,004,685
Danville	VA	\$990,667
Hampton	VA	\$1,954,965
Lynchburg	VA	\$1,498,471
Newport News	VA	\$2,795,087
Norfolk	VA	\$4,517,686
Portsmouth	VA	\$1,540,476
Richmond	VA	\$5,840,854
Roanoke	VA	\$2,449,336
Virginia Beach	VA	\$3,840,395
Arlington County	VA	\$2,628,564
Chesterfield County	VA	\$2,124,036
Fairfax County	VA	\$7,884,566
Henrico County	VA	\$3,216,865
Prince William County	VA	\$3,350,574

Name	State	Award Amount
VA Non-Entitlement	VA	\$39,724,473
CNSRT-Charlottesville*	VA	\$2,452,270
CNSRT-Suffolk*	VA	\$1,451,291
CNSRT-Blacksburg*	VA	\$2,161,332
CNSRT-Winchester*	VA	\$2,312,718

Source: <https://www.kaine.senate.gov/press-releases/warner-and-kaine-announce-more-than-96-million-from-american-rescue-plan-to-combat-homelessness-a>

Funding is through the new Homeless Assistance and Supportive Services program that is administered by US Department of Housing and Urban Development. The grants will be awarded to 21 recipient organizations across Virginia. and distributed by HOME, Investments Partnership program.

\*Local governments that would not otherwise qualify for funding are able to form a consortium (CNSRT) with other contiguous units of local government as a way to directly participate in the HOME program. The local government that serves as the consortium’s representative, also known as the lead entity, assumes overall responsibility for compliance with the HOME program requirements.

## Appendix B

### Health Care Centers Grant Recipients

Location	City	Amount
Neighborhood Health	Alexandria	\$7,893,875
Blue Ridge Medical Center Inc.	Arrington	\$1,861,750
Bland County Medical Clinic	Bastian	\$1,595,375
Free Clinic of the New River Valley, Inc.	Christiansburg	\$1,492,000
Piedmont Access to Health Services, Inc	Danville	\$3,666,625
Clinch River Health Services, Inc	Dungannon	\$950,375
Harrisonburg Community Health Center, Inc.	Harrisonburg	\$3,441,625
St. Charles Health Council, Inc.	Jonesville	\$3,021,125
Tri-Area Community Health	Laurel Fork	\$1,990,750
Loudoun Community Health Center	Leesburg	\$3,976,500
Rockbridge Area Free Clinic	Lexington	\$1,629,000
Johnson Health Center	Lynchburg	\$4,305,625
Martinsville Henry County Coalition for Health and Wellness	Martinsville	\$1,435,875
Highland Medical Center	Monterey	\$822,750
Central Virginia Health Services, Inc.	New Canton	\$8,864,625
Peninsula Institute for Community Health, Inc	Newport News	\$4,659,500
Eastern Shore Rural Health System, Inc	Onancock	\$5,704,750
Portsmouth Community Health Center, Inc.	Portsmouth	\$2,767,125
Daily Planet, Inc	Richmond	\$2,259,375
Richmond, City of	Richmond	\$2,991,625
Kuumbra Community Health and Wellness Center, Inc.	Roanoke	\$2,461,625
Southwest VA Community Health Systems, Inc	Saltville	\$3,039,750
Stony Creek Community Health Center	Stony Creek	\$889,500
Southern Dominion Community Health Systems, Inc.	Victoria	\$2,379,875
Horizon Health Services, Inc.	Waverly	\$1,159,250
Greater Prince William Area, Community Health Center, Inc	Woodbridge	\$4,647,375

Source: <https://bphc.hrsa.gov/program-opportunities/american-rescue-plan/awards/va>

## Appendix C

### Transportation & Public Transit

Public Transit Location	Amount
Blacksburg	\$6 million
Bristol (TV_VA)	\$324,115
Charlottesville	\$5.3 million
Fredericksburg	\$817,426
Hampton Roads	\$56 million
Harrisonburg	\$884,390
Kingsport (TN-VA)	\$542,634
Lynchburg	\$3.4 million
Richmond	\$30 million
Roanoke	\$3.4 million
Staunton-Waynesboro	\$219,506
Williamsburg	\$3 million
Winchester	\$247,677
DC Metro including WMATA*	\$1.4 billion

\*Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority includes the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia.

Airport	Amount
Washington Dulles International Airport	\$84 million
Ronald Reagan Washington National	\$82 million
Richmond International Airport	\$18.5 million
Norfolk International Airport	\$16.8 million
Charlottesville	\$5 million
Roanoke-Blacksburg Regional Airport/Woodrum Field	\$4.9 million
Newport News/Williamsburg International Airport	\$3.1 million
Lynchburg Regional Airport/Preston Glenn Field	\$1.8 million
Shenandoah Valley Regional Airport	\$1.1 million
Leesburg Executive Airport	\$148,000
Virginia Highlands Airport (Abingdon)	\$59,000
Virginia Tech/Montgomery Executive Airport	\$59,000
Culpeper Regional Airport	\$59,000
Danville Regional Airport	\$59,000

New River Valley Airport (Dublin)	\$59,000
Blue Ridge Airport (Martinsville)	\$59,000
Chesapeake Regional Airport	\$59,000
Hampton Roads Executive Airport	\$59,000
Richmond Executive-Chesterfield County Airport	\$59,000
Hanover County Airport	\$59,000
Warrenton-Fauquier Airport	\$59,000
Winchester Regional Airport	\$59,000
Franklin Regional Airport	\$32,000
Front Royal-Warren County Airport	\$32,000
Twin County Airport (Galax Hillsville)	\$32,000
Louisa County Airport/Freeman Field	\$32,000
Luray Caverns Airport	\$32,000
Mountain Empire Airport (Marion/Wytheville)	\$32,000
Accomack County Airport	\$32,000
Orange County Airport	\$32,000
Dinwiddie County Airport	\$32,000
New Kent County Airport	\$32,000
William M. Tuck Airport (South Boston)	\$32,000
Mecklenburg-Brunswick Regional Airport	\$32,000
Stafford Regional Airport	\$32,000
Suffolk Executive Airport	\$32,000
Tappahannock-Essex County Airport	\$32,000
Middle Peninsula Regional Airport	\$32,000
Emporia-Greenville Regional Airport	\$22,000
Farmville Regional Airport	\$22,000
Ingalls Field (Hot Springs)	\$22,000
Lee County Airport	\$22,000
Tazewell County Airport	\$22,000
Tangier Island Airport	\$22,000
Lonesome Pine Airport (Wise)	\$22,000

Source: <https://www.warner.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/2021/3/icymi-how-virginia-benefits-under-the-american-rescue-plan>

## Appendix D

### ARP Funds that Include Broadband and Digital Equity Uses

ARP Provision	Funding and Expiration	Recipients	Physical Network Build-out	Device Support	Broadband Connectivity Subscription Support	Digital Literacy Training
Elementary and Secondary Emergency Relief Fund	\$122,775 billion through Sept 30, 2023	Local educational agencies		x	x	
Institute of Museum and Library Services	\$200 million until expended	State Library administrative agencies	x	x	x	x
Economic Adjustment Services	\$3 billion through Sept 30, 2022	Dept of Commerce, states and communities	x			
Homeowner Assistance Fund	\$9.961 billion through Sept 30, 2025	States, territories, and Tribal governments			x	
Emergency Connectivity Fund	\$7.171 billion through Sept 30, 2030	Schools and libraries	x	x	x	
Cornonavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund	\$219.8 billion through 2024	States, territories, and Tribal governments	x	x	x	x
Cornonavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund	\$13.2 billion through 2024	Metro areas, counties, cities, towns and villages	x	x	x	x
Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund	\$10 billion until expended	States, territories, and Tribal governments	x	x		
Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Fund	\$2 billion through Sept 30, 2023	Revenue sharing counties and Tribal governments	x	x	x	x

Source: <https://www.brookings.edu/research/the-american-rescue-plan-is-the-broadband-down-payment-the-country-needs/>

- 
- <sup>1</sup> <https://www.taxpolicycenter.org/model-estimates/american-rescue-plan-act-2021-senate-version-february-2021/t21-0039-major-individual>
- <sup>2</sup> <https://tcf.org/content/commentary/american-rescue-plan-cut-child-poverty-nearly-half/>
- <sup>3</sup> <https://www.indian.senate.gov/news/press-release/senate-passes-largest-investment-native-programs-history-more-31-billion-heading>
- <sup>4</sup> <https://www.npr.org/2021/03/17/978288305/black-farmers-will-receive-stimulus-aid-after-decades-of-usda-discrimination>
- <sup>5</sup> <https://www.virginia.gov/coronavirus/>
- <sup>6</sup> <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/covid-19-vaccine-summary/>
- <sup>7</sup> <https://www.virginiabusiness.com/article/the-pandemic-one-year-later/>
- <sup>8</sup> <https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2020/05/30/865413079/what-do-coronavirus-racial-disparities-look-like-state-by-state>
- <sup>9</sup> [https://www.cbpp.org/research/poverty-and-inequality/tracking-the-covid-19-recessions-effects-on-food-housing-and#\\_ftnrefl](https://www.cbpp.org/research/poverty-and-inequality/tracking-the-covid-19-recessions-effects-on-food-housing-and#_ftnrefl)
- <sup>10</sup> <http://schottfoundation.org/blog/2021/03/12/american-rescue-plan-first-deposit-toward-racial-equity-stimulus>
- <sup>11</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/American-Rescue-Plan-Fact-Sheet.pdf>
- <sup>12</sup> <https://www.communitycatalyst.org/blog/top-five-things-to-ensure-the-success-of-the-american-rescue-plan-act#.YMzv0WhKg2w>
- <sup>13</sup> <https://www.kaine.senate.gov/press-releases/kaine-statement-on-american-rescue-plan-becoming-law>
- <sup>14</sup> <https://www.forbes.com/advisor/personal-finance/who-is-eligible-for-the-third-stimulus-check/#:~:text=The%20IRS%20uses%20your%20tax,AGI%20of%20up%20to%20%2475%2C000>
- <sup>15</sup> <https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/get-my-payment>
- <sup>16</sup> <https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/recovery-rebate-credit>
- <sup>17</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/live/2021/stimulus-check-plan-details>
- <sup>18</sup> [https://data.bls.gov/timeseries/LASST51000000000006?amp%253bdata\\_tool=XGtable&output\\_view=data&include\\_graphs=true](https://data.bls.gov/timeseries/LASST51000000000006?amp%253bdata_tool=XGtable&output_view=data&include_graphs=true)
- <sup>19</sup> <https://www.vec.virginia.gov/covid19>
- <sup>20</sup> <https://www.warner.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/2021/3/icymi-how-virginia-benefits-under-the-american-rescue-plan>
- <sup>21</sup> <https://www.dhcd.virginia.gov/rmrp>
- <sup>22</sup> <https://www.kaine.senate.gov/coronavirus/housing-assistance>
- <sup>23</sup> <https://www.kaine.senate.gov/press-releases/warner-and-kaine-announce-more-than-700000-for-housing-assistance-for-virginia-tribes>
- <sup>24</sup> <https://www.kaine.senate.gov/press-releases/warner-and-kaine-announce-more-than-96-million-from-american-rescue-plan-to-combat-homelessness-across-virginia>
- <sup>25</sup> <https://www.kaine.senate.gov/press-releases/icymi-how-virginia-benefits-under-the-american-rescue-plan>
- <sup>26</sup> <https://www.cbpp.org/research/federal-tax/american-rescue-plan-act-includes-critical-expansions-of-child-tax-credit-and>
- <sup>27</sup> <https://www.taxpolicycenter.org/briefing-book/what-child-tax-credit>
- <sup>28</sup> <https://www.cbpp.org/research/federal-tax/expanding-child-tax-credit-and-earned-income-tax-credit-would-benefit-more>
- <sup>29</sup> <https://home.treasury.gov/news/featured-stories/fact-sheet-the-american-rescue-plan-will-deliver-immediate-economic-relief-to-families>
- <sup>30</sup> <https://www.irs.gov/credits-deductions/child-tax-credit-update-portal>
- <sup>31</sup> <https://www.cbpp.org/research/federal-tax/american-rescue-plan-act-includes-critical-expansions-of-child-tax-credit-and>
- <sup>32</sup> <https://www.cbpp.org/research/federal-tax/american-rescue-plan-act-includes-critical-expansions-of-child-tax-credit-and>
- <sup>33</sup> <https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/irs-offers-overview-of-tax-provisions-in-american-rescue-plan-retroactive-tax-benefits-help-many-people-now-preparing-2020-returns#:~:text=Child%20and%20dependent%20care%20credit%20increased%20for%202021%20only&text=For%202021%2C%20the%20top%20credit,%243%2C000%20in%20prior%20years%2C%20or>
- <sup>34</sup> <https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes399011.htm>
- <sup>35</sup> <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/early-childhood/reports/2020/09/03/489900/true-cost-providing-safe-child-care-coronavirus-pandemic/>

- <sup>36</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/04/15/fact-sheet-biden-harris-administration-announces-american-rescue-plan-funding-to-rescue-the-child-care-industry-so-the-economy-can-recover/>
- <sup>37</sup> <https://www.clasp.org/publications/fact-sheet/child-care-estimates-american-rescue-plan>
- <sup>38</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/04/15/fact-sheet-biden-harris-administration-announces-american-rescue-plan-funding-to-rescue-the-child-care-industry-so-the-economy-can-recover/>
- <sup>39</sup> <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/brown-center-chalkboard/2021/02/22/understanding-covid-19-era-enrollment-drops-among-early-grade-public-school-students/>
- <sup>40</sup> <https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/department-education-announces-american-rescue-plan-funds-all-50-states-puerto-rico-and-district-columbia-help-schools-reopen>
- <sup>41</sup> <https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/us-department-education-makes-available-36-billion-american-rescue-plan-funds-support-students-and-institutions>
- <sup>42</sup> <https://www.warner.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/2021/3/icymi-how-virginia-benefits-under-the-american-rescue-plan>
- <sup>43</sup> <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/policy/pi/acf-pi-hs-21-03>
- <sup>44</sup> <https://bphc.hrsa.gov/program-opportunities/american-rescue-plan/awards/va>
- <sup>45</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/03/25/fact-sheet-biden-administration-announces-historic-10-billion-investment-to-expand-access-to-covid-19-vaccines-and-build-vaccine-confidence-in-hardest-hit-and-highest-risk-communities/>
- <sup>46</sup> <https://familiesusa.org/resources/the-covid-19-pandemic-and-resulting-economic-crash-have-caused-the-greatest-health-insurance-losses-in-american-history/>
- <sup>47</sup> <https://www.commonwealthfund.org/blog/2021/what-does-american-rescue-plan-mean-health-care-coverage>
- <sup>48</sup> <https://www.scc.virginia.gov/newsreleases/release/Marketplace-Open-through-August-15;-Potential-for>
- <sup>49</sup> <https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/fact-sheets/american-rescue-plan-and-marketplace>
- <sup>50</sup> <https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/fact-sheets/american-rescue-plan-and-marketplace>
- <sup>51</sup> Ibid
- <sup>52</sup> [https://www.dss.virginia.gov/geninfo/reports/financial\\_assistance/fs.cgi](https://www.dss.virginia.gov/geninfo/reports/financial_assistance/fs.cgi)
- <sup>53</sup> <https://frac.org/news/frachailssenatepasstageofamericanrescueact>
- <sup>54</sup> <https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2021/04/28/usda-incentivize-purchase-fruits-and-vegetables-under-wic-4-months>
- <sup>55</sup> <https://www.fns.usda.gov/wic/state-agency-elections-temporary-cvv-benefit-increases-arp-2021>
- <sup>56</sup> <https://vademocrats.org/news/the-american-rescue-plan-has-delivered-critical-relief-for-virginia-veterans/>
- <sup>57</sup> <https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5639&emci=f2885b62-c9bf-eb11-a7ad-501ac57b8fa7&emdi=14d6dc62-d2bf-eb11-a7ad-501ac57b8fa7&ceid=2290553>
- <sup>58</sup> [https://www.insidenova.com/news/state/covid-19-small-business-closures-in-virginia-pegged-at-31-6/article\\_42c88f02-bf23-54a9-b36e-45879052afb0.html](https://www.insidenova.com/news/state/covid-19-small-business-closures-in-virginia-pegged-at-31-6/article_42c88f02-bf23-54a9-b36e-45879052afb0.html)
- <sup>59</sup> <https://www.sba.gov/article/2021/mar/11/american-rescue-plan-act-elevates-small-business-support-response-covid-19-pandemic>
- <sup>60</sup> <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/aep.13085>
- <sup>61</sup> <https://news.asu.edu/20201113-arizona-impact-asu-experts-examine-breakdown-food-supply-chain-during-pandemic>
- <sup>62</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/06/08/fact-sheet-biden-harris-administration-announces-supply-chain-disruptions-task-force-to-address-short-term-supply-chain-discontinuities/>
- <sup>63</sup> <https://www.virginiamercury.com/2018/12/04/growing-forward-facing-historic-and-modern-challenges-virginias-black-farmers-look-to-bolster-ranks-and-grow-their-communities/>
- <sup>64</sup> <https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2021/03/08/reparations-black-farmers-stimulus/>
- <sup>65</sup> <https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2021/03/10/fact-sheet-united-states-department-agriculture-provisions-hr-1319>
- <sup>66</sup> <https://www.ruralhealthweb.org/about-nrha/about-rural-health-care>
- <sup>67</sup> <https://www.rasmussen.edu/degrees/health-sciences/blog/medical-deserts/>
- <sup>68</sup> [https://www.sc.edu/uofsc/posts/2020/03/COVID\\_Rural\\_Health.php#.YNPQjuhKg2w](https://www.sc.edu/uofsc/posts/2020/03/COVID_Rural_Health.php#.YNPQjuhKg2w)
- <sup>69</sup> [https://www.localmajority.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/VA.RuralBroadband.20190818.FB\\_.pdf](https://www.localmajority.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/VA.RuralBroadband.20190818.FB_.pdf)
- <sup>70</sup> <https://www.usda.gov/arp>
- <sup>71</sup> <https://www.narhc.org/News/28784/American-Rescue-Plan-Provides-9-Billion-for-Rural-Providers>
- <sup>72</sup> <https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2021/03/29/biden-harris-administration-extends-moratorium-residential>
- <sup>73</sup> Ibid
- <sup>74</sup> <https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/fiscalrecoveryfunds-statefunding1-508A.pdf>
- <sup>75</sup> <https://www.multistate.us/insider/2021/3/16/american-rescue-plan-act-673-billion-for-state-and-local-governments>
- <sup>76</sup> [https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/fiscalrecoveryfunds\\_countyfunding\\_2021.05.10-1a-508A.pdf](https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/fiscalrecoveryfunds_countyfunding_2021.05.10-1a-508A.pdf)
- <sup>77</sup> <https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/fiscalrecoveryfunds-metrocitiesfunding1-508A.pdf>

- 
- <sup>78</sup> <https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/fiscalrecoveryfunds-nonentitlementfunding1-508A.pdf>
- <sup>79</sup> <https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/coronavirus/assistance-for-state-local-and-tribal-governments/state-and-local-fiscal-recovery-funds>
- <sup>80</sup> <https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/coronavirus/assistance-for-state-local-and-tribal-governments/state-and-local-fiscal-recovery-funds>
- <sup>81</sup> <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/the-avenue/2021/05/13/four-takeaways-on-new-guidance-for-state-and-local-fiscal-relief-under-the-american-rescue-plan/>
- <sup>82</sup> <https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/coronavirus/assistance-for-state-local-and-tribal-governments/capital-projects-fund>
- <sup>83</sup> <https://www.transit.dot.gov/funding/american-rescue-plan-act-2021#:~:text=The%20relief%20funds%20will%20be,demonstrate%20additional%20pandemic%20associated%20needs.>
- <sup>84</sup> [https://www.faa.gov/airports/airport\\_rescue\\_grants/](https://www.faa.gov/airports/airport_rescue_grants/)
- <sup>85</sup> <https://railroads.dot.gov/newsroom/press-releases/us-transportation-secretary-pete-buttigieg-announces-169-billion-amtrak>
- <sup>86</sup> <https://www.ncsl.org/research/fiscal-policy/the-great-debate-who-has-the-authority-to-spend-federal-stimulus-funds.aspx>
- <sup>87</sup> <https://www.cnn.com/2021/06/07/states-will-be-ending-federal-unemployment-benefits-this-week.html>
- <sup>88</sup> <https://www.politifact.com/article/2021/may/17/no-it-isnt-clear-unemployment-checks-are-main-reas/>
- <sup>89</sup> <https://tcf.org/content/commentary/fact-sheet-whats-stake-states-cancel-federal-unemployment-benefits/>
- <sup>90</sup> <https://tcf.org/content/commentary/fact-sheet-whats-stake-states-cancel-federal-unemployment-benefits/>
- <sup>91</sup> <https://www.governor.virginia.gov/newsroom/all-releases/2021/may/headline-895119-en.html>
- <sup>92</sup> <https://www.governor.virginia.gov/newsroom/all-releases/2021/june/headline-898041-en.html>
- <sup>93</sup> <https://www.kaine.senate.gov/coronavirus>
- <sup>94</sup> <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/1319>
- <sup>95</sup> <https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/coronavirus/assistance-for-state-local-and-tribal-governments/state-and-local-fiscal-recovery-funds>
- <sup>96</sup> <https://www.kaine.senate.gov/coronavirus>