



Navigating the American Rescue Plan Act's Relief for Children, Youth, and Families Experiencing Homelessness

The American Rescue Plan Act provides significant new resources to meet the education, early care, food, housing, and other basic needs of children, youth, and families experiencing homelessness. This navigation tool is designed to help early care, educators, and service providers navigate the major funding streams and connect with local and state agencies to help families and youth access assistance.

Areas of assistance include:

1. [K-12 Education Support \(Targeted specifically to children, youth, and families experiencing homelessness\)](#)
2. [K-12 Education Support \(General\)](#)
3. [Child Care](#)
4. [Homeless Assistance \(Shelter & Housing\)](#)
5. [Homeless Assistance \(Emergency Housing Vouchers\)](#)
6. [Rental Assistance](#)
7. [Technology and Connectivity](#)
8. [Food](#)
9. [Head Start](#)
10. [Health Care](#)
11. [Higher Education](#)
12. [Income Support](#)
13. [Mental Health Support](#)

AREA OF NEED: K-12 EDUCATION SUPPORT (TARGETED SPECIFICALLY TO CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS)

Name of Program(s)	What it Provides	Who is Eligible	Who Administers it in My Community
ARP Homeless Children and Youth (ARP HCY)	Funding dedicated to support the identification, enrollment, and school participation of children and youth experiencing homelessness, including through wrap-around services.	Children and youth experiencing homelessness under the education subtitle of the McKinney-Vento Act	Local educational agencies

AREA OF NEED: K-12 EDUCATION SUPPORT (GENERAL)

Name of Program(s)	What it Provides	Who is Eligible	Who Administers it in My Community
ARP Elementary and Secondary Education Relief Fund (ARP ESSER)	Funding set-asides to address learning loss and the unique needs of marginalized student groups, including students experiencing homelessness, through evidence-based interventions, taking into account social, emotional needs and the disproportionate impact of the pandemic on these students.	Children and youth experiencing homelessness under the education subtitle of the McKinney-Vento Act	Local educational agencies

AREA OF NEED: CHILD CARE

Name of Program(s)	What it Provides	Who is Eligible	Who Administers it in My Community
Child Care and Development Fund	Subsidies for low income families to access stable, high-quality child care services.	Children under the age of 13, whose household income does not exceed 85% of the state median income level for a household of its size, in addition to citizenship and residency requirements . States are also allowed to	Click here to locate a local child care provider.

		<p>implement state-specific two-tier income eligibility requirements, so ensure to check the relevant state agency website for your state’s CCDF income eligibility level.</p> <p>NOTE: Children experiencing homelessness under the education subtitle of the McKinney-Vento Act must be prioritized for enrollment.</p>	
--	--	--	--

AREA OF NEED: HOMELESS ASSISTANCE (SHELTER AND HOUSING)

Name of Program(s)	What it Provides	Who is Eligible	Who Administers it in My Community
ARP HOME Investment Partnership Program	Tenant-based rental assistance, affordable housing development, supportive services for those not already receiving services, acquisition and rehabilitation/development of non-congregate shelters which may be used as shelter or converted to permanent affordable housing.	HUD’s definition of homeless , HUD’s definition of at-risk (which includes families and youth experiencing homelessness under the education subtitle of the McKinney-Vento Act), persons fleeing or attempting to flee situations of domestic abuse, trafficking, or stalking.	Find your local HOME Investments Partnership Program here .

AREA OF NEED: HOMELESS ASSISTANCE (EMERGENCY HOUSING VOUCHERS)

Name of Program(s)	What it Provides	Who is Eligible	Who Administers it in My Community
ARP Emergency Housing Choice Vouchers	Housing assistance which allows the family the ability to find their own, program-compatible housing.	HUD’s definition of homeless , HUD’s definition of at-risk (which includes families and youth experiencing homelessness under the education subtitle of the McKinney-Vento Act), persons fleeing or attempting to flee situations of domestic abuse, trafficking, or stalking.	HUD’s notice was issued on May 5, 2021. Click here to find your local public housing authority.

NEED: RENTAL ASSISTANCE

Name of Program(s)	What it Provides	Who is Eligible	Who Administers it in My Community
Emergency Rental Assistance	Available funding for rental costs, rental arrears, utility costs, utility arrears, and other housing-related expenses. Funds also can be used for motel and hotel stays.	Households are eligible for rental assistance if one or more persons who is obligated to pay rent on a residential dwelling has qualified for unemployment benefits, experienced financial hardship as a result of the pandemic, one or more persons are HUD's definition of at-risk of homelessness (which includes families and youth experiencing homelessness under the education subtitle of the McKinney-Vento Act), or the household has been designated as low-income . See the Treasury Department's FAQ for more information.	Click here to find your state or local rental assistance program.

AREA OF NEED: TECHNOLOGY AND CONNECTIVITY

Name of Program(s)	What it Provides	Who is Eligible	Who Administers it in My Community
Emergency Connectivity Fund via E-Rate Program	Available funding to support schools and libraries in purchasing laptops, tablets, WiFi hotspots, modems, routers, etc, to increase student access to technology for use outside of school.	All schools and children are eligible. Regulations are currently being developed that will articulate priorities, which will likely prioritize schools with large concentrations of children from low-income families and schools in rural areas.	School districts and libraries. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) issued final rules and launched the program on May 10.
Emergency Broadband Benefit	A discount of up to \$50 per month towards broadband service for eligible households and up to \$75 per month for households on Tribal lands. Eligible households can also receive a one-time discount of up to \$100 to purchase a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet from participating providers.	A household is eligible if one member of the household meets any of these criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Receives benefits under the free and reduced-price school lunch program or the school breakfast program, ● Received a Federal Pell Grant during the current award year; 	Information about how households can apply may be found here .

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Experienced a substantial loss of income since February 29, 2020 and the household had a total income in 2020 below \$99,000 for single filers and \$198,000 for joint filers; or <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Qualifies for the Lifeline program Meets the eligibility criteria for a participating providers' existing low-income or COVID-19 program. 	
--	--	---	--

AREA OF NEED: FOOD

Name of Program(s)	What it Provides	Who is Eligible	Who Administers it in My Community
National School Lunch Program Seamless Summer Option (SSO)	Extension of free, healthy meals at schools and daycare facilities until June 30, 2022.	All children and teenagers age 18 and under, regardless of enrollment in school.	Meals will be available through schools and approved local SSO sites.
Pandemic-EBT (P-EBT)	Nutrition assistance for children and families who have lost access to free or reduced-price school and/or child care meals due to distance learning or building closures.	All children who previously received free or reduced-price meals, children who attend schools that offer free meals for all students, children under age 6 whose households that received SNAP since October 1, 2020 if they live in or attended child care in an area where one or more schools or child care facility has closed or is operating at reduced capacity. Eligibility extends to children who attend school virtually full-time, and schools who attend school through hybrid learning, on the days that they are attending school virtually. Homeschooled children are not eligible for P-EBT.	Click here to see if your state has been approved to issue P-EBT. Your local McKinney-Vento liaison can alert local child nutrition offices of families and youth in need of assistance. Find your local child nutrition program office here .
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)	SNAP provides nutrition benefits to supplement the food budget of low-income families and youth. The American Rescue Plan extended the	Income and asset eligibility vary by state. Find out your state's eligibility requirements on your state agency website .	To apply for SNAP in your state and determine your eligibility, contact your state agency .

	increase in SNAP benefits by up to \$100, through September 30, 2021.	<u>NOTE</u> : SNAP benefits are limited to US citizens and permanent residents who have resided in the US for at least 5 years. SNAP benefits have been temporarily extended to students between age 18 and 49 who are enrolled in college/university at least half time, who meet certain exemptions . Through the American Rescue Plan, exemptions have been expanded to include students who are <i>eligible</i> to participate in work study programs, and students who have an Expected Family Contribution of 0.	
--	---	--	--

AREA OF NEED: HEAD START

Name of Program(s)	What it Provides	Who is Eligible	Who Administers it in My Community
Local Head Start Centers	School readiness and comprehensive services for infants, toddlers, and preschool-aged children from low-income families.	Families with income levels below the poverty line, as designated by the Department of Health and Human Services' guidelines . Children experiencing homelessness under the education subtitle of the McKinney-Vento Act are categorically eligible and must be prioritized for Head Start enrollment.	Click here to locate your local Head Start Center.

AREA OF NEED: HEALTH CARE

Name of Program(s)	What it Provides	Who is Eligible	Who Administers it in My Community
Federal Insurance Marketplace	Expanded access through extended enrollment period (through to August 15) and premium subsidies for persons at multiple income levels, including those receiving unemployment benefits.	Persons receiving unemployment benefits, and households earning up to 150% of the federal poverty level. Click here to view 2021 federal poverty guidelines to determine income eligibility.	Visit www.healthcare.gov to enroll in or update an insurance plan, determine eligibility for Medicaid or CHIP, and find out your eligibility for premium subsidies.

AREA OF NEED: HIGHER EDUCATION

Name of Program(s)	What it Provides	Who is Eligible	Who Administers it in My Community
Emergency Financial Aid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An eligible student is defined as "any individual who is or was enrolled at an eligible institution on or after March 13, 2020, the date of declaration of the national emergency due to the coronavirus." Undocumented students, those enrolled in the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, and international students are able to access the emergency grants. 	Emergency financial aid grants may be used by students for any component of their cost of attendance or for emergency costs that arise due to coronavirus, such as tuition, food, housing, health care (including mental health care) or child care. Students determine how they may use their emergency financial aid grant within the allowable uses.	Local institutions of higher education administer these funds. . Allocations for public and non-profit institutions are available here . Allocations for proprietary institutions are available here . Frequently Asked Questions document from ED is available here .

AREA OF NEED: INCOME SUPPORT

Name of Program(s)	What it Provides	Who is Eligible	Who Administers it in My Community
Earned Income Tax Credits (EITC)	For one year (2022), EITC has been extended to unaccompanied homeless youth and foster youth who are 18 years old, full-time students, and working.	To be eligible to receive EITC, persons must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet income level qualifications Be a U.S. Citizen or permanent resident 	To make an EITC claim, one must file a 2022 tax return, even if they do not owe taxes, nor are required to file taxes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If you have a qualifying child, you must file the Schedule EIC listing the children with either the Form 1040A or the Form 1040. If you do not have a qualifying child, you can use the Form 1040EZ.

Child Tax Credit (CTC)	Expanded, fully-refundable child tax credits up to \$3,600 per child under 6 years old and \$3,000 for children between 6 and 17 years old to be paid in monthly installments, starting in July.	<p>To be eligible to claim the CTC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> You must have provided at least half of the child's support for half the year. The child has to be a US citizen or permanent resident and have a valid Social Security number. <p>Click here for income eligibility requirements and additional information on the expanded CTC.</p>	To claim child tax credits, one must file a tax return. You can then claim CTC as a refund, by submitting the Additional Tax Credit form with your return.
Stimulus Payments	\$1,400 payments to provide economic support.	<p>Persons with an annual adjusted gross income of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up to \$80,000 for individuals Up to \$120,000 for the head of a household Up to \$150,000 for joint filers 	To receive a stimulus payment, one must have filed a 2019 or 2020 tax return. Click here for IRS information on how persons experiencing homelessness can file a tax return for free, access economic stimulus payments and other tax benefits. Funds are automatically distributed using the most current information that the IRS has on your file, through direct deposit or by check. If you are an unaccompanied youth experiencing difficulties in accessing stimulus payments, view this tip sheet on how you may be able to access these.

AREA OF NEED: MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

Name of Program(s)	What it Provides	Who is Eligible	Who Administers it in My Community
Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief	Mental health services and supports, including through the implementation of evidence-based full-service community schools.	Children and youth enrolled in K-12 public schools.	Children and youth may access services through their elementary and high schools .