

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA): Child Well-Being

The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA), signed into law in March 2021, builds on previous pandemic relief efforts. ARPA is designed to provide aid to states, localities, territories, and tribes to fill revenue holes, address COVID-related needs, and address the learning needs of students.

Education

Additional funding for Oklahoma schools is critical in order for schools to reopen safely and ensure all students' educational needs are being met.

Funding	Details	State Implementation	Timing	Additional Resources
<p>\$1.5 billion for K-12 funding</p> <p>Breakdown of Supplemental Oklahoma Funding</p> <p>Administered by the U.S. Department of Education</p>	<p>Funds will be distributed automatically based on the Title I formula.</p> <p>Funding can be used to address learning loss and student trauma; reduce class sizes, modify spaces, modernize HVAC systems and provide proper PPE to ensure schools can open safely; and hire additional custodians, nurses and counselors.</p> <p>Minimum of 20% of this funding (\$261,377,025) must be used to address loss of learning time.</p>	<p>Advocacy will be needed at state and local levels over the next three years to ensure funds are being used equitably to target students most affected by the pandemic.</p> <p>Decision Maker: Superintendent Joy Hofmeister</p>	<p>Schools must spend the funds by Sept. 2024</p>	<p>State by state allocations</p> <p>USDE Roadmap to Reopening Safely and Meeting All Students' Needs</p> <p>USDE State Plan for the American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund</p>
<p>\$40 million for Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)</p> <p>Administered by the Office of Special Education Programs</p>	<p>Provides funding to IDEA Part B, 611 and 619 to assist states in providing a free appropriate public education for children with disabilities ages 3-21.</p> <p>Provides funding to IDEA Part C to assist states in providing early intervention services for infants, toddlers, and their families.</p>	<p>Funds will need to be spent according to IDEA guidelines.</p> <p>Decision Maker: Sooner Start Director John Corpolongo</p>	<p>Supplemental grants are only for FFY 2021.</p>	<p>Use of Funds Q&A for Part B and Part C</p>



Child Care

Additional funding will be coming into Oklahoma to support the state’s child care industry and working parents of young children. This will provide much needed accessibility to high-quality early education opportunities for families across the state, particularly families of color, rural families, and low-paid workers. Additionally, this will support child care providers that have long operated on thin margins and played a crucial role during the COVID-19 pandemic to support working parents of young children.

Funding	Details	State Implementation	Timing	Additional Resources
<p>\$363 million for child care emergency stabilization funds</p> <p>Administered through Office of Child Care</p>	<p>Funding to help child care providers remain financially viable, as well as improve the quality of child care.</p> <p>Can be used to reimburse any costs incurred prior to March 21, 2021 for things like personnel costs, PPE, COVID-related professional development, goods and services to maintain or resume child care, and mental health supports for both employees and children.</p>	<p>Child care providers and advocates should help shape how states use this large infusion of resources.</p> <p>Decision Maker: OKDHS Child Care Services Director Brittany Lee</p>	<p>Grants must be obligated by Sept. 30, 2022, and spent by Sept. 30, 2023.</p>	<p>Supporting the Child Care Early and Early Education Workforce</p> <p>The American Rescue Plan: Recommendations for Addressing Early Educator Compensation and Supports</p> <p>Optimizing Distribution of American Rescue Plan Funds To Stabilize Child Care</p>
<p>\$227 million to Oklahoma for Child Care and Development Block Grants (CCDBG)</p> <p>Administered through CCDBG.</p>	<p>CCDBG provides funding to states for child care assistance and improving the quality of child care.</p>	<p>States will have to decide how to use CCDBG funds to expand access to child care assistance and improve quality of care. Receiving input from both families and providers will be critical.</p> <p>Decision Maker: Secretary Justin Brown</p>	<p>Funds must be obligated by Sept. 30, 2023 and spent by Sept. 30, 2024</p>	<p>How states can improve child care facilities & physical spaces using federal relief dollars</p> <p>Centering Values: Building an Equitable Future through the the American Rescue Plan Act</p>



EITC and CTC

ARPA will temporarily expand and restore the refundability of the Child Tax Credit (CTC), as well as temporarily expand the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), providing timely income support to people who do important work for low pay. These policies should work in conjunction to stabilize families, reduce stress, and trigger a historic reduction in poverty, particularly for families of color.

Funding	Details	State Implementation	Timing	Additional Resources
\$104 billion for CTC Expansion (estimated 895,000 Oklahoma children under 18 will benefit from this expansion)	<p>Increased from \$2,000 to \$3,000 per child (\$3,600 for children under six).</p> <p>Refundable, meaning fully available for children in families with no or very low earnings.</p> <p>A household can receive up to half its CTC in advance payments in 2021</p>	<p>State and localities should play an important role in outreach work. Outreach efforts will be particularly important to ensure the payments reach low-income individuals who do not typically file returns, including households where children have social security numbers, but parents do not.</p>	<p>One-year expansions for tax year 2021 only.</p> <p>Advance payments begin July 1, 2021.</p> <p>Those who file a 2020 tax return during this filing season will generally get advance payments later this year. Those who don't file may be able to claim advance payments through a portal later this year.</p>	<p>Estimated number of children who will benefit from child tax credit expansion by ARPA by state.</p>
\$12 billion for federal EITC Expansion (estimated 236,000 Oklahoma workers will benefit)	<p>Raises the federal EITC for low-paid working adults with children at home.</p> <p>Raises the minimum federal EITC for workers without children from roughly \$530 to \$1,500 and the income cap for these adults to qualify increases from about \$16,000 to \$21,000.</p> <p>Expands range of eligible workers without children to include younger adults aged 19-24 who aren't full time students, as well as 65+.</p>	<p>State and localities should play an important role in outreach work. Outreach efforts will be particularly important to ensure the payments reach low-income individuals who do not typically file returns, including households where children have social security numbers, but parents do not.</p>	<p>One-year expansions for tax year 2021 only.</p> <p>Individuals generally must file a tax return to receive the federal EITC increase.</p>	



Family Supports

Housing insecurity contributes to stress for both parents and children. Instability and frequent moving can disrupt a child’s education and hinder their educational opportunities. ARPA contains several provisions that aim to reduce housing instability and mitigate any adverse effects these problems have on a child’s health, development, and education.

Funding	Details	State Implementation	Timing	Additional Resources
<p>\$209 million for rental assistance</p> <p>Administered by Treasury Department</p>	<p>Provides additional funding to the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) for low-income renters who have lost income or are experiencing hardship and risk losing their housing.</p>	<p>Treasury will allocate funds to states, localities, and territories, and a special allocation will be set aside for “high-need” grantees.</p> <p>States, localities, and territories may distribute aid directly to landlords on behalf of renters (or directly to renters in some cases) or may designate other entities (such as non-profits) to do so.</p> <p>Decision Maker: Oklahoma COO Steve Harpe</p>	<p>This funding will be available to the Secretary of the Treasury until September 30, 2027.</p> <p>Beginning March 31, 2022, the Treasury will reallocate funds to eligible grantees.</p>	<p>Treasury guidance and FAQs.</p> <p>Use of Funds.</p>
<p>\$88 million for Homeowner Assistance Fund</p> <p>Administered by Treasury Department</p>	<p>Prevents homeowner mortgage delinquencies, defaults, foreclosures, loss of utilities or home energy services, and displacements of homeowners experiencing financing hardship due to the pandemic, and assistance that promotes housing security</p>	<p>Each state must submit a notice of funds request to the Department of the Treasury by April 25, 2021.</p> <p>Deadline for a Tribe or Tribal entity to submit a notice of funds is Sept. 30, 2021.</p> <p>Decision Maker: Oklahoma COO Steve Harpe</p>	<p>Funds are available until Sept. 30, 2025</p>	<p>Treasury Guidance</p>
<p>\$100 million nationally for housing counseling**</p> <p>Administered by NeighborWorks</p>	<p>Provides counseling directly to households facing housing instability due to events like eviction, default, foreclosure, loss of income, or homelessness.</p>	<p>Decision Maker: Governor Kevin Stitt</p>	<p>Funds will be available through Sept. 30, 2025</p>	



Family Supports Continued

Funding	Details	State Implementation	Timing	Additional Resources
<p>\$5 billion Emergency Housing Vouchers**</p> <p>Administered by Treasury Department</p>	<p>Emergency housing vouchers will help transition high-need homeless and at-risk families, youth, and individuals, including survivors of domestic violence and human trafficking, to stable housing.</p>	<p>HUD will establish a procedure for agencies to accept or decline the vouchers, as well as provide guidance on use of funds. State and local housing agencies will administer the vouchers.</p> <p>Agencies should partner with organizations that offer a continuum of care and resources in order to develop strategies that prevent homelessness and provide economic stability.</p> <p>Decision Maker: Oklahoma COO Steve Harpe</p>	<p>Funding is available until Sept. 30, 2030, but vouchers cannot be reissued after Sept. 30, 2023.</p>	
<p>\$33 million for Homelessness Assistance and Supportive Services Program (HASSP)</p> <p>Administered by HUD.</p>	<p>Funds will help create housing and services for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness</p>	<p>Funds are distributed using the HOME Investment Partnerships Act Program Formula.</p> <p>State and local advocates should encourage grantees to consult with community partners offering a continuum of resources in order to strategically address homelessness and advance equity.</p> <p>Decision Maker: Governor Kevin Stitt</p>	<p>Funds will be available through Sept. 30, 2025</p>	<p>National Council of State Housing Agencies Guidance</p>



Family Supports Continued

Children who don't get enough food to eat can be at risk for worse academic, health and economic outcomes. ARPA will extend and expand nutrition assistance programs to help families avoid food insecurity and put food on their tables. This will help with our children's immediate needs, and can provide long-lasting improvements in their health and educational outcomes.

Funding	Details	State Implementation	Timing	Additional Resources
<p>\$3.5 billion for SNAP 15 (estimated increase of \$87 million in total benefits in Oklahoma in six months)</p> <p>Administered through USDA.</p>	<p>Extends a 15% increase in SNAP benefits.</p>	<p>Already in effect.</p> <p>\$14.5 million estimated increase in state benefits in one month.</p>	<p>Funding will be available through Sept. 2021.</p>	
<p>\$5.56 billion for Pandemic EBT (P-EBT)**</p> <p>Administered through USDA.</p>	<p>Extends the P-EBT program, which provides grocery benefits to replace meals that children miss when they do not attend school or child care in person.</p>	<p>State will need to revise and extend plans and receive USDA approval. Federal funds can cover all administrative costs, and states can enter into contracts with nonprofits to conduct outreach or help families get benefits.</p> <p>Key Decision Maker: OKDHS Adult and Family Services Deputy Director Linda Cavitt</p>	<p>Extended to cover the summer and for the duration of the pandemic until schools and childcare fully reopen.</p>	<p>Strategies to Ensure States Reach All Eligible Families With P-EBT</p>
<p>\$490 million for additional WIC nutrition</p> <p>Administered by USDA</p>	<p>Boosts cash-value voucher benefit by more than three times to allow participants to purchase fruits and vegetables as part of their WIC package.</p> <p>Under normal circumstances, the monthly cash value is \$9/child and \$11/pregnant/postpartum/breastfeeding women. This funding allows states to provide up to \$35 per child and adult per month.</p>	<p>States can choose to opt-in to this four-month benefit.</p> <p>Oklahoma opted-in to provide the maximum \$35 per child and adult per month.</p> <p>Key Decision Maker: Commissioner Lance Frye, M.D.</p>	<p>June-September 2021.</p>	<p>WIC Opt-in Increases under ARPA by state.</p>



Family Supports Continued

There is additional funding that will be coming to Oklahoma to support all families and improve child well-being. The hardships caused by the pandemic harms not just individuals, but the potential of an entire generation. The intense stress caused by the pandemic can interfere with parenting and negatively impact a child's physical and mental health. Additionally, ARPA restores and expands the paid sick and family leave benefits that were passed in 2020. The clock was reset on March 31, 2021, so that those who took leave in the past year are eligible to take it again if needed.

Funding	Details	State Implementation	Timing	Additional Resources
<p>\$3.2 million for supplemental Community Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) funding</p> <p>Administered by HHS</p>	<p>Funds may be used to enhance community-based and prevention-focused programs and activities designed to strengthen and support families.</p>	<p>Grants will be awarded to existing CBCAP grantees and no separate application is required.</p> <p>Waives CBCAP match requirement.</p> <p>Lead agencies should work with families and community-based agencies to plan an equitable strategy for the use of funds to increase supports for families most often underserved and overburdened.</p> <p>Key Decision Maker: Commissioner Lance Frye, M.D.</p>	<p>Funding must be obligated by Sept. 30, 2025 and liquidated by Dec. 30, 2025</p>	<p>CBCAP Use of Funds and Guidance</p>
<p>\$150 million for Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Program**</p> <p>Administered by Health Resources and Services Administration</p>	<p>Funds can be used to serve families with home visits (in person or virtual), staff costs including hazard pay, training, helping families acquire necessary technology to conduct virtual visits, and providing emergency supplies to families (e.g., formula, food, water, hand soap and sanitizer, and diapering supplies).</p>	<p>To receive funding, entities must be operating a MIECHV home visiting program and meet other eligibility requirements, including agreeing not to reduce staffing levels during the pandemic.</p> <p>Key Decision Maker: Commissioner Lance Frye, M.D.</p>	<p>Available through Sept. 30, 2022</p>	<p>Award Instructions</p>
<p>\$1.3 million for Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) grants</p> <p>Administered by Health and Human Services</p>	<p>Funds may be used to improve the child protective services system of the state and support interagency collaboration and community-based partnerships to support families and children</p>	<p>Grants will be awarded to all agencies previously approved for FY2021 CAPTA funding. No separate application is required.</p> <p>Lead agencies should work with families and community-based agencies to plan an equitable strategy for the use of funds to increase supports for families most often underserved and overburdened.</p> <p>Key Decision Maker: Commissioner Lance Frye, M.D.</p>	<p>Funding must be obligated by Sept. 30, 2025 and liquidated by Dec. 30, 2025</p>	<p>CAPTA State Grant Program Purposes</p>