



COVID Relief is on its Way!

Yesterday the President signed the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (H.R. 1319) also referred to as the Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Reconciliation Package, a \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 relief package. There are a number of provisions to help families included in the package.

Key Provisions That Benefit Families

MIECHV

- \$150 million for MIECHV with the flexibility to use the funds for tangible needs for families including technology to conduct home visits and emergency supplies like diapers, formula, and groceries.
- MIECHV grantees must not reduce funding or staff levels due to low enrollment & ensure coordination with diaper banks to the extent practicable.

Nutrition Assistance

- \$490 million to enhance WIC Cash Value Benefit over a four-month period so moms and babies can buy additional fruits and vegetables.
- Extends the 15% increase in SNAP benefits through September 30, 2021.

Direct Relief Payments

- Direct Relief Payments of \$1,400 for individuals making up to \$75,000 per year and \$2,800 for couples making up to \$150,000 per year, as well as a \$1,400 payment for each dependent. Babies born in 2021 are eligible for payments.

Child Tax Credit

- Increase the Child Tax Credit to \$3,600 for children under age 6 and \$3,000 for children up to 17 and makes the credit fully refundable for 2021. Families will receive the tax credit monthly-up to \$300 for younger children and \$250 for children up to 17.
- This is a temporary increase to the Child Tax Credit for one year. These payments are an advance for 2021 that may total up to half the value of the credit the household is eligible to receive. The payments will begin July

1, 2021 and last through the end of the year. The remaining balance of the credit will be claimed on your 2021 tax return.

Unemployment Insurance

- Extension of the \$300/week temporary federal unemployment benefits through September 6, 2021.
- Unemployment insurance up to \$10,200 received in 2020 will not count towards your taxable income.

Medicaid

- Includes an option for states to provide an extension of Medicaid coverage to 1-year postpartum beginning April 1, 2022. This option sunsets after five years.

Child Care

- Includes \$39 billion for child care, including nearly \$24 billion for Child Care Stabilization grants and nearly \$15 billion for the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) program.

State & Local Aid

- \$350 billion to States, territories, Tribes, and local governments to be used for responding to the COVID-19 public health emergency, to offset revenue losses, bolster economic recovery and to provide premium pay for essential workers.

Public Health

- \$7.6 billion dedicated to hiring an expanded public health workforce of contact tracers, nurses, epidemiologists, community health workers and other essential staff to help assist in the efforts of addressing COVID-19.
- \$7.5 billion for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to plan, prepare for, distribute and monitor COVID-19 vaccines.
- \$50 billion for testing, contact tracing and mitigation efforts, as well as public health data, disease and activity surveillance
- \$200 million for the Nurse Corps Loan Repayment program.

Mental Health Supports

- \$3.88 billion to increase the availability of treatment services for mental health and substance use disorder treatment, including \$40 million for grants for health care providers to promote mental health among the health professional workforce.

Unfortunately, a number of important priorities for the National Service Office (NSO) and families served by Nurse-Family Partnership and Child First did not make it into the final package. The package includes tax credits for employers who provide paid sick days, however, no provisions were included to **extend emergency paid leave and sick days** which were guaranteed to workers through the Families First Coronavirus Response Act enacted last year. The package also did not extend the national eviction moratorium. We are deeply

concerned about the expiration of these emergency benefits, which experts and public health officials agree are critical to preventing the spread of COVID-19. You may have also seen news about a \$15 minimum wage-this provision was not included in the package.

Thanks to our advocates! You made a difference!

Thank you to our advocates for taking action and encouraging Members of Congress to include these important provisions that benefit families.

If you have questions, please contact our Policy & Government Affairs Department at pga@nursefamilypartnership.org. For more information on NFP's response to the COVID-19 crisis, please go to

www.nursefamilypartnership.org/covid-19.
