



U.S. HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES

– CHAIRWOMAN MAXINE WATERS –

FACT SHEET: AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN

Nearly a year after the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, many households, and especially those in communities of color and low-income communities, continue to face unemployment, wage loss, and housing instability. Small businesses, which are the engine of the U.S. economy, continue to struggle. Democrats are working around the clock to ensure that individuals, families, small businesses, and communities get the relief they need during this crisis.

As part of the Biden Administration’s American Rescue Plan, the Committee on Financial Services legislation provides \$76.2 billion in relief, including:

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT:

As the pandemic crisis continues, there is a continuing pressing need for medical equipment and supplies essential to defeat the virus.

- **As proposed by the Committee on Financial Services, the Fiscal Year 2021 Reconciliation Act provides:**
 - **\$10 billion** for the Department of Health and Human Services to purchase, production or distribution of medical equipment and supplies related to combating the COVID-19 Pandemic, including funding for all types of COVID-19 tests, personal protection equipment, including N95 masks, and vaccines and drugs for preventing or treating COVID-19 or its symptoms, including acquisition of material, equipment and technology needed for such purposes.

RENTAL ASSISTANCE:

With millions of individuals and families struggling to pay their rent, action is urgently needed to prevent an eviction crisis. According to the latest U.S. Census data, nearly 1 in 5 renters are behind on paying rent, with renters of color disproportionately struggling, while Moody’s Analytics recently estimated that renters collectively owe over \$57 billion in unpaid rent, utilities, and additional fees.

- **The American Rescue Plan Act directs \$27.5 billion to support renters during the pandemic by providing:**
 - **\$21.6 billion** for an Emergency Rental Assistance program that would allocate funding to states, territories, counties, and cities, including \$305 million for U.S. territories and \$2.5 billion for high-need grantees, to help renters pay their rent and utility bills during the COVID-19 pandemic, and help rental property owners of all sizes continue to cover their costs.
 - **\$5 billion** for emergency Housing Choice Vouchers to transition people experiencing or at risk of homelessness, survivors of domestic violence, and victims of human trafficking to stable housing.
 - **\$100 million** for the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation (NeighborWorks) to enable housing counselors to respond to the surge of demand for services, which include foreclosure and eviction mitigation counseling, due to the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - **\$100 million** for additional rural rental assistance targeted to people who do not currently receive such assistance but are otherwise eligible and also experienced a temporary loss of income.
 - **\$750 million** to help Alaska Natives, Native Americans, and Native Hawaiians respond to pressing housing needs during the Coronavirus pandemic. Under this section, the Indian Housing Block Grant program would

receive \$455 million, including a \$5 million set aside for Native Hawaiians, that can be used to prevent, prepare for, or respond to the Coronavirus and to fund eligible affordable housing activities under the Native American Housing and Self-Determination Act. The Indian Community Development Block Grant program would receive \$280 million, which can be used to fund activities that address imminent threats to health and safety and are designed to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus.

HOMELESSNESS:

The continuing COVID-19 pandemic crisis has worsened housing insecurity and homelessness across the country, with over half a million people experiencing homelessness and millions at risk of eviction. The American Rescue Plan provides essential relief for those experiencing homelessness and those who are struggling to keep a roof over their head.

- **The American Rescue Plan Act helps to address the urgent homelessness crisis by providing:**
 - **\$5 billion** for homeless assistance to enable state and local governments to provide shelter that facilitates social distancing, and supportive services for the hundreds of thousands of people currently experiencing homelessness. Specifically, the plan provides for:
 - Tenant-based rental assistance;
 - The development and support of affordable housing;
 - Supportive services, including eligible supportive services activities under the Continuum of Care program, housing counseling, and homeless prevention services;
 - The acquisition and development of non-congregate shelter units, all or a portion of which may be converted to permanent affordable housing, be used as emergency shelter, be converted to permanent supportive housing, or remain as non-congregate shelter units.

HOMEOWNERS:

With high job losses and many families falling behind on mortgage payments and at risk of losing their homes, the American Rescue Plan provides relief for the more than 8 million homeowners estimated to be struggling to stay afloat. There are estimated to be \$90 billion in missed mortgage payments.

- **The American Rescue Plan Act provides support for homeowners in urban, suburban, and rural areas, including:**
 - **\$10 billion** to states, territories, and tribes to address the ongoing needs of homeowners struggling to afford their housing due directly or indirectly to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic by providing direct assistance for mortgage payments, property taxes, property insurance, utilities, and other housing related costs.
 - **\$39 million** for the Department of Agriculture to continue providing Section 502 and 504 home loans, which help low- and very-low income borrowers to purchase, repair and rehabilitate housing in rural areas, while helping existing USDA borrowers who are struggling to afford their housing during the COVID-19 pandemic.

FAIR HOUSING:

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting economic crisis, housing-related sexual harassment increased in some communities by 300 percent, Asian Americans and immigrants are facing increased incidents of housing hate crimes, and communities of color are experiencing disproportionate levels of eviction filings.

- **The American Rescue Plan Act provides:**

- **\$20 million** to ensure fair housing organizations have additional resources to address fair housing inquiries, complaints, investigations, and education and outreach activities, during or relating to the coronavirus pandemic.

SMALL BUSINESSES:

Small businesses are the life blood of the U.S. economy, creating nearly two-thirds of all private sector jobs over [the past 15 years](#). The pandemic, however, has hit them hard with roughly [one-third](#) of small businesses still closed as of early February. While some programs, like the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) have helped, the calls for help from small business owners persist. According to a recent [survey](#), 74% of small businesses and 83% of minority-owned businesses say they need further assistance to remain in business.

- **The American Rescue Plan Act helps struggling small businesses by providing:**
 - **\$10 billion** towards a renewed State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI) administered by the Department of the Treasury to support state, territory, and tribal government efforts to provide up to **\$100 billion in low cost loans and equity investments in small businesses** harmed during the pandemic and to support a robust recovery.
 - Following the 2008 financial crisis, Congress created the SSBCI, which leveraged \$1.5 billion in federal funds to support **[\\$10.7 billion in small business loans and investments](#)** that helped create or retain over 240,000 jobs. The median small business receiving support had 3 full-time employees and received a loan or investment of \$33,000. Over 40 percent of SSBCI loans or investments went to women or minority-owned businesses.
 - Establishes a **\$2.5 billion** set aside to allocate funds based on need and to incentivize states that support business enterprises owned and controlled by socially and economically-disadvantaged individuals, including minority-owned businesses.
 - Establishes a **\$500 million** set aside to support tribal government small business programs.
 - Establishes a **\$500 million** set aside to provide technical assistance through Federal and state programs to provide legal, financial, accounting, and other forms of assistance to help small businesses navigate the process of applying for various grant, loan, and investment options.

WORKERS IN THE AIRLINE INDUSTRY:

The airline industry has faced particularly acute challenges given the nature of the pandemic limiting travel. According to some estimates, major U.S. airlines lost over \$35 billion in 2020. Congress created the Payroll Support Program (PSP) to ensure workers employed by airlines and related contractors are not laid off and continue to receive paychecks. One airline executive warned that airlines will proceed with layoffs if payroll support is not extended after it expires next month.

- **The American Rescue Plan Act helps support workers by providing:**
 - **\$15 billion** for a third iteration of the Payroll Support Program (PSP), which will ensure roughly 680,000 air carrier workers, as well as additional workers of eligible air carrier contractors, will continue to receive a paycheck through at least September 30, 2021.