



ADMINISTRATION FOR
CHILDREN & FAMILIES
Office of Family Assistance



2021 National TANF Directors' Meeting

September 20–24, 2021 • 1:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m. EDT

ACF Perspectives on the Pandemic and the American
Rescue Plan

Thursday, September 23, 2021
1:15 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

ACF - \$47.5 billion American Rescue Plan Funds

Office of Child Care

- **Stabilization Grants:** \$24 billion for grants to child care providers.
- **Supplemental Child Care and Development Fund Awards:** \$15 billion with additional flexibilities.

Office of Community Services

- **Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program:** \$4.5 billion in additional LIHEAP funding.
- **Low-Income Household Drinking Water and Wastewater Emergency Assistance Program:** new \$500 million program.

- **Office of Head Start**

- **Head Start:** \$1 billion to support Head Start programs in reaching more eligible families.

- **Office of Family Assistance**

- **Pandemic Emergency Assistance:** \$1 billion.

- **Family and Youth Services Bureau**

- **Family Violence Prevention and Services (FVPSA):** \$450 million.

- **Children's Bureau**
- **Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) Program:** \$250 million grants to provide child abuse prevention services and improve child abuse investigations.
- **Child Abuse State Grants:** \$100 million for state systems
- **Administration for Native Americans**
- **Native Languages:** \$20 million investment in the preservation and maintenance of Native languages

Communications and Guidance

The ACF [American Rescue Plan Act webpage](https://www.acf.hhs.gov/american-rescue-plan) as a one-stop landing page for stakeholders and to announce new ACF updates.

- <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/american-rescue-plan>
- <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/grant-funding/arp-funding-matrix>

ACF Office of Human Services Emergency Preparedness and Response

- Office of Human Services Emergency Preparedness and Response (**OHSEPR**) ensures the effectiveness of human services in preparedness, response, and recovery from disasters and public health emergencies.
- OHSEPR leads ACF's support for **disaster human services** missions conducted under the National Response Framework's Emergency Support Function 6.
- OHSEPR administers the U.S. Repatriation Program and leads domestic emergency repatriation planning and operations to support the return of U.S. citizens and their dependents following an evacuation from overseas nations due to war, threat of war, invasion, civil unrest, or similar crises.

Contact us: OHSEPR-WatchDesk@acf.hhs.gov
Visit www.acf.hhs.gov/ohsepr for more information



Disaster Human Services Case Management

HURRICANE MARIA (Puerto Rico)

- 42,676 referrals to services
 - 101 referrals for child care
 - 43 referrals to Head Start
 - **8 referrals to PRDF for TANF and Child Care Development Fund applications**

CAMP FIRE, PARADISE, (California)







- 9,474 disaster survivor contacts
- 5,768 referrals to services

HURRICANE LAURA (Louisiana)

- 9,948 Survivor
- 8,068 Referrals Made
- 459 Families with Minors Served

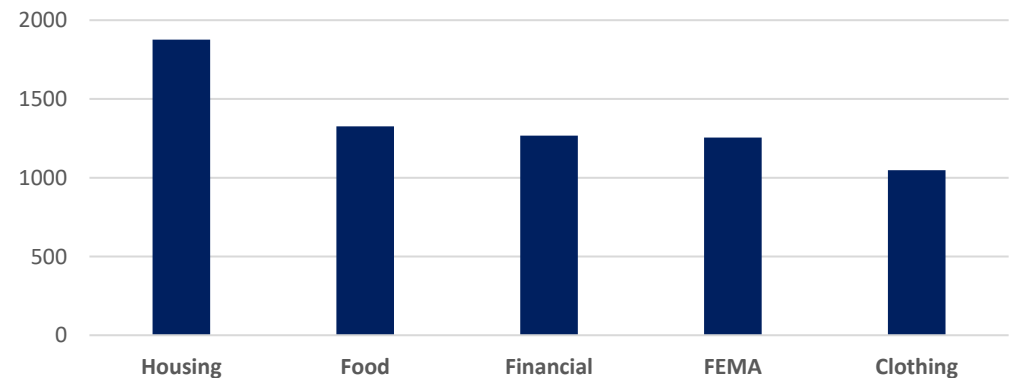
HURRICANE LAURA (Louisiana)

Self-Reported Special/At-Risk Populations Served

Population		Households
Individuals with Disabilities in the Household		576
Children (Under 18)		459
Elderly		252
Shelter Resident (Post-Disaster)		58
Domestic Violence Survivors		44
Limited English Proficiency		8

HURRICANE LAURA (Louisiana)

Top Five Case Management Referrals



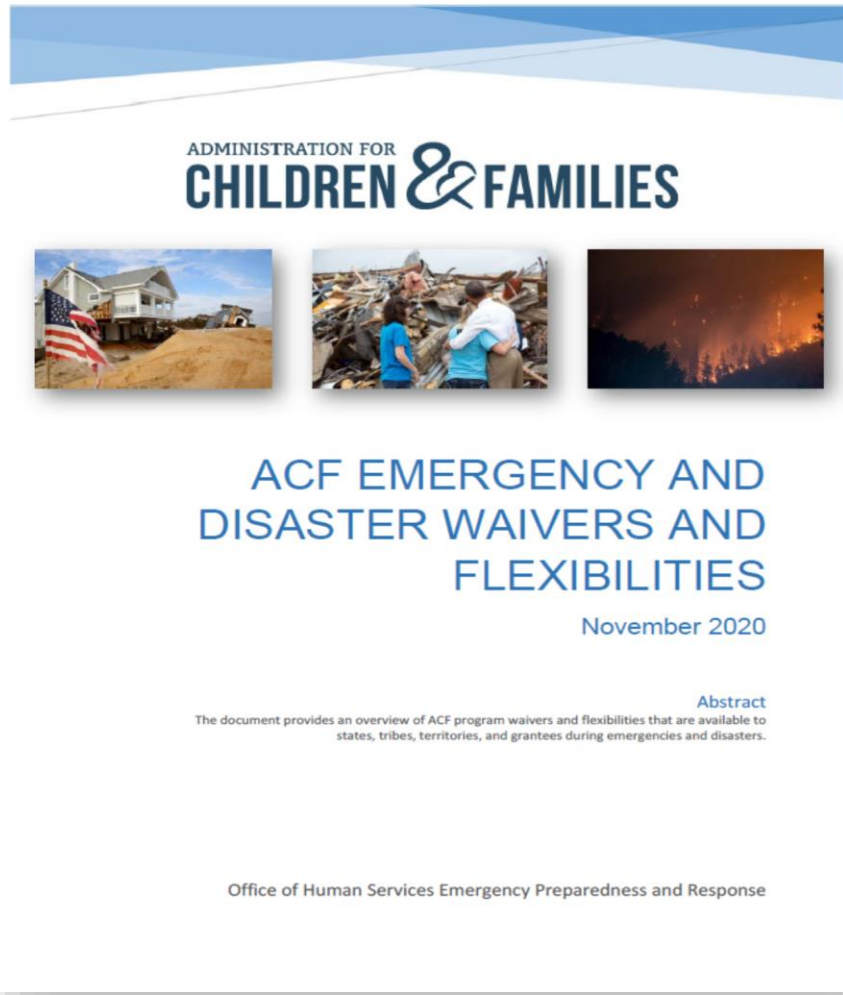


U.S. Repatriation Program

The U.S. Repatriation Program was established in 1935 under Section 1113 of the Social Security Act to provide temporary assistance to private U.S. citizens and their dependents identified by the Department of State (DOS) as having returned from a foreign country to the United States because of destitution, illness, war, threat of war, or a similar crisis, and are without available resources.

- In FFY 2021: 8 states used **TANF** to support U.S. citizens and their dependents who received Temporary Assistance:
 - Alabama, California, Georgia, Florida, Louisiana, New York, Oklahoma, Washington

TANF Disaster Flexibilities



OFFICE OF HUMAN SERVICES EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE

An Office of the Administration for Children & Families

Office of Family Assistance

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families

The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program is a block grant to states, the District of Columbia, territories (hereafter collectively referred to as states), and tribes that funds monthly cash assistance payments to low-income families with children, as well as a wide range of services that are reasonably calculated to address the program's four broad purposes which are as follows: to provide assistance to needy families so that children may be cared for in their own homes or in the homes of relatives; end the dependence of needy parents on government benefits by promoting job preparation, work, and marriage; prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies; and encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.

Waivers

There is no waiver authority within TANF that would be triggered in the event of a disaster.

Flexibilities

The PI, [Using Federal TANF and State Maintenance-of-Effort \(MOE\) Funds for Families in Areas Covered by a Federal or State Disaster Declaration](#) (TANF-ACF-PI-2007-08), describes in detail the flexibilities available in areas covered by a federal or state disaster declaration. Key provisions of this PI are summarized below.

1. HHS may grant a reasonable cause exception and therefore forgive the penalty for some of the TANF penalties, including those associated with failure to meet the work participation rate requirement.³⁵
2. HHS may decide to reduce a state's work participation penalty for failure to meet required work participation rates, if noncompliance is due to extraordinary circumstances such as a natural disaster.³⁶
3. States and tribes may provide "non-recurrent, short term" benefits³⁷ to deal with a specific crisis situation or episode of need, not intended to meet recurrent or ongoing needs, and will not extend beyond four months. States and tribes may consider offering a wider range of services or benefits to address the crisis than those currently offered in the TANF plan and may also change the eligibility criteria for any current services or benefits.
4. States and tribes may streamline the application process to expedite eligibility and payment determinations.
5. States and tribes may consider families to have good cause for not participating in work activities.
6. States may relax or waive their residency requirements for families affected by a disaster.
7. States may also have a temporary residency policy.
8. States may continue TANF assistance (includes commingled funds) for a child who is temporarily absent from the home in which s/he resides.

³⁵ Section 409(b) of the Social Security Act, [42 USC § 609(b)]; 45 CFR. § 262.5 (states) and 45 CFR § 286.225 (tribes).

³⁶ Per section 409(a)(3)(C) Social Security Act, [42 USC § 609(a)(3)(C)] and the implementing TANF regulations at 45 CFR § 261.51(d)

³⁷ 45 CFR § 260.31(b)(1) and 45 CFR § 286.10(b)(1)



LIHEAP and LIHWAP Update: American Rescue Plan Funding

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY SERVICES (OCS)

DIVISION OF ENERGY ASSISTANCE

SEPTEMBER 23, 2021



Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

- American Rescue Plan (ARP) funding: \$4.5 billion
- Awarded to states/tribes/territories: May 4, 2021
- ARP obligation deadline: September 30, 2022
- Usual program rules apply
- Block grant flexibilities
- National Outreach Campaign—40th Anniversary!
 - See: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ocs/liheaps-40th-anniversary>



Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP)

- Temporary authorization in FY 2021 budget of \$638 Million
- American Rescue Plan (ARP) funding: \$500M
- Awarded to states/tribes/territories: May 28, 2021
- Obligation deadline: September 30, 2023
- Expenditure deadline: December 31, 2023
- Braiding of LIHWAP, CSBG and other federal resources, see: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ocs/policy-guidance/lihwap-dcl-2021-13-csbg-coordination-fy2021>
- CSBG can be coordinated with LIHWAP:
 - Small Scale Repairs
 - Updating fixtures
 - Purchasing water filters to remove contaminants from drinking water
- For more info, see: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ocs/programs/lihwap>



SIX TIMES REGULAR FUNDING LEVEL AND A NEW PROGRAM

Federal funding supports a **\$9 billion** Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) program, which largely provides **vouchers** for low-income working **families** to subsidize the cost of child care.

CARES and **CRRSA** added **\$13.5 billion** into CCDF to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19.

ARPA established a new **\$24 billion** stabilization program requiring **grants to child care providers**.

...and also provided **\$15 billion** for CCDF supplemental funding.



CHILD CARE COVID-19 SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING

	CARES	CRRSA	ARP Stabilization	ARP Supplemental
Enacted	March 27, 2020	December 27, 2020	March 11, 2021	March 11, 2021
Funding Amount	\$3.5 billion	\$10 billion	\$23.9 billion	\$14.9 billion
Obligation Deadline	September 30, 2022	September 30, 2022	September 30, 2022	September 30, 2023
Liquidation Deadline	September 30, 2023	September 30, 2023	September 30, 2023	September 30, 2024



ADMINISTRATION'S GOALS FOR COVID-19 CHILD CARE FUNDING

Stabilize the child care sector

Increase provider payment rates to cover the cost of quality

Improve payment policies

Increase wages and benefits

Build the supply of child care for underserved populations

Expand access to child care assistance for more families



ARPA STABILIZATION FUNDS

OCC issued **guidance** on **May 10, 2021** (CCDF-ACF-IM-2021-02).

Funds are for **supporting broader child care market**.

Exempt from CCDF spending requirements related to quality activities, direct services, and administrative costs.

States and territories may set-aside up to **10%** of their stabilization award for administration, activities to support supply building, and technical assistance.

Remaining funds (at least **90%**) must go to subgrants to qualified child care providers.



ARPA SUPPLEMENTAL CHILD CARE FUNDING

OCC issued **guidance** on **June 11, 2021** (CCDF-ACF-IM-2021-03).

Exempt from quality and direct services spending requirements.

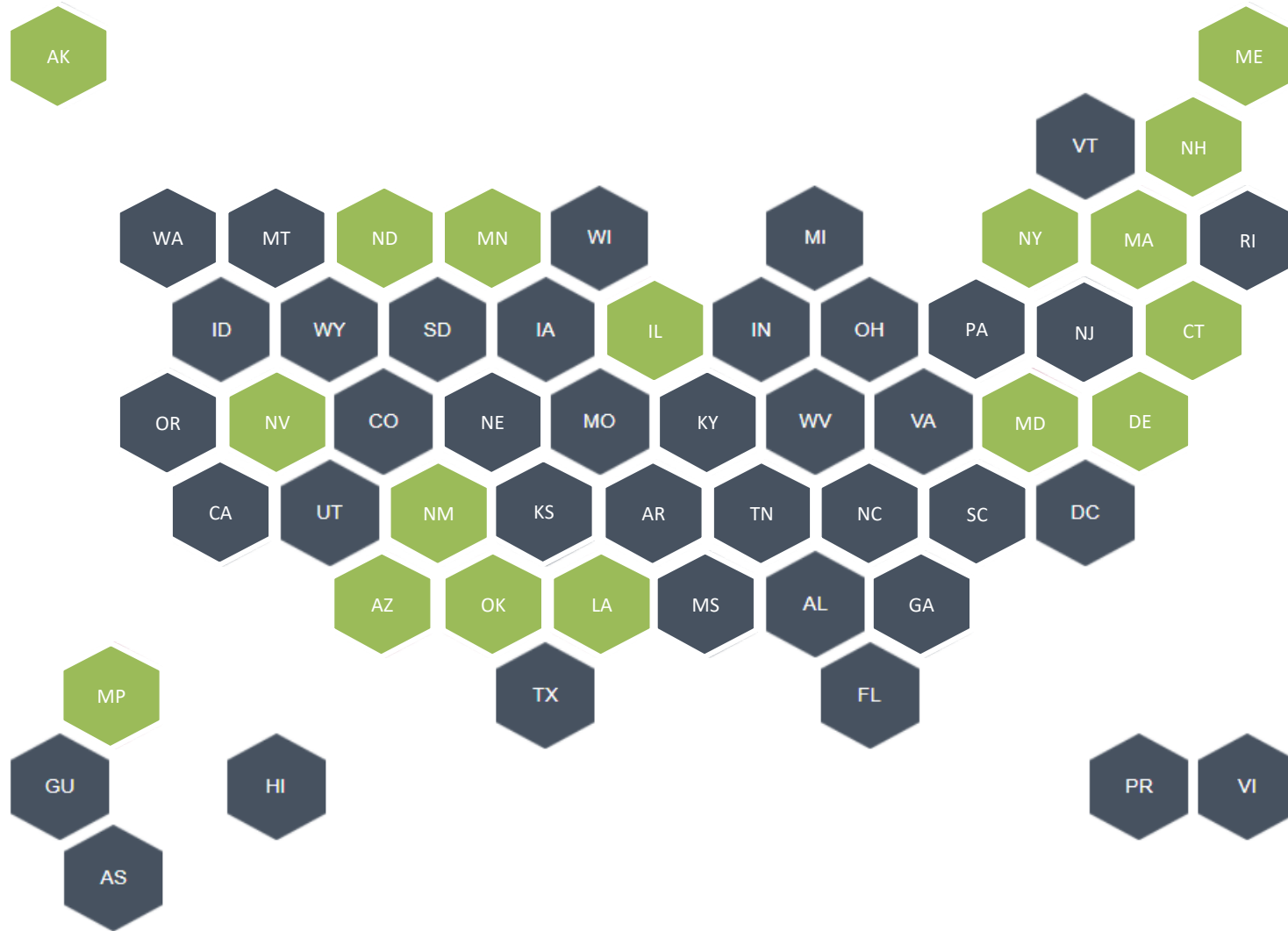
Funds can be used for **any allowable use of CCDF funds**.

Not limited to expenses related to COVID-19.

Strongly recommend funds used to **strengthen thw child care system** and **ensure families have equal access to quality, affordable child care** during and after the pandemic.



STATUS OF ARPA STABILIZATION GRANTS



17 Lead Agencies have released ARPA Stabilization Grant applications

Of the remaining States and Territories, **21** states report release dates in the coming weeks and **13** states have active CRRSA-funded provider grants

ARPA SUPPLEMENTAL: SUPPORTING PROVIDERS



Some states are increasing their payment rates with supplemental funds.

Arizona increased rates from the 25th percentile to the **75th percentile** for infants and toddlers

Louisiana increased rates from the 25th percentile for preschool centers and 40th percentile for infant centers to **at least the 75th percentile** and for infant care the **85th percentile**

Rhode Island increased payment rates in response to COVID-19 to the **75th percentile** for providers at 1-4 STARS in their QRIS and to the **90th percentile** for providers at 5 STARS.

Washington increased rates from 35th-50th percentiles to the **85th percentile** across both infant and preschool care

West Virginia increased preschool family child care rates from the 55th percentile to the **90th percentile** (so now all rates are above the 75th percentile)



ARPA SUPPLEMENTAL: HELPING FAMILIES



Expanding eligibility by **raising income thresholds**

21 states and territories have increased income eligibility

Expanding access to **serve more families**

From the few states that have reported so far, more than 300,000 additional children will have access to child care assistance, including children of essential workers.

Waiving family co-pays

35 states/territories waived copays for all families during the pandemic.

9 states submitted plans to continue this policy



RESOURCES AND TA



OCC continues to work with our technical assistance centers to deliver TA to lead agencies administering these funds.

Resources are added regularly, including:

- ARPA Child Care Stabilization Funds Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
- Charts illustrating the funds and the allowable uses for States and Territories
- State case studies

Ongoing Office Hours and Communications

- Office hours provide opportunities for CCDF lead agency personnel focused on the ARPA to discuss any questions, needs or resources with TA Center staff as well as a representative(s) from OCC's Planning, Data and Policy Division
- OCC Announcements reach a broad range of stakeholders, communicating upcoming events, resources, and training and technical assistance opportunities

