

Pandemic Emergency Assistance Fund

April 14, 2021



Pandemic Emergency Assistance Fund

- The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 creates a new section 403(c) of the Social Security Act
- \$1 billion Fund to assist needy families impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic
- Eligible Entities:
 - States including the District of Columbia
 - Tribes operating a program funded under TANF
 - All 5 US territories: Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and Northern Mariana Islands

Funding Allotments to Tribes & Territories

- The law specifies:
 - 7.5 percent of funds (\$74,850,000) are set aside for tribal TANF programs and all five US territories, to be distributed in a manner deemed appropriate by HHS
 - Allotments are based on a tribe's or territory's existing share of the total TANF funds distributed to tribes and the territories.



Use of Funds

- Only for certain non-recurrent, short term (NRST) benefits, i.e., as defined on the ACF-196R (state financial reporting form), meaning
 - That means, they meet the regulatory definition
 - designed to deal with a specific crisis situation or episode of need
 - must not be intended to meet on-going needs
 - must not extend beyond four months
 - and must only include expenditures such as
 - emergency assistance and diversion payments, emergency housing and short-term homelessness assistance, emergency food aid, short-term utilities payments, burial assistance, clothing allowances, and back-to-school payments
 - They do **not** include tax credits, child care, transportation, or short-term education and training

Eligibility for NRSTs

- NRSTs go to needy families with children
- Income eligibility requirements may differ from NRST to NRST and from TANF cash assistance



More on Use of Funds

- Grantees may use funds for administrative costs (15% cap for states and territories)
- Grantees must use funds to supplement, and not supplant, other federal, state, tribal, territorial, or local funds.

Timeline for Requesting and Expending Funds

Expenditure Commitment Requirement

- Tribes and territories have 90 days from enactment, that is until June 9, 2021, to request funds up to the maximum allotment for each
- An allotment request form has been distributed and may be returned to PEAF@acf.hhs.gov.

Timeline for Expending Funds

- Grantees have from April 1, 2021, to September 30, 2022, to expend initial allotment
- HHS will reallocate any unexpended funds (including unliquidated obligations) - 7.5 percent of total will be reallocated to territories and tribes.
- Reallocated funds must be expended within 12 months of receipt



Reporting

Expenditure data will be reported quarterly on a modified ACF-196TR form

| U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES Territorial TANF Financial Report - ACF-196TR | | | | | | |
|---|--------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| Territory Name: | Fiscal Year: | | | Current Qtr. Ending: | Next Qtr. Ending: | Report is Submitted as: |
| Funds | (A) TANF | (B) Territory FUNDS TANF MOE | (C) Territory Programs MOE | (D) TANF and All MOE Combined | (E) AABD Aid to Aged, Blind and Disabled | (F) Pandemic Emergency Assistance (Authorized under ARPA) |
| 1. Awarded | \$0 | | | | \$0 | \$0 |
| 2. Transfer To CCDF Discretionary Fund | \$0 | | | | | |
| 3. Transfer To SSBG | \$0 | | | | | |
| 4. Available For Expenditure | \$0 | | | | \$0 | \$0 |
| 5. Expenditures On Assistance | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | | |
| (A). Basic Assistance | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | | |
| (B). Child Care | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | | |
| (C). Transportation and Other Supportive Services | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | | |
| (D). Under Prior Law | \$0 | | | \$0 | | |
| (E) Relative Foster Care Maintenance Payments and Adoption and Guardianship Subsidies | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | | |
| 6. Expenditures on Non-Assistance | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| (A). Work-Related Activities and Expenses | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | | |



Questions

- Questions now???
- Direct additional questions to your regional program manager