

# THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN

## HEALTH

	What is it?	Why does it matter?	How much is this benefit?	How do I receive this?
<b>Affordable Care Act (ACA)</b>	The bill invests \$35 billion in providing subsidies to healthcare more affordable in the ACA marketplace.	Eligible individuals who purchase coverage through the ACA marketplace will see reduced premiums.	To determine your individual health coverage savings based off of your income level, visit <a href="https://www.healthcare.gov/lower-costs/qualifying-for-lower-costs/">https://www.healthcare.gov/lower-costs/qualifying-for-lower-costs/</a>	Individuals can enroll in 2021 health coverage via the Health Insurance Marketplace until May 15th, 2021.  To enroll in Marketplace Health Coverage, sign up <a href="https://www.healthcare.gov/apply-and-enroll/get-ready-to-apply/">https://www.healthcare.gov/apply-and-enroll/get-ready-to-apply/</a>
<b>Vaccine Funding</b>	Vaccine development and distribution has been at the forefront of combatting the pandemic. The increased funding will allow for quicker and easier access to vaccinations.	To defeat the virus and provide workers and families with the resources they need to survive the pandemic, funding for vaccine distribution will help get vaccines quickly to every community.	Nearly \$50 billion will go towards vaccine production, distribution, hiring more healthcare workers to administer vaccines, and increase testing.	To find out more information regarding vaccine eligibility, visit your county or state Department of Health's website. For vaccine updates or information regarding the COVID-19 Vaccine Program, you can visit <a href="https://www.vaccines.gov/">https://www.vaccines.gov/</a>
<b>Rural Hospitals</b>	The ARP creates a new \$8.5 billion relief fund for rural health care providers who have been hard-hit by the COVID crisis. The bill also creates a \$500 million Emergency Rural Development Grants fund for rural health care.	The payments and grants will support the COVID-19 response activities, reimburse for lost revenue and expenses, and increase telehealth capacity.	About \$8.5 billion in relief fund and \$500 million in Emergency Rural Development Grants.	More information will be announced via U.S.D.A website: <a href="https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services">https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services</a>

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<b>Mental/ Behavioral Health</b>	The bill included several provisions to tackle the accessibility of mental and behavioral health services.	Mental health and substance use disorders has remained an area of concern throughout the pandemic.	The bill included a total of \$3.88 billion at addressing the accessibility of mental health and substance use disorder services. The provisions included funding for the expansion of the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment block grant program, the Community Mental Health block grant program and Certified community behavioral health clinics.	The funding for the block grants are provided to state and local governments who are tasked with addressing the health concerns within their specific localities.
<b>Paid Sick Leave Credit</b>	The ARP extends the previous legislation in 2020 that provided small businesses paid sick leave through September 30th.	The payroll tax credit is aimed at helping employers with the costs of the paid sick leave, family leave, and medical leave required for employees impacted by COVID-19.	The credit covers 100% of up to two weeks of the qualified sick leave wages and up to ten weeks of qualified family leave wages for employers who voluntarily provide paid leave through September 2021.	For additional guidance, individuals can visit <a href="https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/covid-19-related-tax-credits-basic-faqs#how-do-eligible-employers-claim-credits">https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/covid-19-related-tax-credits-basic-faqs#how-do-eligible-employers-claim-credits</a>
<b>COBRA</b>	The ARP included a provision that subsidizes 100% of the cost of premium for employer-based insurance for workers who are laid off or have reduced hours.	The COBRA provision makes the continuation insurance more affordable to the individual and will be in effect until September 30, 2021.	The subsidy is 100% of the premium for six months.	To learn more about the specific COBRA sign up details, visit <a href="https://www.healthcare.gov/">https://www.healthcare.gov/</a>  For Frequently asked questions and answers regarding COBRA, you can visit <a href="https://www.cms.gov/CCIO/Programs-and-Initiatives/Other-Insurance-Protections/cobra_qna">https://www.cms.gov/CCIO/Programs-and-Initiatives/Other-Insurance-Protections/cobra_qna</a>
<b>PPE</b>	Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) such as gloves, masks, face shields, and gowns have been a crucial commodity in protecting front line workers.	The funds directed towards the production of PPE will be aimed at assisting with the distribution and increasing the PPE supply.	As part of the bill, the ARP provides \$10 billion to expand domestic production of personal protective equipment (PPE) and other medical supplies.	Front line workers can inquire with their employers on how to best receive additional PPE.