



American Rescue Plan: Setting Wisconsin up for an Equitable Recovery

Aid to Wisconsin State and Local Governments

The American Rescue Plan is a historic opportunity for Wisconsin to invest in an equitable economic recovery that leaves all communities better off. State and local lawmakers can use federal aid to help communities hit hardest by the pandemic and address the long-term inequities that have kept too many people of color, women, and those paid the lowest wages from reaching their potential.

A just recovery requires everyone to invest in our shared future. Wisconsin lawmakers cannot rely on federal relief alone to respond to this crisis. Wisconsin must make its own long-term investments in communities and infrastructure to ensure everyone recovers from this crisis together.

This factsheet includes categories of federal aid directed by the American Rescue Plan to Wisconsin state and local governments for which estimated dollar amounts are available, and selected categories of aid for which Wisconsin-specific amounts are not available. It does not include aid that is delivered directly to individuals, like unemployment benefits.

STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE

Provision	Amount In millions	Impact
State	\$2,533.2	Can be used for a variety of purposes, including giving aid to families or businesses and making investments in public infrastructure. The state cannot use this money to fund tax cuts or pensions. Half the money is provided in May 2021, and the remainder a year later. The resources may be used through the end of 2024.
Counties	1,130.9	
Metro cities (18 largest cities in WI)	780.3	
Other areas	411.6	
State capital projects	188.7	Money is distributed directly to counties and metro cities based on a federal formula. Money for other local governments is sent to the state to deliver to local governments based on a federal formula.
Tribal capital projects	Unknown	Aid to states to fund capital projects meant to directly enable work, education, and health monitoring. Funds must be used by 2024.
Tribal Consistency Fund	Unknown	The Act contains \$100 million to be divided among tribal governments across the country.
		The Treasury Department will allocate \$250 million per year in 2022 and 2023 to tribal governments across the country, based on economic conditions of eligible tribes.

EDUCATION

Provision	Amount In millions	Impact
Public K-12 schools	\$1,540.8	<p>The state must pass through 90% of the aid to districts based on a federal formula. The remaining 10% can be allocated by the state for emergency needs, which must include addressing learning loss, afterschool activities, and summer learning. The state's spending plan must be approved by the legislature's budget committee.</p> <p>Schools must reserve 20% of their funding to address learning loss. These funds are available through 2024. The state cannot decrease the share of state spending that is dedicated to K-12 schools.</p>
Emergency assistance to private schools	73.9	Assistance to private K-12 schools, distributed by the Governor.
IDEA funding	54.6	For programs and services to children with disabilities.
Educational services for homeless children and youth	10.1	Funds for state and local educational agencies to: identify homeless children and youth, provide them wrap-around services to address the challenges of COVID-19, and enable them to attend school and fully participate in school activities.
University of Wisconsin	275	Higher education institutions are required to use at least half of the allocated funds to provide emergency financial aid to students. The money flows directly to the institutions. As with K-12 schools, the state cannot decrease the share of state spending that is dedicated to higher education.
Wisconsin Technical College System	170	
Private colleges	115	
Tribal colleges	3.2	The Bureau of Indian Affairs will make grants for Bureau-funded schools and programs and for tribal colleges. There are two tribal colleges in WI.
Museum and library services	3.3	Awards to the states from the Institute for Museum and Library Services

HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES

Provision	Amount In millions	Impact
Medicaid savings from BadgerCare expansion	\$1,039	If Wisconsin expands BadgerCare, the Rescue Plan would reduce the state share of Medicaid costs by about \$1.04 billion over the next two years. These savings, which are on top of ongoing savings of more than \$300 million a year, would free up state money to be used for other purposes.
Substance use & mental health services	46.6	These resources support behavioral health initiatives through a block grant to a state. Available through 2025.
Community health centers	59.1	These funds have been awarded to 16 centers in WI, to use by the end of March 2023 to expand access to COVID-19 vaccines and build vaccine confidence.
Expanding COVID-19 epidemiology and testing capacity	175.4	The CDC grants these funds to states and some localities to be spent by July 1, 2022. The primary focus appears to be expanding testing capacity for schools.
COVID-19 vaccine preparedness	55.1	CDC grants to state and local health departments. Includes funding from the CARES Act as well as ARPA.
Expanding genomic sequencing	4.1	Grants to states and some local jurisdictions to improve the detection and mitigation of COVID-19 variants.
Infection control and vaccination uptake	Unknown	The Act provides \$200 million to provide skilled nursing facilities COVID-19 infection control and vaccination uptake support. The funds remain available until spent.
Older Americans Act programs	25.5	The WI funding includes \$13.6 million for congregate and home delivered meals, \$8.3 million for supportive services, and \$2.6 million for family caregivers. The funding is available until spent.
Elder justice programs	Unknown	The act provides \$276 million total for elder justice programs, mostly for grants to enhance adult protective services. The funding remains available until spent.
Skilled nursing facility strike teams	Unknown	\$250 million was appropriated to allocate to states to establish and implement strike teams deployed to skilled nursing facilities with diagnosed or suspected COVID-19 cases. The funding remains available until spent.
SNAP program administration	18.7	For the state to use on administrative expenses through 2023.

Home and community-based services	Unknown	States that meet certain requirements will receive a 10 percentage point increase in federal reimbursement for a number of home and community-based services provided under Medicaid between April 2021 and March 2022. The increased federal funds must be used to supplement rather than replace existing state funding for these services.
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CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Provision	Amount In millions	Impact
Child care	\$222.8	This represents an increase in Wisconsin's Child Care and Development Block Grant. It can be used to provide child care for essential workers and for other purposes allowed by CCDBG. Cannot replace state expenditures. Funds must be obligated by 2023.
Child care stabilization	357.0	For the state to provide grants to child care providers to support operations during the pandemic. Wisconsin must notify the federal government if it uses less than half the amount by the end of 2021. Cannot replace state expenditures.
Child care Title IV-A	8.9	Funds must be at least obligated in the year they are received. Matching requirement is temporarily waived.
Head Start	15.5	All Head Start, Early Head Start, and Early Head Start-Child Care grantees are eligible to receive additional funds based on funded enrollment levels.
Pandemic emergency assistance	14.5	The state can use this money to provide emergency assistance to deal with specific crisis situations. Cannot replace state expenditures. Available to spend through 2022.
Child abuse prevention and treatment	1.7	For the state to respond to reports of child abuse and neglect.
Child abuse prevention grants	4.2	For the state to support community-based efforts that prevent child abuse and neglect.

TRANSPORTATION

Provision	Amount In millions	Impact
Operating assistance in urban areas	\$150.9	Allocated to transportation systems of 15 Wisconsin cities and can be used to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the pandemic. Distributed by federal formula. Available through 9/30/2024.
Intercity buses	2.5	Formula grant funding for states, available through 9/30/2024.
Operating assistance in rural areas	1.8	These funds are received by the Wisconsin DOT and distributed to rural transit systems. Available through 9/30/2024.
Operating assistance for seniors and people with disabilities	0.9	Supports transit for seniors and individuals with disabilities. Available through 9/30/2024.

HOUSING AND UTILITY ASSISTANCE

Provision	Amount In millions	Impact
Home energy assistance	104.7	For the state to assist residents with energy bills and weatherization. Available through 2022.
Homeowner Assistance Fund	92.7	Allocations to states based on a formula related to homeowner need.
HOME Investment Partnership Program	90	\$48.1 million of "entitlement" funding has been allocated to 11 local governments in WI, and \$41.9 million will go to the rest of the state. Funding is available until 9/30/25.
Tenant-based rental assistance	37.0	This amount would be directed towards low-income tenants in Wisconsin in the form of vouchers, which are administered by the state and local public housing authorities.
Water and sewer utility assistance	6	Funding is provided to the state to allocate to water and sewer utilities.

OTHER

Provision	Amount In millions	Impact
State Small Business Credit Initiative	92.7	Allocations to states to fund small business credit support and investment programs.
Emergency management	1.8	For the state to implement the national preparedness system. Available through 2025.
WI Humanities Council	1.0	For the Humanities Council to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus.
National Endowment for the Arts	0.8	To support arts activities. State fund matching requirements are waived.

This fact sheet was updated May 19, 2021 and includes guidance from the U.S. Department of Treasury that was announced on May 10. These figures are based on information published by the Wisconsin Legislative Fiscal Bureau, U.S. Treasury Department, and Federal Funds Information for States.

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