



AFSCME Facts

New COVID-19 Vaccine, Testing and Other Public Health Funding In the American Rescue Plan March 26, 2021

The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, which President Biden signed into law on March 11, 2021, includes significant new funding for COVID-19 vaccines, testing and contact tracing, as well as for expanding and supporting the public health workforce. Funding will be distributed to states, local governments and subsequently to other organizations. This fact sheet provides an overview of this new funding and how it will be allocated.

What new funding is available for the manufacture and production of vaccines?

The new law provides nearly \$6.05 billion for the manufacture, production and purchase of vaccines, therapeutics and related supplies through the end of FY 2021. In addition, the new law provides \$500 million to review devices authorized for use for the treatment, prevention or diagnosis of COVID-19; and oversight of the supply chain and mitigation of shortages of vaccines, therapeutics and devices approved by the Food and Drug Administration.

What new funding is available for the distribution and access for vaccines?

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will allocate \$7.5 billion in public health funding to plan, prepare for, promote, distribute, administer, monitor and track coronavirus vaccines to ensure broad-based distribution, access and vaccine coverage.

- Funding for states, local governments and territories generally will be allocated using the FY 2020 formula for the Public Health Emergency Preparedness cooperative agreement.
- States and local governments can use this funding to establish and expand staffing support of community vaccination centers, particularly in underserved areas; deploy mobile vaccination units, particularly in underserved areas; communicate with the public regarding when, where, and how to receive COVID-19 vaccines; and transport individuals to facilitate vaccinations.

What funding is allocated for testing, contact tracing and containment of COVID-19?

The new law provides \$47.8 billion for testing, contact tracing, surveillance, containment and mitigation to monitor and suppress COVID-19 through the end of FY 2021. The funds will be used to establish and expand federal, state, local and territorial testing and contact tracing capabilities, including through investments in laboratory capacity and community-based testing sites and to cover administrative and program support costs necessary to conduct those activities.

Will schools receive funding to do screening testing?

To help schools reopen safely for in-person instruction, the American Rescue Plan provides an additional \$10 billion to states, territories and five large urban jurisdictions (New York City, Los Angeles County, Chicago, Houston and Philadelphia specifically to support COVID-19 screening (i.e., surveillance) testing for teachers, staff and students. With this funding, states can support the critical testing and testing supports schools need to implement screening testing programs. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has provided a list of this funding by jurisdiction at the hyperlink [here](#).

When will the stimulus funding be available?

Most funding must be made available to states, local governments and territories within 21 days of enactment.

How much funding is provided to expand the public health workforce?

The law provides \$7.66 billion to establish, expand and sustain a public health workforce by making awards to state, local and territorial public health departments. Public health departments can use the funds to cover costs, including wages and benefits, related to the recruiting, hiring and training of individuals; personal protective equipment; data management and other technology; administrative costs; and more. Those individuals hired and trained by a state, territorial, or local public health department or a nonprofit private can serve as case investigators, contact tracers, social support specialists, community health workers, public health nurses, epidemiologists, program managers and communication and policy experts or in any other position as may be required to prevent, prepare for and respond to COVID-19.

What resources are provided to strengthen vaccine confidence?

The American Rescue Plan provides \$1 billion to strengthen vaccine confidence and improve vaccination rates by providing further information and education.

What resources are provided to strengthen COVID-19 monitoring?

The American Rescue Plan provides \$500 million to support public health data surveillance and analytics infrastructure initiatives at the CDC and establish, expand and maintain efforts to modernize the United States disease warning system to forecast and track hotspots for COVID-19.

What resources are provided to combat the COVID-19 pandemic globally?

The American Rescue Plan provides \$750 million to combat COVID-19 and other emerging infectious disease threats globally. This includes efforts related to global health security, global disease detection and response, global health protection, global immunization and global coordination on public health.

Where can I check to see how funds have been used so far?

The National Conference of State Legislatures illustrates the ways states are utilizing its funding allocations in its [State Actions on Coronavirus Relief Funds tracker](#). This database provides up-to-date, real-time information in the 50 states, and records how they have spent their funding. [To narrow the search, select a state and the user can select a category from the list such as local government, correction and K-12 education, and health.](#)

Is there a list of how counties have used their aid for vaccine distribution?

The National Association of Counties (NACO) has compiled a [list of counties using funding for vaccine distribution](#). It provides an overview of how counties across the country are distributing their Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) payments and other federal funds.