

Macura, Nebojsa S - DCF

From: Thornton, Anthony A - DCF
Sent: Wednesday, March 31, 2021 3:16 PM
To: Macura, Nebojsa S - DCF
Subject: FW: American Rescue Plan Act Information

From: DCF BWF Work Programs Help Desk <BWFWorkProgramsHD@wisconsin.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, March 31, 2021 2:43 PM

To: DCF DL DFES BWF W-2 Agency CARES Coordinators <DCFDLW-2AgencyCARESCoordinators@wisconsin.gov>; DCF DL DFES BWF W-2 Agency Policy Coordinators <DCFDLDFESBFW2AgencyPolicyCoordinators@wisconsin.gov>; DCF DL DFES BWF W-2 Agency Directors <DCFDLDFESBFW2AgencyDirectors@wisconsin.gov>; DCF DL DFES BWF TJ TMJ <DCFDLDFESBFWTJTMJ@wisconsin.gov>

Subject: American Rescue Plan Act Information

Greetings,

BWF is providing a brief overview of the [American Rescue Plan Act of 2021](#), signed into law by President Biden on March 11, 2021, as it allocates billions of dollars to help those hurt by the COVID-19 pandemic. This national rescue plan extends and expands lifelines to workers and their families during the pandemic through stimulus payments, unemployment insurance benefits, and provides crucial supports in health care, nutrition, and housing. An upcoming Operations Memo will address the treatment of unemployment insurance benefits and tax credits.

The American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act provides for, but is not limited to, the following expansions and allocations of funds which may be relevant to W-2 participants and agencies:

- Federal pandemic unemployment benefits are extended through September 6, 2021.
 - This includes an additional \$300 in weekly benefits to those receiving Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC).
 - For more information visit: <https://dwd.wisconsin.gov/uiben/caresact/>
- Expanded access to the economic impact stimulus payment of \$1,400 per taxpayer and \$1,400 per dependent, which includes adult dependents unlike previous stimulus payments.
- The Child Tax Credit is expanded to provide \$3000 per year, per child for families with children ages 6-17, and \$3600 per year for children under age 6 and will be disbursed monthly beginning in July 2021.
- Increased funding to nutrition programs:
 - Extends the 15% SNAP benefit increase through September 2021;
 - The Pandemic EBT program is extended for the 2020-2021 school year; and
 - Pandemic EBT information can be found at: <https://feedingamericawi.org/ebt/> and <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/forwardhealth-pebt.htm>
- \$198 million in grants are allocated to support rape crisis centers nationwide and \$248.5 million to support domestic violence and sexual assault survivors and for domestic violence prevention programs.
- Funding has been increased for housing and energy assistance programs for low-income families, including:
 - Emergency Rental Assistance Program;
 - Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP);

- Homelessness Assistance and Supportive Services Fund; and
- For Wisconsin Emergency Rental Assistance Program information visit: <https://wiscap.org/wera/>

This email will be posted to the BWF Work Programs Help Desk Home Page located here: <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/w2/partners/toolbox/helpdesk> .

All COVID-related emails can be found in the Common Requests section under COVID-19 Information.

If you have any questions regarding policies, please contact the W-2 Policy Mailbox at DCFW2PolicyQuestions@wisconsin.gov or the Help Desk at BWFworkprogramsHD@wisconsin.gov as appropriate.

For contract questions, please contact Linda Richardson at Linda1.Richardson@wisconsin.gov. Your regional staff are also available for questions.