



Office of Recovery

May 28, 2021

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NEWSletter - May 28, 2021



New guidelines are being released every week around available funding and its uses from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). The Office of Recovery is here to keep you informed of relevant resources, funding, and key program developments not just across ARPA, but also under the CARES Act and the Consolidated Appropriations Act (HR 133). For more frequent news, please visit our website at covid.ks.gov



Services and Support

Not exhaustive

Health:

- All Kansans aged 12 and above, are eligible for vaccination. To find your **nearest vaccination location**, please visit the [Find My Vaccine Tool](#). The latest information on vaccine administration, safety, and more, can be found [here](#).
- **To find out where to get tested** for COVID, visit [Go Get Tested](#).
- **Uninsured or underinsured?** You can apply for insurance through the

[Healthcare.gov](#) marketplace or if you qualify for Medicaid, visit the [KanCare](#) website.

- Coming soon! You may qualify as a healthcare provider for provider reimbursements. More information can be found [here](#).
- **Kansas Prevention Collaborative-Community Initiative** now open. Learn more [here](#).

Essential Needs

- Kansans on **SNAP** will continue receiving a **15% increase** in benefits through September 30th.
- [Applications are now open](#) for the Kansas Emergency Rental Assistance (KERA) program providing **emergency rental, utility, and internet assistance**.

Others:

- Distance Learning & Telemedicine (DLT) Grant Program closes 6/4. More info [here](#).
- Emergency Capitals Investment Program application closes 7/6. More info [here](#).
- Paycheck Protection Program applications due 5/31. More information and application [here](#).
- FCC Emergency Broadband Benefit Program open. More information and application [here](#).

For the latest on how **2020 COVID Relief Funds** are spent, please visit [the dashboard](#) for the previous month's updates.



Funding Status

Not exhaustive

2021 Funding: Confirmed Coming to Kansas

- **Behavioral Health:** KDADS received notice of award for the [Mental Health Block Grant \(ARPA\)](#) and [Substance Abuse Block Grant \(ARPA\)](#). The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is distributing \$3 billion across the country in American Rescue Plan funding - the largest aggregate amount of funding to date for its mental health and substance use block grant programs
- **Agriculture:** Funding for [specialty crops](#) announced (HR 133). The purpose of the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBGP) is to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops.

- **State Government:** Received first tranche of State Fiscal Recovery Funds (ARPA). The state will receive the second half of its funding in 2022.

Funding received and expected from the American Rescue Plan will be shared in subsequent newsletters.

Program Spotlight: The American Rescue Plan Act

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021 is one of the largest stimulus relief packages in U.S. history. It will bring significant support and benefits to the State of Kansas across all government levels, and across all sectors including public health, agriculture, education and childcare.

Kansas is scheduled to receive a total of ~\$5.9 billion in ARPA funding, including \$2.6b in discretionary funding to state and local governments:

- State is receiving \$1,583,680,553 in funding
 - The State received the first half of its state discretionary funds on May 19th
- 105 Counties are receiving \$565,877,094 in funding
- 10 Metropolitan cities are receiving \$260,286,572 in funding
- Non-entitlement Units of local government will receive \$167,352,563 in funding (cities with a population of less than 50,000)

State agencies will be receiving another \$2.3b in direct ARPA programmatic dollars. Agencies have already begun receiving funds for specific programs, including Education (\$2,175M+), Childcare (\$348M+), Health (\$480M+), Housing (\$193M+) and Transport (\$34M+).

The Office of Recovery is working with the relevant partners – including the federal government – to understand implications for the State of Kansas, and to then share the information with agencies, entities and individuals.

Over the last two weeks, the RO has held webinars for counties, cities and state agencies. The RO will be holding a webinar for Non-entitlement Units of local government next week. You can learn more and watch recordings of webinars on the RO website [here](#).

Community Impact: Broadband Partnership Adoption Grants

The State's Broadband Partnership Adoption Grant (BPAG) was established to provide support for low-income households by partnering service providers with school districts and libraries to underserved households have access to low-cost

service that results in improved opportunities for remote learning, work and to access telehealth. The program includes deploying connectivity devices such as wireless hotspots, modems, routers, laptops and tablets to households in need.

Through the BPAG program, 85,852 households were served. This included individuals who received devices through the program and those who received broadband service.

One organization that was impacted by the BPAG program was the Lawrence Public Library (LPL). LPL provides a connectivity lifeline to persons who are unable to maintain an internet connection of their own or who require assistance to complete basic computing tasks. During their closure in response to the pandemic, they heard from multiple individuals and community service organizations about the dire need many people were facing for internet connectivity. With the help of funding provided BPAG, LPL established an outdoor Wi-Fi network that allows reliable connectivity for anyone in the line of sight of their building within about 700 ft.

This network is able to serve library patrons not only in outdoor public spaces, but also in cars parked near the library, at the local public bus stop, and at the building adjacent Greyhound bus stop. LPL expects to see usage increase considerably in warmer months, but early feedback has been very positive.

The FCC Emergency Broadband Benefit Program is now open for low-income families to receive a discount on internet of up to \$50/month. More information and application can be found [here](#).



Office of Recovery Contact

The Office of Recovery is still here to offer support and coordination, and staff are available to answer your questions by phone and email.

(785) 368-8507

[Contact us](#)

Warm regards,

DeAngela Burns-Wallace, Ed.D.

On behalf of the Office of Recovery, Kansas Governor Laura Kelly

Secretary, Kansas Department of Administration

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