



LIBRARY RECOVERY FUNDING SUMMARY

March
2021

The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021

The \$1.9 trillion [American Rescue Plan Act of 2021](#) (ARPA) provides \$200 million for the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and billions more for library-eligible programs, including over \$7 billion for broadband. Libraries can position themselves now to seek portions of this funding through multiple channels.

Relief provisions helpful to the library community include:

INSTITUTE OF MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES

The **\$200 million** allocation is the largest increase for IMLS in the agency's 25-year history. **\$178 million** is allocated for state library administrative agencies on a population-based formula, with a **\$2 million state minimum**. In the coming weeks, IMLS will work with state library agencies to confirm state allotments and specify allowable uses for the funding.

EMERGENCY CONNECTIVITY FUND

Libraries are eligible to apply for the new **\$7.172 billion** Emergency Connectivity Fund through the FCC's E-rate program. Participating libraries will receive 100 percent reimbursement for the cost of hotspots and other Wi-Fi capable devices, modems, routers, laptops, tablets and similar devices to loan to patrons. ALA will provide input during the 60-day rulemaking process.

STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

ARPA includes a massive influx – **more than \$360 billion** – of emergency assistance to state, local and tribal community governments. This influx is intended to offset potential cuts to public health, safety, education, and library programs. For states facing less dire economic conditions, ARPA funds present an opportunity for innovative new programs and resources. Approximately 60 percent of the \$360 billion will go to states, with 40 percent going to local and tribal governments.

EDUCATION STABILIZATION FUND

Funding of **\$130 billion** is included for education costs associated with the safe reopening of K-12 schools, hiring additional staff, reducing class size, modifying school spaces, and addressing student, academic, and mental health needs. Schools will be allowed to invest in technology and support distance learning, with at least 20 percent to be used to address learning loss. Funding will flow from the Department of Education to states based on their Title I funding—the federal government's primary program for high-poverty schools.

HIGHER EDUCATION

Colleges and institutions of higher education will receive **\$40 billion** to defray pandemic-related costs and provide emergency aid to students to cover expenses such as food, housing, and computer equipment. At least half of the \$40 billion for higher education must be dedicated to emergency student financial aid. ARPA makes all COVID-19 student loan relief tax-free.

ADDITIONAL PROGRAM FUNDING

- **\$135 million** each for National Endowments for the Arts and Humanities will support state and regional arts and humanities agencies. 60 percent of the funds are designated for direct grants eligible to libraries and 40 percent for grants and administration for state arts and humanities agencies.
- **\$39 billion** for Child Care and Development Block Grants and Stabilization Fund and \$1 billion for Head Start are partnership opportunities for school and public libraries.
- **\$9.1 billion** is available for state-level afterschool and summer programs, and **\$21.9 billion** for programs at the local level.