

2021 American Rescue Plan – Overview of Legislator Concepts

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) is anticipated to provide Oregon with approximately \$2.6 billion in discretionary federal recovery funds for state needs.

The co-chairs of Ways and Means [released a budget framework for 2021-23](#) that relies on ARPA funds to protect current state services from reductions and to provide \$780 million for new, urgent investments to revitalize Oregon’s economy and provide workers and families the resources they need to recover from the impacts of the pandemic.

In recent weeks, legislators put forward a variety of concepts for ARPA funding. The following summaries, while not exhaustive, provide a thematic overview of the concepts in each budget area.

Education

Child care and Early Learning funding themes included:

- Resources for ongoing child care and early learning programs, including relief nurseries
- Scholarships and other methods to address affordability issues
- Assessment of current capacity and future need
- Pilot programs, such as the Latino Network Preschool Demonstration site
- Additional resources for Boys and Girls clubs
- Projects around the state to address specific needs of a community (e.g. establishment of child care centers in specific Oregon cities)

K-12 funding themes included:

- Funding for school-based health centers, mental health centers, and psychologists
- Grant programs, including grants for culturally-responsive, trauma-informed pilot projects and seismic and other rehabilitation of school facilities
- Enhance open educational resources to make such resources more available
- Teacher training and mentoring programs
- Convert school buses to electric
- Relief to school districts affected by wildfires
- Enhancement of the STEM program in the Oregon Department of Education to address diversity needs
- Projects to address specific needs in certain school districts, educational service districts, or geographic areas including funds for the Willamette Career Academy, facility needs such as HVAC replacements and ADA improvements, and career technical education centers

Community College and Higher Education funding themes included:

- Additional resources for programs, such as the Oregon Opportunity Grant and other scholarship programs, to assist Oregonians in accessing post-secondary education
- Funds to establish a Rainy Day Fund for post-secondary funding
- Faculty training and needs, such as part-time faculty health care
- Specific statewide projects such as Oregon Strong Start (summer bridge program), competency-based higher education modules, and the establishment of an Independent scientific review fund
- Projects to address specific needs in individual community colleges or higher education institutions (e.g. scientific/lab equipment, facility needs, and specific degree or certification programs)

Human Services

Crisis Services funding themes included:

- Mobile Crisis Response Teams
- Enhance crisis prevention and service programs, including domestic and sexual violence shelters and housing, suicide prevention programs, mobile crisis response teams, detox and recovery centers, and the 988 hotline
- Provide more funding for emergency food programs and local food pantries
- Establish and enhance services to the houseless, including post-hospitalization respite care

Health Care funding themes included:

- Implement a universal health care plan (Cover all People)
- Provide funding for mobile healthcare and free clinics
- Enhance long term care services and establish a self-insured healthcare plan for long-term care workers
- Modernize the public health system
- Enhance funding for community and other mental health and behavioral health programs and services, including addressing workforce issues

Department of Human Services and Oregon Health Authority program and service funding themes included:

- Increase grant programs, such as equity grants to CCOs and community partners, healthy community grants, and provider innovation grants
- Enhance funding for current programs and services
- Invest in behavioral health facilities and housing needs
- Address issues regarding provider wages and rates
- Invest in agency infrastructure, workforce, and technology modernization
- Modernize the public health system
- Enhance funding for community and other mental health and behavioral health programs and services, including addressing workforce issues

Other funding themes in this area included:

- Specific programs, projects, or services in certain local communities
- COVID-19 related needs and services including hazard pay for workers, including home care workers

Public Safety

Crisis Services funding themes included:

- Enhance crisis prevention and service programs, including domestic and sexual violence and housing and shelter services
- Provide more funding for child advocacy centers
- Establish and enhance services to the houseless, including post-hospitalization respite care

Emergency Preparedness funding themes included:

- Establish a statewide system of emergency preparedness facilities
- Investment in seismic resilience and emergency response and recovery equipment
- Establish a Critical Disaster Preparedness Stockpile

Criminal Justice agencies program and service funding themes included:

- Invest in training for law enforcement personnel across the criminal justice system, including mental health training
- Establish regional public safety training facilities
- Invest in agency infrastructure, workforce, and technology modernization, including the Department of Corrections' electronic health record system
- Provide funds to the Justice Reinvestment program for grants to culturally specific organizations and culturally responsive service providers
- Provide for universal representation of persons in immigration matters
- Enhance service and treatment programs in specific agencies including the Oregon Youth Authority and the Department of Corrections

Other funding themes in this area included:

- Funding for local services and infrastructure needs in specific Oregon communities including courthouse replacement, public safety radio systems, fire district needs, police stations and other local public safety facilities, and other equipment
- Actions to address anti-Asian American Pacific Islander sentiment, including hate crime tracking and data analysis, establishment of the Office of Immigrant and Refugee Advancement, culturally responsive CDC affordable housing projects, and a statewide hotline for race/gender based violence
- Trial level public defense COVID-19 grants
- Repurposing of the Warner Creek Correctional facility

Natural Resources

Natural Resource Agency programs and services funding themes included:

- Address program and service backlogs
- Implement the 100-year Water Vision and address other water issues and needs in the state
- Provide funding for Executive Order 20-04 relating to state climate goals
- Implement the Reforestation tax credit and provide funds for community forest acquisition and land conservation
- Provide funding for the Oregon Renewable Diesel Distribution for Resiliency project
- Subsidize land transfers or otherwise provide additional funds for the Agriculture Heritage program
- Wildfire prevention, restoration, and recovery projects and services
- Enhance programs and services in specific state agencies

Other funding themes in this area included:

- Investment in funds to address specific natural resource issues including the Community Renewable Investment Fund, the Zero Emission Fund, and the Brownfield Restoration Fund
- Provide funds for specific projects in local communities across the state such as
 - Wastewater treatment and sewer system projects
 - Irrigation and other water-related projects, including dam restoration
 - Air quality monitoring and pollution cleanup
 - Investment in parks, trails, and recreation areas
 - Fire prevention activities and funds for victims of wildfires

Transportation and Economic Development

Transportation and Economic Development programs and services funding themes included:

- Further invest in workforce and apprenticeship programs and establish regional workforce training centers
- Provide funds to the Oregon Community Foundation for essential worker assistance and to create a rural Oregon innovation endowment
- Provide water/wastewater utility relief
- Create or enhance grant programs in agency, including establishment of a Special Public Works loan program, diesel emissions reduction grants, and other grants and support for Oregon businesses
- Establish an Oregon State Bank and a Good Idea Revolving Loan Fund
- Funds for manufactured housing home replacement
- Provide funds to address broadband infrastructure, expansion, and equity
- Shelters and housing for victims of domestic violence
- Transitional housing projects
- Housing for veterans
- Create a manufactured home park preservation fund and a landlord fund
- Transportation electrification infrastructure study and needs
- General support for houseless and emergency shelter capacity and other housing needs across the state, including funding for an affordable housing grant and revolving loan fund and for land and property purchases
- Provide funds to the Highway Trust Fund

Other funding themes in this area included:

- Investment to provide an income-qualified Universal Basic Income and funds for essential and frontline worker stimulus and needs
- Provide funds for specific projects in local communities across the state such as
 - Local infrastructure needs, including wastewater treatment and sewer system projects
 - Provide funds to the Special Districts Association of Oregon
 - Funds for local event/community needs including fairgrounds, arts and other venues, transportation projects, and a wide range of other programs and projects
 - Airport infrastructure and other needs
 - Wildfire-related assistance